

PRESERVATION ISSUE 1: EDUCATION

The biggest ally and advocate for the preservation and protection of cultural resources is an informed public. Educating Alaska's youth about the importance of the state's cultural resources, maintaining a lifelong dialogue between professionals and the public, and involving people in their own histories are essential approaches to developing a sense of heritage stewardship. Targeted education initiatives should focus on engaging every age group and demographic to increase appreciation of Alaska's heritage.

Goal

Increase knowledge and understanding of the Alaska's heritage and historic preservation.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Interpret archaeological and historic sites to educate the public and improve awareness of and access to information about Alaska's heritage.
 - a) Encourage interpretation and public education as part of Section 106 mitigation.
 - b) Use digital interpretive media to reach a broader audience.
 - c) Increase social media outreach.
 - d) Increase the number of Alaska historic newspapers accessible on line.
 - e) Distribute materials in public settings (e.g. libraries, PIC)
- 2) Create educational programs to engage Alaskan youth.
 - a) Support place-based service learning education training (e.g. iTREC and Project Archaeology).
 - b) Provide students with opportunities to engage in preservation fieldwork, research activities, and lab and archival work.
- 3) Support preservation in higher education programs.
 - a) Support and advocate for university anthropology and history programs.
 - b) Encourage the incorporation of historic preservation into existing university programs (e.g. engineering, marketing).
 - c) Advocate for public history at the university level.
- 4) Engage with older generations.
 - a) Encourage intergenerational interactions on history and culture.
 - b) Encourage oral history programs.
 - c) Insure there are continuing education programs in Alaska's history aimed at older generations (e.g. OLÉ!).
- 5) Expand efforts that focus on the history and culture of Alaska Natives.
 - a) Support and expand native language preservation education programs.
 - b) Support and engage with culture camps.
 - c) Encourage cross-cultural experiences.

PRESERVATION ISSUE 2: PARTNERSHIPS

In its ideal form, historic preservation is achieved through the efforts of interconnected individuals, organizations, and institutions that share a common sense of purpose – to preserve resources that embody the heritage and identity of their community. Every success story in the plan has been the result of partnerships among many stakeholders. It is important that we form and build upon partnerships with organizations whose interests overlap with our own. In difficult economic times, partnerships become vital to our ability to reach our goals.

Goal

Identify new and strengthen current partnerships to preserve, protect, educate, and advocate for Alaska's cultural resources.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Strengthen relationships with Alaska Native people and Native organizations.
 - a) Work with Alaska Native people and organizations to encourage historic preservation programs to protect cultural resources.
 - b) Encourage historic preservation practitioners to develop effective cross-cultural communication skills.
 - c) Provide technical assistance in historic preservation.
- 2) Encourage coordination, cooperation, and collaboration amongst government agencies.
 - a) Emphasize streamlined procedures and cooperative agreements when assisting state and federal agencies with their regulatory obligations.
 - b) Increase cross disciplinary trainings between government agencies.
- 3) Expand opportunities for collaboration amongst Alaska communities, organizations, non-profits, government agencies, cultural groups, and Alaska Native organizations.
 - a) Hold statewide or regional workshops annually (e.g. OHA Workshop, aaa).
 - b) Sponsor or participate in forums to share ideas, experiences, and information.
 - c) Create a public forum, blog, or listserv to disseminate information.
- 4) Develop new partnerships.
 - a) Connect with non-traditional partners and interest groups that engage cultural resources from other perspectives (e.g. realtors, developers, outfitters/guides, trade groups, local visitors' bureaus, recreationalist, other).
 - b) Engage with underrepresented groups including ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ, and other regional socioeconomic and ethnic groups.

PRESERVATION ISSUE 3: IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Historic and cultural resources are often threatened due to development pressures. These pressures may include natural resource extraction, infrastructure development, residential development, and limited funding sources. Our unidentified resources often prove most vulnerable to loss due to lack of recognition, thus the importance of baseline survey and documentation cannot be underestimated. It is a critical tool for government planning from the federal to the local level. It is also imperative that we make a concerted effort to survey resources that are underrepresented in the current statewide inventory as well as to document resources that are currently threatened by the effects of climate change.

