

Proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Historical and Landmarks Commission Workplan

Background

On June 4, 2026, the Historical and Landmarks Commission reviewed the upcoming FY2026/2027 workplan and proposes to work on the following list of items.

1. Historic Preservation Ordinance Update / Incorporate HRI Neighborhoods

Action 1: Ordinance Updates

- Propose updates to the ordinance to facilitate recognition of neighborhoods as historic districts, providing preservation and protection measures. Refine and clarify procedures for designation, review, and treatment of historic resources; establish clear and objective standards where appropriate; improve usability for property owners, staff, and decision-makers.
- Hold public input meetings.
- Timeline: 2025–2027
- Notes: Planning consultant needed for ordinance update (RFP required).
- Budget: \$50,000+

Action 2: Neighborhood Survey

- Conduct a comprehensive survey of neighborhoods with historical significance not yet included in the HRI.
- Collaborate with community members and historians to identify key areas and structures.
- Timeline: 2025–2027
- Notes: Historic consultant needed for surveys and/or context statement (RFP required).
- Budget: \$50,000+

2. Grant Opportunities for Historical Preservation

Action 1: Identify local, state, and federal grants for historical preservation, and create a resource list for property owners.

Action 2: Develop a streamlined process to help private owners of historical buildings apply for grants and incentives.

Action 3: Pursue large-scale grants for community-wide historical initiatives, including the Heritage Park project.

3. Education and Outreach

Action 1: Host walking tours, lectures, and workshops on the importance of preserving historical landmarks.

Action 2: Develop online content and social media campaigns highlighting the stories behind historic neighborhoods and landmarks.

Action 3: Distribute educational materials to residents in HRI-designated areas about the importance of preserving their properties and the City’s Mills Act program.

Action 4: Partner with local schools and organizations to create educational programs about local history

Action 5: Streetlight Banner Project

- Notes: The Commission intends to expand the program yearly and create a design submission process. Program was put on hold for 2026 due to stadium activities.

4. Establish a Heritage Park at Civic Center: Past to Present Silicon Valley

Action 1: Research the opportunity to name a portion of Civic Center as Heritage Park that includes interactive exhibits, memorials, and green spaces.

Action 2: Engage with local historians, architects, and community leaders to ensure the park reflects the city’s historical and cultural heritage.

Action 3: Secure funding for the development of programs at the park through grants, donations, and public-private partnerships.

Action 4: Launch a public campaign to raise awareness and gather community input for the park’s new function and programs.

5. Yearly Commission Tasks

Action 1: Attend relevant trainings throughout the year (CA Preservation Foundation yearly conference etc.)

Current Membership

Name	Appointed	Re-Appointed	Term Ends
Michael Celso	08/21/18 (22)	03/22/22 (26)	2026
Ana Vargas-Smith	08/21/18 (22)	03/22/22 (26)	2026
Yvonne Inciarte	06/13/23 (27)		2027
Patricia Leung *Appointed to a serve a partial and full term	12/08/15 (19)	05/07/19 (23) 05/09/23 (27)	2027

Kathleen Romano *Appointed to a serve a partial and full term	08/26/19 (21)	03/10/21 (25) 03/11/25 (29)	2029
Ed Stocks *Appointed to a serve a partial and full term	10/05/21 (25)	03/11/25 (29)	2029
Kaushal Varshney	06/16/25 (29)		2029

Purpose, Role and Duties of Historical and Landmarks Commission:

Title 2 of the City of Santa Clara City Code includes the following section that outlines the formation of a Historical and Landmarks Commission and its role.

Chapter 2.120.100 Historical and Landmarks Commission

The Historical and Landmarks Commission shall consist of seven members, whose members shall not hold any paid office or employment in the City government, and shall have power and be required to do the following:

- (a) Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to historical landmarks, names and renaming of streets, museums and the establishment thereof in the City, and the marking and preservation of historical landmarks and places.*
- (b) Exercise such other functions as it may be required to perform by the City Council.*

The Commission generally meets on the first Thursday of each month.