

## **VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Planning and Community Development Conference Room, 2875 Sabre Street, Suite 500

December 7, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Approved January 4, 2023

### **Present**

Officers: Chair, James Wood; First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Second Vice-Chair, Christi Lyons, Secretary, Bobbie Gribble

Members: Glenn Carwell, Derek DuBay, Harriet Frenzel, Natalie Hubbard, Richard Klobuchar, Becky Livas, Lee Lockamy, Jenna Morris

Staff: Mark Reed, Elizabeth Nowak

Purpose The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Department of Planning and Community Development and museums on all issues related to the preservation of historic buildings, structures, and sites located in the City of Virginia Beach.

Mission The mission of the Commission shall be to preserve, protect and maintain the historic identity of Virginia Beach and the former Princess Anne County through a program of advocacy and increased public awareness and involvement.

### **Welcome/Introductions/Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jimmy Wood, Chair. Mr. Wood welcomed members in attendance to the final Historic Preservation Commission meeting for 2022.

### **Approval of November 2, 2022 Minutes**

Mr. Wood asked members to review the minutes of the November 2, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting and noted that they had been distributed in advance via email to all members. Richard Klobuchar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Christi Lyons seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Historical Register Review Committee**

Mark Reed reported on the Historical Register Review Committee for the chair, Katie Paulson. He noted that the Commission had received an application for 4916 Lauderdale Avenue in Chesapeake Beach. He said it is a small, vernacular beach cottage built in 1953. Mr. Reed noted that a site visit is scheduled for December 22.

#### **Student Leaders Committee**

Natalie Hubbard reported for the Student Leaders Committee. Ms. Hubbard said that she and Jenna Morris made a presentation at the November 9 Public Meeting. She said the committee members have developed their introductory paragraphs for their Cleo entries and will work on the body paragraphs at their December 14 meeting. Ms. Hubbard noted that the meeting will be held at the Department of Planning and Community Development Conference Room.

### **Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2023**

Mr. Wood asked the Nominating Committee to present their slate of officers for 2023. Harriet Frenzel reported for the Nominating Committee. Ms. Frenzel said that the committee has developed the following slate of officers for the Historic Preservation Commission to present to the membership:

Chair – Sharon Prescott

First Vice-Chair – Christi Lyons

Second Vice-Chair – Glenn Carwell

Secretary – Bobbie Gribble.

Mr. Wood thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and noted that the election of the 2023 officers will take place at the January meeting.

### **Public Meeting Recap**

Christi Lyons provided a report on the November 9 Public Meeting. She said that the event went very well. She noted that there were 55 people in attendance, and we achieved our primary goal of providing the public with updates on historic preservation activities. She said that there were history trivia questions to occupy the attendees prior to the meeting and many seemed to participate in that. Ms. Lyons said that a highlight of the evening was the recognition of the original Commission members. She also commented on the terrific presentation by the Student Leaders Committee.

Ms. Lyons noted that the meeting included a brief survey for participants that was accessed via a QR code on both the screen and the event program. She said that there were 16 responses to the survey and briefly went over those responses (see Appendix 1 for the survey response data/charts).

There was some discussion about the survey results. Mr. Klobuchar noted that there is limited statistical validity with only 16 participants. It was asked what the intention is for the data collected in the survey. Mr. Reed responded that the goals of the Public Meeting were met through the informational presentations and the recognition of the 2009 original Commission members. The survey was done to provide some small amount of participation for attendees and to see how this survey methodology worked. It was not intended to collect hard data to guide the Commission for the future. He said it will serve more as a learning tool for future public participation than anything else.

There was some discussion about the desire for a more participatory approach at future meetings. Mr. Wood said he would like to see that at the next Public Meeting and suggested that we have it set up for smaller group discussions. Mr. Reed said we had a meeting like that and he said he thought it had been held at the Eastern Shore Chapel. He noted that the Central Library auditorium does not lend itself to small group discussions.

There was some discussion about the limitations of the auditorium setting. It was noted that the audio visual capabilities there leave a lot to be desired. Mr. Wood said these are things to keep in mind when planning the next Public Meeting.

## **Project Updates**

Mr. Reed provided several project updates. Under National Register nominations, Mr. Reed noted that the Blue Marlin Lodge and Crest Kitchenette Motel were listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on October 25. He congratulated the Commission members on the successful completion of both of these projects.

