



# Salem Historic Landmarks Commission

## 2023 Accomplishments & 2024 Work Plan



## Message from the Chair



Dear Mayor Hoy and Council Members,

We are pleased to present you with our 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Work Plan from the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC). Partnering with City Staff, we have achieved a variety of accomplishments in 2023. With their continued help, I believe we can complete our 2024 goals.

This year, we resumed meeting in person and have enjoyed the opportunity to see each other face to face.

In 2023, we implemented our work on our Historic Code Amendments and Historic Preservation Plan update. I am proud that the Historic Landmarks Commission is one of two Salem commissions that hold quasi-judicial public hearings. Our work is primarily focused upon historic design review for alterations, demolition and new construction within Salem's four National Register Historic Districts. Our work is only possible because a majority of our Mayoral-appointed members are highly trained professionals who are uniquely suited to complete the often complex historic design reviews required to ensure that the integrity of our historic resources are retained.

The historic Residential Toolbox Grant Program continues to provide residential property owners with much needed financial support. This program is possible thanks to our generous donor and the commitment of Salem's City Council to assist property owners with the maintenance of their historic resources, which includes grants to help offset the cost of having their historic homes seismically upgraded and retrofitted. We've also established a new Cultural Landscape Award, acknowledging the maintenance/restoration of a historic or cultural landscape.

The HLC had its ninth successful year hosting the Historic Photo Contest! After returning to Chambers for our meetings, we continued a new tradition of being able to give awards to each winner in person at the location of their photos.

Salem continued our collaboration with Willamette University and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians to complete our work on the Indian Manual Labor Training School, a public archaeology project, which was started in 2022.

You will find more accomplishments in this document but these are my highlights. The Commission greatly appreciates the Mayor and City Council for supporting our historic efforts to maintain Salem's historic resources as well as your continued faith in our Commission to successfully complete the good work of the City.







Sincerely,

Andrew Zimmerman, Outgoing HLC Chair

## Commission Purpose & Historic Preservation Plan

The Salem Historic Landmarks Commission provides expertise on identifying, designating, and preserving significant properties related to the community's prehistory and history by encouraging the rehabilitation and ongoing viability of historic buildings and structures; strengthening public support for historic preservation efforts within the community; fostering civic pride; encouraging cultural heritage tourism; and promoting the continued productive use of recognized resources, and implementing the policies contained in the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan for the preservation of historic resources.

In 2020 the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission adopted a Historic Preservation Plan update with the following Goals:

-  1. Improve Public Outreach and Community Education
-  2. Streamline Historic Code, Process, and Enforcement
-  3. Increase Financial Support
-  4. Protect Cultural Landscapes and Archaeological Resources
-  5. Encourage Sustainable Practices
-  6. Survey and Designate Historic Resources

All of the work identified in the Commission's Annual Work Plan relates directly to these goals which were approved by Salem City Council, when the Historic Preservation Plan update was adopted.

The HLC is comprised of nine members appointed by the Mayor. As a Certified Local Government (CLG), it is required that a majority of the members meet the United States Secretary of Interior's Historic Preservation Qualifications Standards, to the extent that candidates are available in the community. Professional fields for consideration may include archaeology, architectural history, conservation, cultural anthropology, curation, engineering, folklore, historic architecture, historic landscape architecture, historic preservation, historic preservation planning, and history.

Six members of the HLC currently met these qualification standards in 2023. The professional positions are held by one archaeologist, two architects, a historic preservation professional, a historian and an archivist. The HLC currently has no vacancies. Two new members have joined our HLC for 2024, a historian and a developer.

## Commission Members

**Jessica Curteman** – Commissioner Curteman was appointed as a Professional member to the HLC in July 2019. She holds a M.A. in Archaeology from Oregon State University and has worked in archaeology for state and federal agencies, private contract firms, and Tribal government around the northwest. She lives with her family in south Salem and currently works at Oregon Department of Transportation as an Archaeologist and Tribal Liaison. She enjoys continuing to be an advocate for the people of Oregon's cultural heritage resources and educating others in how to become proactive and learn more about the history of their cities and state.

**Brett Fuller** – Commissioner Fuller serves as a Professional member and works at the Oregon State Archives. He holds B.A.s in Anthropology and History and an M.A. in Public History from Texas State University. Before joining Salem's HLC, he worked and volunteered with various historic archives, historic preservation and cultural resource management programs, and museums. 2021 was Brett's first year on the HLC.

