

Arlington County

Historic Preservation Master Plan Update

Ensuring Universal Representation

Preservation – both nationally and locally – has historically focused on celebrated buildings and places.

The field of preservation needs to look beyond architectural significance to cultural importance.

Preservationists are learning how to innovatively preserve and share the stories of Arlingtonians that are not exclusively tied to buildings and high-style architecture.

Additionally, the field of historic preservation must embrace social justice, participate in more community engagement, and actively listen to residents.

Preservationists need to understand whose perspective is being privileged in storytelling and seek to identify inherent bias in sources and stories.

Historic preservation can contribute to a more socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable future for all Arlingtonians by including affordable housing, climate management, public art, and planning efforts into the preservation movement.

As part of updating the Arlington County Historic Preservation Master Plan, the Historic Preservation Program (HPP) is collecting community feedback about the places and stories that matter to Arlingtonians. This feedback will guide our updates to the Historic Preservation Master Plan and help the HPP understand the current state and future of preservation in the County. We will be issuing 5 technical memos summarizing our progress over time.

This is a summary of Technical Memo No. 1 outlining the existing conditions and state of preservation in Arlington County.

Increasing Financial Access

Development pressure has contributed to a loss of historic fabric and gentrification Countywide, including in ethnic and minority communities.

Preservationists must continue to advocate for development that does not contribute to the loss of essential historic communities, resources, or the displacement of residents.

Preservationists need to respond proactively rather than reactively to development in the County that threatens historic resources and communities.

Involving preservationists in the earliest stages of planning and development discussions and using regulatory tools will increase a proactive preservation response and/or result.

Arlington currently has low public support for the use of protective preservation tools that restrict property owners but supports the use of flexible and incentive-based preservation practices.

Educational programming that focuses on the use of financial incentives, such as historic tax credits and preservation easements, is an essential part of future preservation outreach in Arlington.

For more information about the Arlington County Historic Preservation Master Plan Update, and to learn about opportunities to provide feedback, please visit:

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/historic-preservation/master-plan/update/>