Mr. Reed said the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District nomination will be considered by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources on their December 8 agenda. He noted the Historic Preservation Commission sent a letter of support for the nomination and thanked them for doing so.

For the Seatack Historic District nomination, Mr. Reed said staff is waiting for review comments from DHR. He said they expect the Seatack nomination to be on the March 16 Board of Historic Resources agenda.

Mr. Reed said we have several other nominations that are underway. He said the nominations for the Chesapeake Beach Historic District and for the Newsome Farm Cemetery are in the research phase. They should be ready to submit to DHR in mid-to-late 2023.

Also underway is the development of a Preliminary Information Form for the Gun and Hunt Club MPD and the accompanying nomination for the Pocahontas Hunt Club. This project is also in the research phase.

Mr. Reed said that we have a couple of items that we are currently coordinating with DHR. One is the archaeological assessment for the Estates Court site. He noted that the City Purchase Order was cut today, while the state P.O. is pending. The firm that will be doing the project is the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research. He said they are looking for a window of good weather and next week seems promising.

Mr. Reed said we also have the local historical marker program that we are coordinating with DHR. He reminded the Commission that they had selected a revised design and color scheme for the Virginia Beach marker based on templates provided by Sewah Studios. Because it is a change to the design, it requires approval by the Board of Historic Resources. It is on their December 8 agenda for approval.

## **Historic Properties Glimpse**

Elizabeth Nowak provided information on some upcoming Historical Review Board (HRB) agenda items. The HRB will meet in December on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Murray House - Carriage House roof/second floor alteration**

Ms. Nowak said the first item is for the Thomas Murray House district and proposed alterations to the second floor of the carriage house building. The alterations include changing the dormer windows and the style and pitch of the roof. The carriage house was built in the 1980s so is not a contributing resource in the district. Ms. Nowak said that staff feels comfortable with the proposed alterations. She noted that the pitch of the roof is different from the house and the dormers are different and are not replicating those on the current structure. The height of the roof will not be changed but they are getting more head room to make the second floor more livable.

### **deWitt Cottage - Fence Replacement**

Ms. Nowak said the City's Public Works department wants to replace the non-historic wooden picket fence at the deWitt Cottage. They have proposed installing a vinyl fence. This is generally not acceptable to staff as most vinyl fence materials looks plastic and shiny. They are looking for an alternative synthetic material. This project may end up going to the HRB in January.

### **Nimmo Church**

Ms. Nowak said she also wanted to provide an update on Nimmo Church, although nothing is going forward to the HRB on this. She said they will be going forward with a street closure application to the Planning Commission. This is a segment of old Princess Anne Road that has been abandoned with the road realignment. The street closure is not an HRB reviewable item.

Ms. Nowak noted that staff had previously discussed the proposed additions to the Nimmo Church building that went to the HRB. Three of the additions received a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) and a fourth addition for a Welcome Center was denied a COA. Nimmo Church is appealing the denial and they are trying to get everything to move forward together. There is no time frame for when that might occur. They have decided to move forward with the street closure. Staff does not have concerns about closing the street.

Ms. Nowak said she is informing the Commission because the street closure consolidates some land that previously had been across Princess Anne Road. Nimmo Church came to staff saying they would like to redevelop the land for other projects. Staff provided comments on the design they had shown. It needs to be compatible with the character of the church and the district. The church was pointed toward acceptable materials, colors, massing and scale. We will let you know what develops.

### **302 22nd Street – C & P Telephone Building**

Mr. Reed brought up the historic C & P Telephone building located on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. He said this information literally came across his and Elizabeth's desks at 4:30 this afternoon. He said that 21st Street Properties has asked the City to sell them the property at 302 22<sup>nd</sup> Street so they can build a mixed use project of apartments and retail. The memo came from the Public Works Real Estate office, and they are requesting comments by Friday. The memo does not mention the demolition of the building, but the accompanying project rendering indicates that demolition would occur. He noted that the developer has acquired a 99-year lease for the surrounding property.

