



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

# **HISTORICAL AND LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**CITY CODE, PRIORITIES, AND WORK PLAN  
FY 2025/26**

# CITY CODE

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.*

# VISION STATEMENT

Promote historical preservation while fostering community engagement and education.

# PRIORITIES

Based on the City Code, the above vision statement, values, and context from prior years, the Commission has defined its priorities and goals for the current fiscal year.

1. **Ordinance Update: Incorporating HRI Neighborhoods.** Update the Historic Preservation Ordinance to facilitate the creation of historical districts and neighborhoods.
2. **Grant Opportunities for Historical Preservation.** Secure financial resources to support the maintenance and restoration of historical properties and landmarks.
3. **Education and Outreach.** Raise public awareness about the historical and cultural importance of local landmarks and encourage community involvement.
4. **Establishing a Heritage Park at Civic Center past to Present Silicon Valley.** Establish a Heritage Park at Civic Center Past to Present Silicon Valley.

## 1. Historic Preservation Ordinance Update / Incorporate HRI Neighborhoods

Actions	Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose updates to the ordinance to facilitate recognition of neighborhoods as historical zones, providing preservation and protection measures.</li> <li>Hold public input meetings.</li> </ul>	No	2025-2026	Planning consultant needed for ordinance update (RFP required)	\$50k+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a comprehensive survey of neighborhoods with historical significance not yet on the HRI.</li> <li>Collaborate with community members and historians to identify key areas and structures.</li> </ul>	No	2025-2026	Historic consultant needed for Historic Surveys and/or Context Statement (RFP required)	\$50k+

\*Contracts less than \$250k over five years do not require a formal Request for Proposals process. Informal process and CMO contract approval only.

## 2. Grant Opportunities for Historical Preservation

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Subcommittee</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Identify local, state, and federal grants for historical preservation, and create a resource list for property owners.	Yes	Ongoing		
Develop a streamlined process to help private owners of historical buildings apply for grants and incentives.	Yes	Ongoing		
Pursue large-scale grants for community-wide historical initiatives, including the Heritage Park project.	Yes	Ongoing		

### **3. Education and Outreach**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Subcommittee</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Host walking tours, lectures, and workshops on the importance of preserving historical landmarks.	Yes			TBD
Develop online content and social media campaigns highlighting the stories behind historic neighborhoods and landmarks.	Yes			
Distribute educational materials to residents in HRI-designated areas about the importance of preserving their properties and the City's Mills Act program.	Yes			TBD
Partner with local schools and organizations to create educational programs about local history	Yes			
Streetlight Banner Project	Yes	Ongoing	The Commission intends to expand the program yearly and create a design submission process.	TBD

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

Actions	Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research the opportunity to name a portion of Civic Center as Heritage Park that includes interactive exhibits, memorials, and green spaces.</li> <li>• Engage with local historians, architects, and community leaders to ensure the park reflects the city's historical and cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Secure funding for the development of programs at the park through grants, donations, and public-private partnerships.</li> <li>• Launch a public campaign to raise awareness and gather community input for the park's new function and programs.</li> </ul>	TBD	Ongoing	Coordination with the Parks and Rec Dept. is needed.	TBD

## Yearly Commission Tasks

Actions	Subcommittee	Timeline	Notes	Budget
Attend relevant trainings throughout the year (CA Preservation Foundation yearly conference etc.)		Ongoing	Yearly training is also required as part of Certified Local Government yearly report.	TBD