

Who/What is the Heritage Commission?

The City of Olympia is a Certified Local Government (CLG) and participates in a state/federal “accreditation” program for historic preservation. This program requires that we have a governing body to review and maintain our historic register. We have 9 members, with backgrounds and interests in architecture, history, planning and preservation, cultural resources, folklore, and more!

In Olympia, the Heritage Commission has a few different functions:

Heritage Review

- reviews applications to join the Olympia Heritage Register
- reviews special tax valuation applications
- reviews building permits for substantial exterior changes to homes listed on the historic register
- responsible for encouraging participation, creating new listings and districts, etc.

Marketing and Outreach

- Responsible for the educational component of the program, to help folks understand what the benefits are of being on the register, as well as the general benefits of historic preservation.
- Working on an educational workshop series geared towards historic homeowners
- Also working on more community exposure and engagement- going to Arts Walk!
- Plans for Preservation Month in and Heritage Awards

Policy Ordinance and Guidance

- Reviews and makes recommendations to the full commission regarding policy, municipal code, comprehensive planning, and other long term planning
- Responsible for onboarding new members, and arranging the year end retreat where the group focuses on goals for next year