Mr. Reed noted that the Commission had worked to get a Historic and Cultural District zoning overlay for this property. That had been stopped by Councilperson Uhrin. Since he left office, we haven't been able to move this forward. In addition, we have also tried to do a PIF to see if this building was eligible for listing in the National Register. Staff has been unable to find a firm interested in the project.

There was general discussion about the need to preserve the building and the potential alternatives. Mr. Wood reminded everyone that the issue in front of them was whether the Commission wants to write a letter to comment on the proposed sale of this property to 21<sup>st</sup> Street Properties.

Derek DuBay made a motion to send a letter objecting to selling the 302 22nd Street building for development. The motion was seconded by Harriet Frenzel. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.

### **Old Business**

Under Old Business, Mr. Wood brought up the VB250 Committee.

He said the Mayor and Councilperson Wilson had a meeting with the four DAR Chapters in Virginia Beach to discuss a grant the DAR received. The DAR chapters want to use the grant to create a walking trail with signage at the Thoroughgood House.

Mr. Wood said the DAR members also suggested to the Mayor that a VB250 committee should be considered in Virginia Beach. Mr. Wood said he had a letter ready to send to City Council recommending the establishment of such a committee when he received a call from Councilperson Wilson. She said the Mayor would like the Historic Preservation Commission to organize the committee. The committee will go from 2022 to 2026. This will include commemorative events, passing a resolution, and assigning a contact from the locality to the state commission.

Mr. Wood said he is seeking recommendations from Commission members for potential committee members with a submittal deadline of December 21. He wants the recommendations so they can be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on that date. He said the Commission will form this committee in 2023.

Christi Lyons made a motion for the Commission to write a draft resolution for the VB250 Committee. The motion was seconded by Rick Klobuchar. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Mr. Reed noted that African American Heritage Month will be coming up in February 2023. He said the Commission has sponsored proclamations for several years to establish February in Virginia Beach as African American Heritage Month. He said they have recognized different segments of the African American community with each year's proclamation. He said this year the logical proclamation would recognize the L & J Gardens neighborhood and its recent listing in the National Register. He said it would give us a logical opportunity to play the video about L & J Gardens for City Council.

Harriet Frenzel made a motion to sponsor a proclamation to commemorate African American Heritage Month. The motion was seconded by Glenn Carwell. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Reed noted that Commission members had likely received an invitation to a holiday event from Phil Kellam. He said that Mr. Kellam, the Commissioner of the Revenue, has invited the appointed members for Commissions and Boards to attend his event on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. He said this is a legitimate invitation and the clam chowder alone is worth attending.

Mr. Wood noted that Ian Lichacz has resigned from the Commission since his job has him spending a majority of his time in Richmond.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Wood wished everyone a happy holiday. He said the next meeting of the Commission will be on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

## Appendix 1

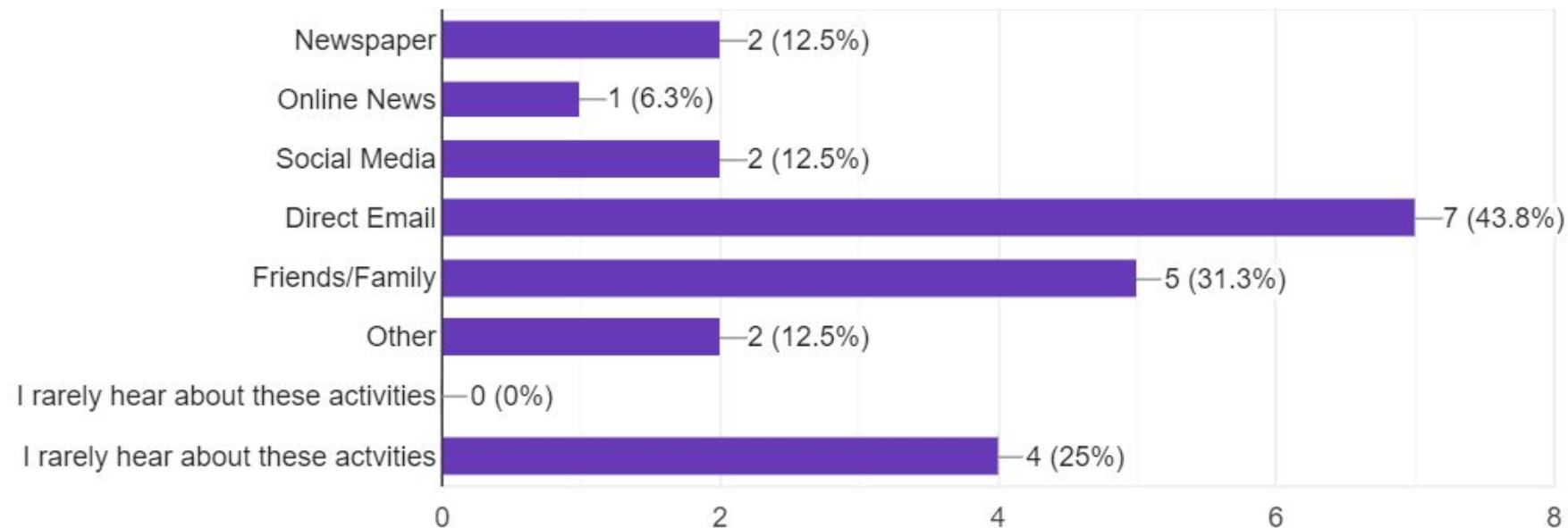
# Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

