



Historic Preservation Program Update

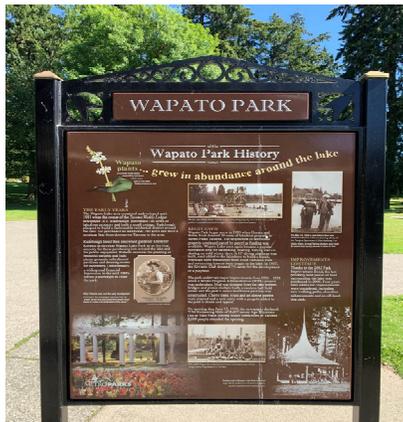
City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services

City Council Study Session
May 6, 2025



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OVERVIEW



Interpretive sign at Wapato Park, by Parks Tacoma.

- Historic Preservation Program Achievements for 2024-25
- Report on Landmarks Preservation Commission Activities
- Upcoming Program Goals and Initiatives

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BACKGROUND



2024 Annual Historic Preservation Awards night, honoring outstanding community projects.

The Historic Preservation Program:

- **Identifies** and enhances historic resources
- **Protects** historic properties and sites
- **Educates** through public outreach and programming

HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025



2024-25 Landmarks Preservation Commission Year In Review



Old City Hall site visit for Landmarks Preservation Commission – Phase 1 opening Fall 2025 (November 20, 2024).

- >22 Historic Design Reviews
- 5 new landmark nominations
- \$316,734 in tax incentives granted
- 3 site visits

HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025

2024-25 Goals:

- Increase access to the nomination process
- Improve access and equity in the delivery of services and historic preservation outcomes

2024-25 Initiatives:

- Underrepresented Communities Grant – Black History in Tacoma
- Tideflats, Cultural Resources review enhancements
- Improved Tribal coordination
- Comprehensive Plan updates – May 2025
- Code amendments – Fall 2025
- Partner with community groups in underserved areas of Tacoma
- City website updates and migration



Public outreach event for One Tacoma / Comp Plan update. (May 2024)

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025

2025 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- Policy alignment with other priority policy areas: housing; diversity, equity, and inclusion; sustainability
- Improved integration of historic preservation policies with other areas of comp plan (urban form, development, etc)
- Local historic district nomination process
- Improved treatment of Tribal concerns in development review
- Prioritizing Black History and other underrepresented communities
- Review and improve financial incentives



Public outreach events including conversations and visions for Historic Preservation. (Evergreen State College, Tacoma)

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025



Black History Survey Project

Work products:

- Historic context statement
- National Register Nomination – Ray Gibson’s Caballeros Club
- Historic survey inventory of sites significant to Black History

Outcomes:

- Policies in draft Comprehensive Plan highlighting Black History efforts
- Potential non-regulatory “commemorative register” (code revisions)
- Additional nominations to National or Tacoma Register/additional surveys based on consultant recommendations



Community events

- Regular Black Heritage Stakeholder meetings
- April 13, 2024 – Black History in Historic Preservation Call and Response
- May 11, 2024 – Summit for Black History and Historic Preservation
- May 23, 2024 – Historic Preservation Award for Black History project to Tacoma Evergreen and stakeholders
- **May 10, 2025 – 2nd Annual Black History Summit** 7

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025






2024-25 Programming Highlights

- South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center Survey (ended August 2024)
- Second Annual Black History Summit (May 10, 2025)
- Hilltop History Plaques (supporting Tacoma Arts project)
- Economic Incentives Study – improvements to existing incentives; develop additional tools (code)

Left: Historic walking tour of South Tacoma business district, July 2024.

Right: Installing historic sidewalk markers on MLK Jr Way, April 2025.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION 2025



Tacoma Register of Historic Places Highlights 2024-25



- Landmarks added 2024-25 include (clockwise from top left): McCormick Branch Library, Mottet Branch Library, Shurz House, Immanuel Presbyterian, Wapato Park Shelter
- 194 individual City Landmarks on register

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH 2025



Preservation Month 2025



cityoftacoma

2024 Preservation Awards at Blue Mouse Theater

...discover more events at www.cityoftacoma.org/historicpreservation

- May 3-4 Historic Homes of Tacoma Tour (Tacoma Historical Society)
- May 10 Black History in Washington State: 2nd Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Summit (Tacoma Evergreen State College)
- May 10 Tacoma Sacred Spaces Tour
- May 13 Historic Preservation Month Proclamation
- May 15 South Sound Day of Remembrance (Washington State Historical Society)
- May 17 Old Town Craft and Music Festival
- May 17 Queen Victoria's Birthday Celebration (Ft. Nisqually)

May 22 Annual Landmarks Preservation Awards 10



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