

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting NOTICE and AGENDA for Tuesday, October 24, 2023 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Location: Education Room, upper level, Cordova Center

and via teleconference

Join Meeting via teleconference only: In **Cordova**, call 253-7676 and use code 33344

Join Meeting via teleconference only: **Outside Cordova**, call 1-877-820-7676 and code 33344

Members and Affiliations (see City Code, Title 18, for more detail):

Nancy Bird, Cordova Historian, *Chair*

Jim Casement, Cordova public member

Heather Hall, Archaeologist (US Forest Service)

Sylvia Lange, Native Village of Eyak

Christy Mog, Archaeologist (US Forest Service)

Kris Ranney, Cordova Planning Commission member

Vacancy, Cordova Historical Society,

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Call to Order and roll call**
- 2. Public Comment Period**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Correspondence**
 - a. Email request for advice on Preservation Plan – N. Bird to M. Lewis & reply**
 - b. Email: Useful messaging Resource for Historic Preservation...**
 - c. Letter regarding Alaska maritime Heritage Preservation Program Grants**
 - d. Letter regarding opportunity for Certified Local Government matching Grants & Proposed FY 2023 Certified Local Government priorities for grant funding**
- 5. Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2023 meeting**
- 6. Approval: revised Local Historic Preservation Plan (based on correspondence with M. Lewis)**
- 7. Report from Dixie Lambert on (1) Spreadsheet for Cordova Building Inventory; and on (2) Revised Cordova Historic Walking Tour**
 - a. Discuss next steps/plans**
- 8. Review Pending Calendar task list**
- 9. Schedule next Commission meeting**
- 10. Public Comment Period**
- 11. Commission Closing Comments**
- 12. Adjournment**

Re: question about definitions

From: Lewis, Maria A (DNR) <maria.lewis@alaska.gov>
To: Nancy Bird <nbird5800@gmail.com>
Cc: Heather Hall <h2skidogsak@gmail.com>

Hi Nancy,

I agree with Heather in defining what a cultural property is. You might expand it to say historic and cultural properties defined as listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

I will need more time to review the whole plan.

Best,
Maria

Maria Lewis
Architectural Historian / CLG Program Coordinator
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Direct: 907-269-8717
maria.lewis@alaska.gov
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>

From: Nancy Bird <nbird5800@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 1:01:52 PM
To: Lewis, Maria A (DNR) <maria.lewis@alaska.gov>
Cc: Heather Hall <h2skidogsak@gmail.com>
Subject: question about definitions

You don't often get email from nbird5800@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Maria,

Could use some advice. Our commission recently approved a revised "Local Historic Preservation Plan," but wanted SHPO to review and comment on it. There was particular concern about the first bullet item listed under "Commission Duties," as to whether "cultural resources" need more specific definition.

Heather Hall (USFS Archaeologist, Girdwood) thought it might be important to define a "cultural property" as one that could be eligible for listing on the National Register. I hope I understood her concern correctly. I'm copying her on this email to allow her to chime in if I got that wrong!

What do you think? Welcome additional suggestions for this "local" plan. We based it on the old one (from the 1990s) and from looking online at others around the state (Juneau and the Mat-su Valley, I think). We want to keep it simple and view it as more of a three to five-year plan.

Thanks very much for any words of wisdom! Our next meeting is scheduled Sept. 25th.

Nancy

Useful Messaging Resource for Historic Preservation & CLG Training

From: Lewis, Maria A (DNR) <maria.lewis@alaska.gov>
To: Lewis, Maria A (DNR) <maria.lewis@alaska.gov>
Cc: Ringsmuth, Katie J (DNR) <katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov>

Dear CLGs,

NAPC recently published a new resource to help you better communicate the value of historic preservation. The "[Messaging Guide for Local Preservation Programs](#)" is full of general communication tips, best practices, and sample messaging that can be used by staff and preservation commissioners.

NAPC collected feedback at their biennial conference Forum and through a nationwide survey, which narrowed down the sticking points in preservation messaging. The research found that local programs needed more support in expressing the value of historic preservation, explaining the designation and design review process, as well as advocating for better preservation policy. The Messaging Guide is organized by these three topics, which are expanded into issues, key messages, and supporting points. For example, under "Why Preservation Matters" on page 33, you'll see related issues, such as affordable housing, density, local economy, sustainability, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and more. Each issue is further explored by key messages and supporting points that are readymade for your use, plus are backed by linked research and/or documentation to support the message.