Goal

Identify, document, and designate Alaska's cultural resources.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Conduct survey and inventory proactively.
 - a) Encourage community-wide surveys.
 - b) Emphasize inventory activities that include a focus on underrepresented communities and resources from the recent past.
 - c) Emphasize survey and documentation of sites affected by climate change.
- 2) Improve and expand cultural resource inventories.
 - a) Develop standards and guidelines for documenting cultural resources in databases across the state.
 - b) Implement the AHRS survey module.
 - c) Improve technology for data entry to increase sites reported and entered in the AHRS.
 - d) Provide online access to non-sensitive and non-restricted cultural resource data.
- 3) Prepare more historic context.
 - a) Ensure that historic contexts include discussions on property types and registration requirements.
 - b) Develop historic context for groups underrepresented in Alaska history.
 - c) Develop historic context for the first 50 years after statehood.
 - d) Update the themes, place, and times for Alaska's history developed in the previous plan.
- 4) Increase National Register listings.
 - a) Encourage the designation of properties associated with underrepresented communities.
 - b) Promote designation of properties determined eligible through the Section 106 and 110 process (e.g. through Section 106 mitigation products).

- 5) Increase coordination and training among the professional preservation community in the identification, documentation and designation of cultural resources.
 - a) Provided training on Section 106, Alaska Historic Preservation Act, AHRS, survey, and the National Register as well as special topics (e.g. writing agreement documents, developing historic contexts).
 - b) Develop a better understanding of the application of cultural landscapes and Traditional Cultural Properties in Alaska.
 - c) Coordinate interagency "task groups" to share staff expertise between agencies.
 - d) Use current technology to deliver trainings (e.g. webinars, pre-recorded presentations).
- 6) Use new technology for the survey and documentation of Alaska's cultural resources.
 - a) Expand the use of 3-D technologies (e.g. scanning, photogrammetry) for the documentation of historic sites and artifacts.
 - b) Encourage the appropriate use of remote sensing in the discovery and documentation of cultural resources.
 - c) Explore the use of mobile apps for survey that are compatible with the AHRS and other cultural resource inventories.

PRESERVATION ISSUE 4: PRESERVE AND PROTECT

The physical preservation and protection of historic properties is at the heart of historic preservation. This requires having the appropriate information, guidance, and expertise available to help projects be successful. Integrating preservation into local land use decision making and hazard mitigation planning will ensure that the preservation and protection of these resources is not overlooked in broader planning process. Lastly, due to storage and resource challenges at Alaskan repositories, it is important that a concerted effort be made to develop a state curation and collection plan that deals with the appropriate collection and curation of our cultural resources.

Goal

Preserve and protect Alaska's cultural resources.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Encourage appropriate treatment of cultural resources.
 - a) Encourage the use of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
 - b) Provide technical information and guidance about maintenance and protection of historic and archaeological resources.
 - c) Develop and disseminate guidance on ways to avoid and minimize effects to historic resources.
- 2) Identify threats to historic and archaeological resources from natural and manmade disasters and develop ways to take action to protect these resources.
 - a) Use cultural resources data in interdisciplinary studies of the effects of climate change.
 - b) Coordinate with State and Federal partners to strengthen the role of historic preservation in hazard mitigation planning.
 - c) Encourage the treatment of sites under imminent threat.
 - d) Advocate for the consideration of cultural resources in oil spill response.
- 3) Increase training opportunities on the preservation and protection of cultural resources.
 - a) Provide trainings on the use of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
 - b) Provided training for site stewardship.
 - c) Use current technology to deliver trainings (e.g. webinars, pre-recorded presentations).
 - d) Provide hands-on training in historic building trades (e.g. window preservation).
- 4) Position historic preservation to be more fully integrated into land use decision making process.

- a) Adopt State regulations for the implementation of A.S. 41.35.070 Preservation of historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources threatened by public construction section of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AHPA).
 - b) Participate in public and agency review of land use plans under development.
 - c) Ensure agencies and communities are aware of, and trained in, using the AHRS so that cultural resources are included in land use planning.
 - d) Increase federal, state, and local government agency understanding of their Section 106 and AHPA responsibilities.
- 5) Develop and implement appropriate curation and collection standards.
- a) Provide training in responsible curation planning.
 - b) Create a state curation and collection plan.
 - c) Consult with museums across the state concerning their ability to house collections.

PRESERVATION ISSUE 5: PRESERVATION BENEFITS

In the recent years, there has been an effort by the broader historic preservation community to stress the tie between historic preservation and sustainable development through its significant cultural, social, scientific, and economic benefits. The challenge, especially in Alaska, is that not enough facts have been established that quantify these benefits. Data and statistics need to be developed to highlight preservation's role in Alaska. It is imperative to promote the inherent and demonstrable benefits of historic preservation.

