



BUREAU OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

Syracuse's historic buildings and neighborhoods are one of the city's greatest assets. A strong demand exists for neighborhoods with distinctive urban and historic character. Historic patterns of development and architectural design contribute to the character of Syracuse's neighborhoods and our many examples of excellent architecture and culturally significant sites should be preserved for future generations. These sentiments inform the City of Syracuse's new approach to historic preservation planning.

Mayor Miner's *50 Point Plan* expressed a commitment to develop a more proactive and predictable preservation policy. The most significant components of this proactive stance are a commitment to identify potentially eligible buildings and to develop expanded incentives for local designation. A set of new initiatives and changes to the existing preservation program are intended to increase predictability, transparency, and equitable application of the landmarks ordinance; to increase public understanding of preservation and the quality of planning in Syracuse; and to more effectively protect the city's valuable historic resources.

Elements of the City's enhanced Historic Preservation Program include:

- Development and Adoption of a Historic Preservation Plan

The Plan will be unveiled to the public for comments and discussion in the coming months. This Plan will officially establish the City's preservation policy, providing transparency and predictability to property owners. It will focus on adopting nationally recognized best practices in the preservation field, call for the continued pursuit of the comprehensive inventory and proactive local nominations, identify and recommend economic incentives for local designation, and complement the Housing and Land Use Plans.

- Comprehensive Inventory of Historic Resources in the City

Surveys will identify eligible resources in a proactive manner and the historic contexts and information gathered during the process will serve as a public resource on local history. The inventory will be a tool to organize and more easily use this data for planning purposes and, eventually made available online, will serve as a central location for public access of this information.

- Proactive Nominations

This will be pursued for the most significant historic buildings and sites. In addition, thematic surveys and nominations should take place for building types that are likely to benefit from the State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

- Certified Local Government Program/Interaction with the State Historic Preservation Office

This will include annual applications for grant funding to survey historic neighborhoods in addition to other collaborative projects with the State Historic Preservation Office.

- Public Education Program

The Preservation Program aims to become more engaged with all Syracuse residents through public participation in surveying historic resources, public access to the inventory, planned activities to generate publicity about the benefits of local designation, and the development of educational publications.

For more information, contact Syracuse Historic Preservation Program staff:

Kate Auwaerter, (315) 448-8108, kauwaerter@ci.syracuse.ny.us

Katelyn Wright, (315) 448-8177, kwright@ci.syracuse.ny.us