Annual Public Meeting  
November 9, 2022

Public Responses to QR Code Survey

How do you usually hear about historic preservation related activities like this meeting and properties being listed in the National Register of Historic Places?

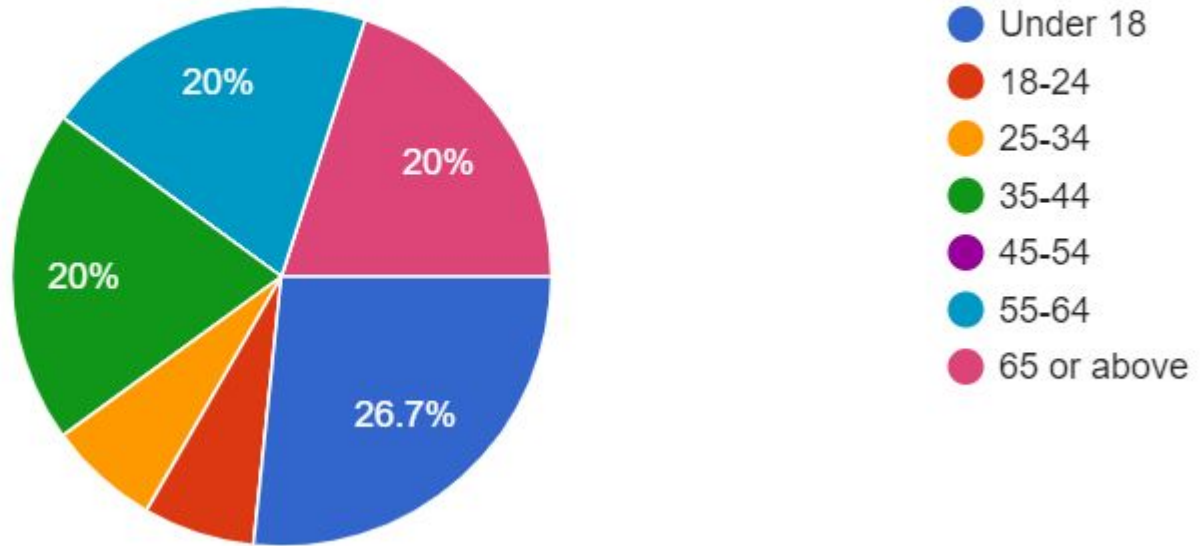
16 responses





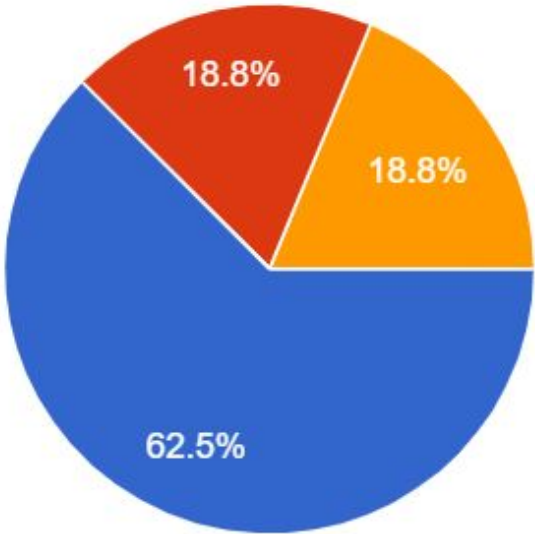
Choose your age group:

15 responses



Have you visited the Historic Preservation Commission's web page  
[www.vbgov.com/historicpreservation](http://www.vbgov.com/historicpreservation)?