You can start using the Messaging Guide today by visiting: <https://www.napcommissions.org/messaging-guide> or a PDF copy of the guide is also attached.

Just an aside, watch for our office's upcoming CLG grant funding announcement for CLG staff and/or Commission members to attend the next [FORUM](#) in August 2024.

Thank You!

Maria Lewis

Architectural Historian / CLG Program Coordinator
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office
Office of History & Archaeology

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Direct: 907-269-8717
maria.lewis@alaska.gov

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>

Attachments:

NAPC_Messaging_Guide_2023.pdf (950 KB)



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1380
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561
Main: 907.269.8700

August 1, 2023

RE: Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program Grants Opening

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the State Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM) announce the launch of the Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program. This program is designed to protect Alaska's maritime resources and advance public awareness of Alaska's nationally significant maritime properties, collections, traditional skills, and knowledge. The new competitive grant program will provide support, expertise, and resources to state agencies, cultural and academic institutions, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, local governments, individuals, and Tribes throughout Alaska's varied geographic and cultural regions.

Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program goals:

- Building a network of statewide partners dedicated to preserving Alaska's rich maritime heritage and increasing public appreciation for Alaskans' long and multifaceted relationship to the water.
- Continuing support and resources for projects that identify, document, and interpret Alaska's maritime resources, such as historic, cultural, and archaeological properties, archival documents, oral history, folklore, and traditional lifeways.
- Increasing the visibility of Alaska's maritime past (and present) by preserving and interpreting archaeological and historical properties and maritime cultural landscapes along Alaska's vast coastline.
- Sharing the stories of Alaska's longstanding human history that left a legacy of tangible maritime heritage and a diverse, yet often underrepresented, maritime culture.
- Encouraging the protection of Alaska maritime physical resources, collections, and seafaring and ecological knowledge to enhance understanding of Alaska's maritime legacy and lessons learned for future generations.

The SHPO will accept maritime preservation and education grant applications from August 1, 2023, to October 31, 2023. Projects should be ready to commence by February 2024, and be completed by June 2025. Applicants for preservation grants can request from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and applications for education grants can request from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The SHPO anticipates \$100,000 in available funds for preservation projects and \$227,500 for education projects. Program staff will hold a "how to apply" interactive session on **September 21, 2023**, via Microsoft TEAMS to provide technical assistance to prospective applicants. To register, email a request to dnr.oah@alaska.gov.

Preservation Grants

The Program's **Preservation** grants are for projects that advance Alaska's maritime heritage through public education for a wide audience and at least one of the following elements:

- 1) Identify, document, and evaluate archaeological and historic marine resources;
- 2) Research, record, and plan for marine resource preservation; or
- 3) Repair, rehabilitate, stabilize, or maintain historic maritime resources with limited reconstruction or other capital improvements per the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* and *Standards for Historic Vessel Preservation Projects*.

Education Grants

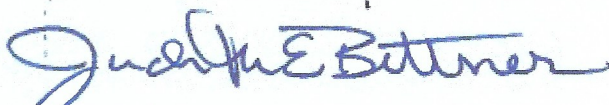
The Program's **Education** grants are for projects that advance Alaska's maritime heritage through public education and at least one of the following elements:

- 1) Curation, interpretation, and public access to collections;
- 2) Planning, developing, interpreting, and maintaining definable geographic areas encompassing one or more cultural and historic themes expressed through the area's remaining historic maritime properties;
- 3) Developing and implementing waterborne-experience programs that include instruction and hands-on participation;
- 4) Participatory programs interpreting current scholarship to enhance public understanding and appreciation of Alaska maritime history;
- 5) Activities designed to encourage preserving traditional maritime skills and teach continuing generations those skills, techniques, and methodologies, or
- 6) Minor improvements to existing educational facilities and exhibit spaces of maritime museums, organizations, or historical societies.

The Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program grant application package for preservation and education projects is available online at [Alaska Maritime Heritage Preservation Program](#) or by contacting the Office of History and Archaeology below.

If you have any questions, please contact us at dnr.oha@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
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Main: 907.269.8700

August 17, 2023

RE: FY23 Historic Preservation CLG Grant Applications

To Alaska CLGs:

The Office of History & Archaeology is accepting grant applications from Certified Local Governments (CLGs) for 60-40 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) matching grant projects. All projects would need to be completed by December 15, 2024.