**Juliana Inman** – Commissioner Inman has almost 50 years of experience in historic preservation in the areas of construction, advocacy, regulatory compliance, planning, ordinances and architecture. Since 1990, Juliana has worked as an architect, completing over 205 architectural commissions; 165 historic resource reports and CEQA documents; 35 use permits, zoning or general plan amendments and planning studies. Her volunteer work has also been extensive and includes serving as a Napa City Councilor and Vice Mayor; President of the Napa County Landmarks Inc as well as serving on the Board of Directors and as the Board Secretary; Serving on the City of Napa Planning Commission and their Cultural Heritage Commission, among many other volunteer activities.

**Jennifer Maglinte-Timbrook** – Commissioner Maglinte-Timbrook serves as an At-Large member and works at the State of Oregon Department of Revenue. She has a B.A. in History and pursued a M.S. in Historic Preservation and Urban Planning from Eastern Michigan University. Before joining Salem's HLC, she served as a Commissioner on the West Chicago HLC for six years. This is Jennifer's second time serving on the HLC. She previously served as a Commissioner from 2015-2020 , where she served as Vice-Chair of the Commission beginning in 2017.

**Chris Morris** – Commissioner Morris serves as a Professional member. He is rejoining the commission for another term, having previously served for five years. He has a Bachelors in Architecture from University of Kansas and has been an architect in Salem for over 30 years. Throughout this time he has worked with many historic property owners for work on restoring their historic structures.

**Steve Ponce** – Commissioner Ponce serves as an At-Large member Steve works for the State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services. Steve comes from a background in construction and has a love for retaining local history. Before joining the HLC, he served the Salem community through volunteer efforts in city parks, and local food banks. 2021 was Steve's first year on the HLC.

**Kirsten Straus** – Commissioner Straus as a Professional member. She is currently an architectural historian working for ODOT and is also a trained Public Historian. She has a Masters in Public History from Portland State University and has a history working with the city and supporting historic preservation. During her time she helped develop materials for the Heritage Neighborhood program and interpretive panels found throughout the city. This is her first term on the commission.

**Connie Strong** – Commissioner Strong as an At-Large member. She was appointed this year for her first term serving on the commission. She is a resident of one of our residential historic districts and has spent many years renovating her home, both inside and out, to bring it closer to its original design. Her dedication to accessible historic preservation is evident in the care and quality she places in maintaining her own historic resource.

**Andrew Zimmerman (Chair)** — Commissioner Zimmerman was appointed to the HLC in December 2018 as a Professional member. A lifelong Salem resident, he wrote a column about Salem-area history for the Statesman Journal from 2013-18. He served on the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program board from 2015-20, with his last year as chair. Andy enjoys sharing his love of local history with the community. He works for the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a Publications and Web Specialist.

## 2023 Accomplishments

Between January 2023 and December 2023, the Salem Historic Landmarks Commission held ten public meetings and eight public hearings. Out of a total of twenty-seven Historic Design Reviews processed, twenty-two were Minor Administrative Alteration Reviews completed by staff while the other nine went before the HLC as Major Historic Design Reviews. Historic Preservation staff also held a regular monthly archaeology roundtable with interested Tribal representatives and completed twenty-four archaeological compliance reviews and four City owned historic property reviews.

## 2023 Projects

### ***Salem Landmark - HLC Newsletter***

Publication of quarterly newsletters with articles written by the HLC Commissioners has continued. This year the newsletter was distributed through a new electronic newsletter service and the HLC has successfully created, printed, and distributed four newsletters to over 600 Salem residents in both hard copy and electronically from January to December 2023. Themes from this year's newsletter included history of locations that were subjects in the Historic Photo Contest, the State Fair, and a gardens and landscapes.

### ***HLC Annual Awards***

In 2010, the HLC established the Benjamin Maxwell Award to recognize outstanding contributions to the preservation of Salem's historic resources. In 2013, the Virginia Green Award was established to recognize exemplary service on behalf of Historic Preservation within the Salem Community. In 2021, the HLC introduced a new award, the Cultural Landscape Award, to recognize outstanding interpretation of preservation of a cultural landscape.

We took photos with each of the award recipients, which you can see below.

### ***Benjamin I. Maxwell Award***

This year, the Ben Maxwell Award went to the Justice Building Restoration completed by DAS, SERA Architects, and Pence Contractors.





A second award was given to the Salem Housing Authority for work on renovating and restoring Yaquina Hall.

