

Summary of the Historic and Cultural Resources Plan

The Historic and Cultural Resources Plan is the primary policy document guiding the County's historic preservation goals and actions. The County Board adopted the first historic preservation plan in 2006, and the current update has been ongoing since 2020. The draft update proposes the exploration of a variety of new tools and actions to allow easier, faster, and more equitable access to County preservation services. There are **5 focus areas** proposed in the draft plan:



Community Engagement

Through public education and outreach, the County aims to connect the community more closely with the Historic Preservation Program and build more understanding of and support for Arlington's history, historic places, people, and stories, especially those that have been historically underrepresented.



Incentives for Preservation

We've heard from stakeholders that Arlington needs clear incentives to encourage more participation in historic preservation. The County would explore new financial and planning incentives and look to expand already established benefits, like the Historic Preservation Fund.



Partnerships

Efforts to safeguard Arlington’s historic and cultural heritage can be multiplied by collaborating with others, including both community partners and other County departments. The County would strive to proactively integrate historic preservation with other priorities such as affordable housing and sustainability.



Regulation

Stakeholders acknowledged that they would like more flexibility in how historic places are protected in Arlington. The County would focus on refining existing regulatory tools and processes and exploring new ways to help preserve aspects of Arlington’s heritage.



Technology, Information, and Tools

The County aims to improve and expand its preservation information systems, including the Historic Resources Inventory and other GIS mapping tools. The type of information available—combined with how accurate, organized, and accessible it is—impacts how well historic preservation is integrated into County planning and how that information is communicated to the community.



Once the County Board adopts the updated Historic and Cultural Resources Plan, these will become the main priorities for the Historic Preservation Program for the next decade. **To learn more**, scan the QR code.