

February 25, 2021

TO: General Government Committee

FROM: Olympia Heritage Commission
Holly Davies, Chair
Garner Miller, Vice-Chair

RE: 2021 Work Plan

The Olympia Heritage Commission (OHC) offers the attached annual workplan, updated to align with City Council priorities including pandemic recovery, and social justice and racial equity.

Two essential strategies of the last year will continue to support implementation of our workplan:

- Online presence and programming.
- Partnerships. We will coordinate with local organizations to support and share Olympia's heritage, including: Olympia Downtown Association, Olympia Historical Society/Bigelow House Museum, Olympia Arts & Heritage Alliance, Thurston Historic Commission, Maritime Heritage interests, and the Olympia Arts Commission.

While the Commission's primary objectives are established by OMC, the following new workplan items reflect Council priorities in 2021:

- Continued emphasis on online history information, activities, and technical help for historic building owners, and to promote historic downtown. These efforts respond to the isolation-imposed focus on everything local—including our homes, neighborhoods, and local history:
 - Expand on the heritage information in the Wander Our Waterfront story page.
 - Deepen the Preservation How-To resources and links on City HP Website.
 - Research and develop online content about local businesses in historic buildings.
- Work with downtown historic building owners to encourage new listings on the Olympia Heritage Register, and make progress toward expanding and increasing socio-economic diversity of the downtown historic district.
- Fully support acquisition and adaptive re-use of the Olympia Armory as a Creative Campus, to support equity and community economic and social stability through greater public access to opportunities in the arts, cultures, and heritage. Armory listing on the local register will come to City Council for approval in spring 2021.
- Promote measures that support adaptive reuse of downtown and commercial structures, keeping existing housing stock strong through historic preservation policy, and sensitive infill policies that preserve historic neighborhoods and buildings.

- Partner with the Olympia Arts Commission in hosting a 2021 speaker series, “*ArCH and Equity*” that we hope will incite thoughtful conversation among our arts and heritage communities about the way that minority voices and experiences are (and are not) represented in our history, culture, and arts; and explore how we can authentically support equity, diversity, and inclusiveness.
- Working with partner organizations, work to share overlooked local history of minorities in our community:
 - Installation of Tribal Acknowledgement at Percival Landing
 - Installation of interpretive sign sharing history of the Howard family of East Bay.
- We will make a concerted effort to recruit citizens who represent social or ethnic minority perspectives to apply for the Heritage Commission’s open seat in 2021.