RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

RIHPHC Strategic Plan | *2021-2027*

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
is a state agency for historical preservation and heritage programs. The Commission operates a statewide historical preservation program that identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, structures, and archaeological sites. The Commission also develops and carries out programs to document and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Rhode Island's people.

Agency Vision

Historic preservation and heritage programs play a central role in articulating and fostering a fuller understanding of community, history, and identity. The RIHPHC envisions a future in which preserving and protecting historically and culturally significance places and practices increasingly benefits both the state's economy and quality of life in a way that consistently represents, values, includes, and honors all of Rhode Island's diverse communities.

Agency Mission

To preserve and protect places of historical, archaeological, and cultural significance as a means of illuminating an appreciation for the state's history and heritage among all of Rhode Island's diverse communities.

GOAL 1:
Implement the RIHPHC's 2021-2027 Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan (*Link*)

- Continue to locate, identify, and evaluate all of Rhode Island's historic resources;
- Strengthen the opportunities for those who own, care for, and invest in historic properties and archaeological sites to obtain the technical and financial assistance they need;
- Strengthen the protection of historic resources from inappropriate alteration, neglect, demolition, and the effects of climate change;
- Prioritize equity and representation to ensure that the historic resources we recognize, preserve, protect, and celebrate reflect Rhode Island's diverse heritage;
- Increase public understanding of the value of historic buildings, areas, landscapes, archeological sites, and cultural heritage and the benefits of their preservation.

GOAL 2:
Support Increased State and Federal Historic Preservation and Heritage Funding

- Support the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, the National Park Service, and national preservation organizations in their efforts to significantly increase Historic Preservation Fund grants to State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices;
- Promote continued funding of the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures and Underrepresented Communities grants programs;
- Establish regular and reliable state funding for the Commission's State Preservation Grants, Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and Heritage Programs;
- Seek an increase in the Commission's state operational budget necessary to accommodate long-overdue upgrades to staff compensation packages and to fund one additional full-time Heritage Program position.;
- Obtain funding and technical assistance and approvals necessary to establish a fully functional, staff-operated Geographic Information System for historic properties in Rhode Island;
- Obtain funding necessary to complete the restoration of the Old State House, including the provision of disabled access.

GOAL 3:
Promote Organizational Excellence

- Collaborate with the State of Rhode Island's Division of Human Resources to hire qualified Commission staff that reflect the racial, gender, and ethnic diversity of the state's population;
- Complete and seek to implement (through the state Division of Human Resources) the updating of all agency staff job descriptions and salary schedules for consistency with similar positions in northeastern State Historic Preservation Offices/Heritage groups and the National Park Service;
- Ensure all Commission programs and policies comply with applicable state and federal laws, regulations and policies;
- At least once every three years, review and, if appropriate, recommend modifications to the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Act;
- In accordance with the provisions of RIGL 42-45-5(a)(16), develop and implement a standardized orientation/training regimen to familiarize new Commission members with the responsibilities, duties, and procedures of the Commission;
- Develop and implement a standardized orientation/training regimen consistent with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act for new members of the State Historic Preservation Board;
- Proactively support and promote the ongoing professional development of Commission staff;
- One month prior to the end of every calendar year, staff will provide written report to the Commissioners that summarizes how the goals in the 2021-2027 Strategic Plan have been/are being addressed.

GOAL 4:
Participate in the National Historic Preservation Program

- Fulfill all responsibilities delegated to the Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended;
- Provide appropriate and timely review and comment to federal agencies regarding implementation of, or proposed changes to, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act;
- Maintain active participation by the RIHPHC in the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO);
- In cooperation with the National Park Service and national historic preservation NGOs, such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, NCSHPO, and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, remain an active participant in the development and implementation of national historic preservation policy.