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant program provides up to 60 percent assistance with a 40 percent CLG match for the cost of a historic preservation project in one of the following categories:

- Survey
- Inventory
- National Register Nomination
- Historic Preservation Planning
- Public Preservation Education
- Predevelopment
- Development

Priorities proposed by the Alaska Historical Commission during their June 2023 meeting are attached with the CLG application package and can be viewed online at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/clg/akclg.htm>

The Office of History & Archaeology anticipates \$150,000 will be available to award to eligible projects. The maximum federal share is \$50,000. The application deadline is 3:00 p.m. on October 13, 2023.

In addition, please note that the *2024 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum* will be held July 31 – August 4, 2024 in West Palm Beach, Florida. If funding is available, this office may be able to assist with travel and training grants. We will keep CLGs apprised as we learn more.

For questions, please contact Maria Lewis at maria.lewis@alaska.gov or by telephone at 907-269-8717.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith E. Bittner".

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

Proposed FFY 2023 CLG priorities* for grant funding:

1. Projects that increase public awareness of historic preservation and establish partnerships—particularly with local tribes and underrepresented groups—to strengthen their local historic preservation program. Projects that result in nominations for new properties to the National Register of Historic Places, including projects that recognize places associated with Alaska Native and underrepresented communities, will be prioritized.
2. Projects that address the rehabilitation of historic properties and leverage funds and resources. Restoring and preserving defining elements of historic properties and addressing their sustainability are encouraged.
3. Projects that update plans, review ordinances, create local register, draft local tax incentives, and determine design review guidelines. The use of a consultant to address local historic preservation issues is encouraged.
4. Projects that address the survey and evaluation of properties. Archaeological projects, projects in urban and rural areas, and cultural and historic sites are encouraged. Projects that record information on traditional Native places and place names as part of a survey projects are encouraged.
5. Projects that encourage historic preservation at the local level by supporting heritage and cultural tourism programs and other preservation efforts that use historic properties to stimulate economic incentives and community revitalization. Priority is given to projects that promote heritage tourism via surveys, inventories, preservation planning, development of historic contexts, national register nominations, education and interpretive materials, and predevelopment/development projects.
6. Historic preservation projects that address the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (2026) are a priority. The nation's semiquincentennial is an opportunity for all Alaskans to commemorate and learn how the 49th state has shaped American history. Suggested are projects that emphasize the historic preservation of properties, including National Register nominations, while reflecting the America 250 commemoration theme, *The Power of Place*.

*The priorities are numbered for administrative reasons. Grant applications need to clearly associate the proposed project with applicable priorities.

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission
Monday May 8, 2023 from 1700-1800.
Location: Conference Room, Cordova Center

Members Present:

Nancy Bird, Christy Mog, Heather Hall, Jim Casement, Wendy Ranney, Kris Ranney,

Visitors: Dixie Lambert

5:02: Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ranney W., Second by Casement. Motion passed without objection.

5:04: Motion to approve minutes.

Motion by Casement, Second by Ranney. Motion passed unanimously.

5:07: Review of revised Cordova Historic Preservation Plan

Hall said we need to make sure definitions are clear (historic property vs cultural resource); she pointed to the bullet point 1 under "Commission Duties," and noted that a cultural property is an historic property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. After discussion, there was consensus to ask the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to review this section for proper terminology. Bird will discuss proper terminology with SHPO regarding the written duties of the commission.

5:18: Lambert discusses putting street addresses in the walking tour brochure.

Ranney, W.: makes a motion to approve the local historic preservation plan 2023-2026

Ranney, K.: seconds the motion

Passed Unanimously

5:24: Bird expressed interest in having a training session in the fall on the use of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS). She would like to better understand it in relation to the Commission's duty to maintain a historic building inventory. Lambert referred to the excel spreadsheet she is working on which is based on the last official inventory of Cordova's historic buildings by Neilson, completed in the early 1980s. The updated spreadsheet has many more columns to address the other aspects that are supposed to be included in the AHRS. Lambert was asking how she can get access to the AHRS to link to the tax ID numbers in Cordova and the True North survey. Discussion ensued on how to gain access to AHRS through Jeff Weinberger.

5:35: Ranney, W. discusses the move of the Castle Inn and talking to Greg Meyers. This item was put on a pending list to continue pursuit of a new location.

5:37: **Next commission meeting**. Monday, September 25, 2023, will be the next meeting.
In the fall, the goal is to have two additional meetings in 2023.