### *Virginia P. Green Award*

This year, the Virginia P. Green Award was given to Kylie Pine at the Willamette Heritage Center for her work supporting public archaeology as well as her interpretation and curation of collections for the public.



### *Cultural Landscape Award*

This year, the Cultural Landscape Award was given to volunteers of the Oregon Archaeological Society for work done on the Parsonage and Jason Lee Archaeological site over the past several years.

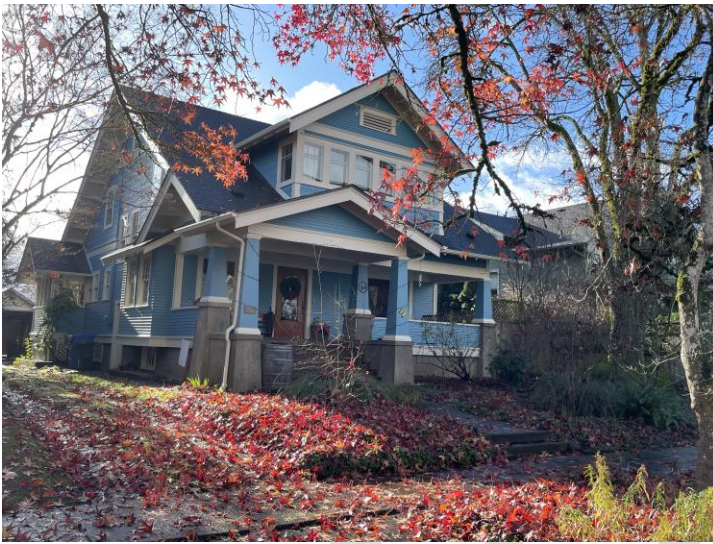
### ***Historic Photo Contest***

The HLC had a ninth successful year hosting the Historic Photo Contest! We 22 entries into the contest, this year with a mix of adult and youth submissions. Awards were offered in the following categories: Historic Exterior, Historic Interior, Historic Landscape/Streetscape/Feature, and Portrait or Animal with a Historic Feature or Building, and Chair's Choice. Winners were selected at the May HLC meeting and photos were taken on location of the HLC Chair presenting awards to the winners; those photos are included below.



### *Residential Toolbox Grant Program*

Another goal of the adopted Salem Historic Preservation Plan is to develop both economic and recognition incentives for historic property owners. In June 2011, City Council adopted Resolution 2011-52, approving guidelines for the historic Residential Toolbox Grant program and directing staff to implement the program consistent with these guidelines. In 2025, \$7,875.00 of grant funding was awarded to private residential property owners. Since it began, this program has provided over \$ 119,00.00 since 2011 to private homeowners to help them maintain and preserve their historic homes. The HLC and historic preservation staff are currently working to develop additional educational and outreach materials to encourage sustainable practices in the redevelopment and rehabilitation of historic structures.



*Photos: Recipients of Toolbox Grants*



## Public Archaeology

In 2023 work continued on the Public Archaeology project at the Willamette Heritage Center uncovering the original site of the Methodist parsonage. City staff, and volunteers from partnering organizations worked at the site during the month of April.

Exciting progress was made locating a portion of the foundation wall edge as well as other artifacts from the period.

In addition to uncovering history, we also held public two public archaeology days, including one for junior archaeologists, where members of the public could come and experience what an archaeological dig is like and learn about the types of artifacts that are found and how to handle them.



To learn more please visit: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/things-to-do/history/oregon-mission-indian-manual-labor-training-school-archaeology-project>

## *Chinese Funerary Table at the Salem Pioneer Cemetery*

Beginning in 2017, staff has worked to complete several archaeology projects related to the Salem Pioneer Cemetery and the Chinese Funerary Table within the cemetery. In November 2017, Kimberli Fitzgerald, the City of Salem Archaeologist, led an excavation of the area immediately surrounding what researchers thought was the remnant of a Chinese funerary shrine within the cemetery. Her work revealed that while partially destroyed, the Chinese funerary table (aka Chinese Shrine) was still identifiable. Staff worked with several partner groups to host the first renewed Qing Ming Festival at the cemetery on April 4, 2018. Nearly 100 people showed up to honor the contributions that Chinese Salem residents have and continue to make to Salem's history. The new tradition has continued into 2023 and on Saturday, April 1, 2023, Salem's Chinese community as well as others interested in supporting and honoring Salem's Qing Ming celebration, including Mayor Hoy, arrived to help honor those who used the funerary table around the turn of the century.