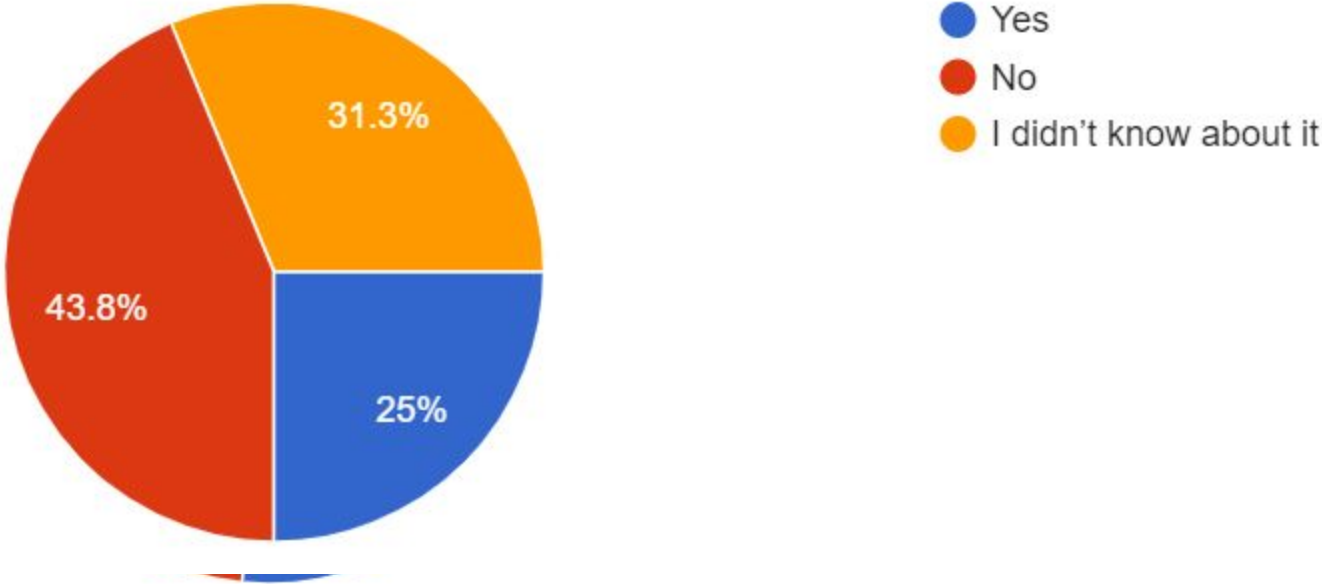
16 responses



- Yes
- No
- I didn't know about it

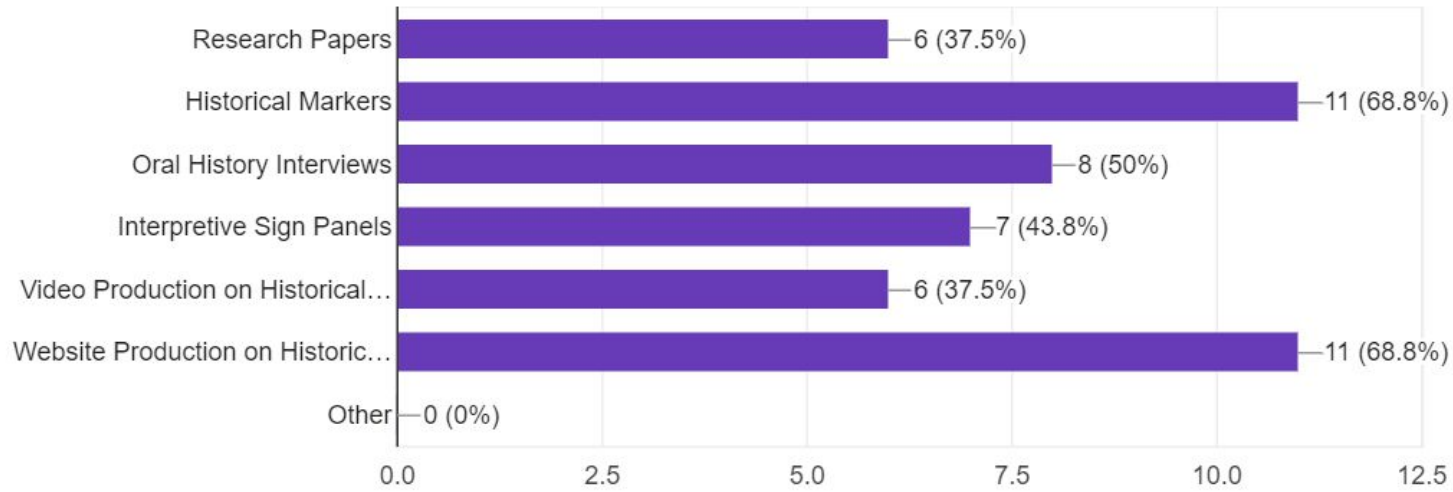
# Did you participate in the online survey for the Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Plan update in 2021?

16 responses



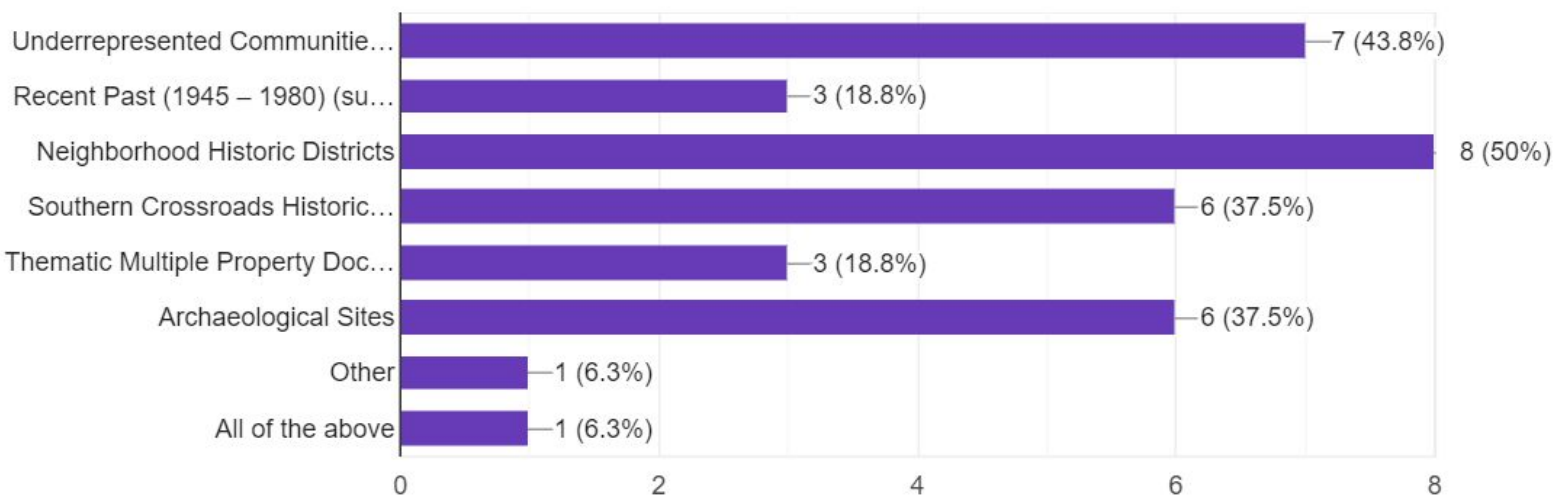
The Historic Preservation Commission has awarded small research grants for successful local history research, recognition, and interpretation projects since 2016. What research areas do think are most important to continue for these awards?

16 responses



The Historic Preservation Commission strives to recognize a broad range of historic properties through survey and National Register of Historic Places nominations. Which of these areas do you think should be priorities?

16 responses



# What is your zip code?

What is your zip code?

16 responses