Goal

Increase awareness of the environmental, social, and economic benefits of historic preservation.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Promote heritage tourism.
 - a) Initiate a study of the economic benefits of heritage tourism in Alaska.
 - b) Develop partnerships with the tour industry to ensure the accurate interpretation of heritage sites.
 - c) Encourage local governments to develop community heritage tourism programs that highlight their historic and archaeological resources.
- 2) Promote the economic benefits of historic preservation.
 - a) Partner with local entities, like the Chamber of Commerce, to demonstrate how historic preservation impacts local economies.
 - b) Ensure people have access to and are aware of national studies on the economic benefits of historic preservation.
- 3) Emphasize the environmental benefits of historic preservation.
 - a) Develop partnerships between historic preservation and environmental groups.
 - b) Design education programs and/or publications for building trades on how to make historic buildings more energy efficient while following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
 - c) Ensure people have access to and are aware of national studies on the environmental benefits of historic preservation.
- 4) Promote the social benefits of historic preservation.
 - a) Define and highlight the tie between historic preservation and quality of life.
 - b) Increase awareness of the role historic preservation plays in the visual and tangible expression of cultural identity.
 - c) Show the importance of historic preservation to community identity and pride.

PRESERVATION ISSUE 6: LOCAL PRESERVATION

Preservation at the local level can effectively preserve links to a community's past, highlight its special character, create economic benefits, and establish sustainable development practices. It is at the local level that the real benefits of historic preservation can be seen. In its broadest sense, local preservation refers not only to local government but also to local property owners, interested citizens, nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups, museums and historical societies. It is imperative that local governments and community members are provided the tools they need to survey and document, preserve and protect, and interpret their historic resources.

Goal

Strengthen local preservation efforts.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Educate local government officials and staff about the benefits of historic preservation.
 - a) Provide elected officials with information on historic preservation success stories and opportunities to gain their support for historic preservation in their community.
- 2) Integrate historic preservation into local and regional decision making.
 - a) Increase the number of community-wide preservation plans.
 - b) Ensure that historic preservation is integrated in broader planning documents.
 - c) Enact local ordinances for the protection and preservation of historic resources.
 - d) Encourage local governments to participate in the Section 106 consultation process for projects in their communities.
- 3) Strengthen Alaska's Certified Local Government (CLG) program.
 - a) Increase the number of CLGs.
 - b) Increase the availability of training for preservation commissions, planning staff, and elected officials in historic preservation.
- 4) Connect Alaskans to historic preservation within their communities.
 - a) Train citizens to conduct local surveys of their built environment to add to their community inventories.
 - b) Encourage local residents to be stewards for their cultural resources.
 - c) Encourage and highlight local events that profile historic properties in their communities (e.g. walking tours, lecture series, and house tours).
- 5) Assist Alaska Native governmental and non-governmental organizations with their preservation efforts.
 - a) Provide technical assistance and training for tribal offices and staff.
 - b) Use ethnographic sources, local interviews, and cultural mapping for community planning and development purposes.

PRESERVATION ISSUE 7: FUNDING AND INCENTIVES

Predictably, funding was the top need identified in the plan surveys. Increased financial assistance is essential to virtually every aspect of cultural resources work, including surveys, nominations, excavations and analysis, feasibility studies, public education, training, building preservation, and much more. In a time of financial uncertainty in the state, it is important that we advocate for historic preservation funding, highlight existing funding opportunities, and be creative when looking for ways to fund preservation around the state.

Goal

Strengthen and expand financial incentive programs for historic preservation.

Objectives and Strategies

- 1) Increase incentives to foster interest in rehabilitation of historic buildings.
 - a) Enable property tax abatement for the preservation of historic buildings.
 - b) Lower permitting costs for preservation projects in historic downtowns to encourage the adaptive reuse of existing buildings.
 - c) Explore the options for state historic tax credits.
- 2) Promote existing programs for the preservation of historic properties.
 - a) Promote the Federal Historic Tax Credit program for the rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- 3) Develop incentive programs in the private and nonprofit communities.
 - a) Explore public/private cultural trusts.
 - b) Support non-profit grant programs.
- 4) Make funding resources known.
 - a) Disseminate information on available grants, incentives, and programs to fund historic preservation including non-traditional resources.
- 5) Secure and maintain historic preservation funding for Alaska's cultural resources.
 - a) Seek funding for the Alaska Historical District Loan fund.
 - b) Advocate for Alaska's cultural resources with state legislature.
 - c) Advocate for federal Historic Preservation Fund and other federal preservation programs.
- 6) Develop creative options to fund historic preservation.
 - a) Explore the use of mitigation banks to fund preservation.
 - b) Explore ways to pull a percentage of funding received for taxes to fund preservation programs at the local level.