5:40: Public Comment Period

Lambert asked about how many eligible buildings are in Cordova to be included in the inventory survey. Discussion ensued on what sites will need to be inventoried and updated for eligibility based on previous inventories and age of the buildings.

5:47: Commission closing comments, no further comments from the committee.

5:47: Motion to adjourn meeting, Ranney, K.

Ranney, W. seconds the motion

Passed unanimously.

DRAFT

Local Historic Preservation Plan – 2023-2026

for the

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Approved – May 8, 2023 Proposed amendments September 2023

BACKGROUND

The goals of the Cordova Historic Preservation Commission are to promote and maintain cultural heritage and historic integrity within the boundaries of the City of Cordova, and to enhance historic preservation and cultivate its economic benefits.

The Commission is advisory and reports to the Cordova Planning and Zoning Commission. Its membership and duties are detailed in Title 18.90 of the Cordova City Code. The Commission is intended to be a focused group of experts who advise through formal recommendations to the governing body of their community.

The Commission is recognized as a Certified Local Government (CLG) program through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (Department of Natural Resources).¹ The CLG program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Annual CLG reports are submitted to the SHPO.

COMMISSION DUTIES

- Develop a historic preservation plan that provides for identification, protection, and interpretation of Cordova's significant cultural historic resources. The National Historic Preservation Act defines these resources to be any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register (of Historic Places); such term includes artifacts, records, and remains which are related to such a district, site, building, structure, or object.
- Review and make recommendations about local projects that might affect properties identified in the historic preservation plan.
- Review nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for properties within boundaries of the City of Cordova.

Meeting Information

The Commission meets a minimum of twice per year. In 2023, the Commission intends to meet more often, three to five times as they re-invigorate their activities. Meetings are **always open to the public** and noticed at City Hall, the library, the post office and on the City's website.

¹ The Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provide programs to encourage the preservation and protection of the archaeological, historic, and architectural resources of Alaska.

Goals of the Cordova Historic Preservation Plan

- I. Develop, maintain and strengthen preservation partnerships among the municipal government, state government, tribal governments and federal agencies.
 - a. Inform city officials about the HPC, its goals and current actions, and of the benefits of historic preservation. Develop a working relationship with the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council as well as with the Native Village of Eyak.
 - b. Inform city, state, tribal and federal officials about activities of the HPC by sharing meeting minutes, historic preservation documents and other appropriate materials.
- II. Maintain and strengthen support for historic preservation from individuals, the Cordova Historical Society, neighborhood organizations and business interests.
 - a. Increase public awareness of historic preservation and local history.
 - b. Work to adopt strategies to conserve historic neighborhoods while reflecting their natural development.
 - c. Promote public programs regarding specific preservation efforts within Cordova's history.
 - d. Hold public informational/educational meetings concerning the importance of historic preservation, workshops on National Registry nomination applications, the CLG program and grant opportunities available to organizations, businesses and individuals. public programs regarding specific preservation efforts within Cordova's history.
 - e. Directly contact owners of historic properties and offer assistance, as they may desire, to assist with National Registry nominations and/or other grant applications.
- III. Identify historic and cultural resources significant to Cordova's past.
 - a. Update the inventory survey of Cordova's historic buildings. An excellent template for proceeding with this survey is provided in the recent document titled "Historic Buildings Survey Plan and Historic Properties Roster for the Cordova Historic Preservation Commission" (prepared by True North Sustainable Development Solutions, LLC, August 2020).
 - b. Review and identify potential new projects.
- IV. Increase public awareness of historic preservation in the community and improve preservation education efforts for various audiences.
 - a. Maintain an updated Historic Walking Tour.
 - b. Assist in design of signage around the community highlighting historic structures, people and events.
 - c. Work with the school district to incorporate historic preservation projects into school classes.

RESOURCES

Alaska Certified Government Historic Preservation Program – State Guidelines and Application for Certification -

[clgstateguidelines.pdf \(alaska.gov\)](#)

Orientation Manual for Alaska's Municipal Historic Preservation Commissions (2015)

[Historic Preservation Commissions Manual 10-01-2015 \(alaska.gov\)](#)

Alaska statewide preservation plan: *Saving Our Past: Planning for Our Future – Alaska's State Historic Preservation Plan 2018-2023*

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/ASHPP%20Document.pdf](#)

Heritage newsletter: *Monthly news update from the Office of History and Archeology – State of Alaska, Dept. of Natural Resources*

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/heritage.htm](#)

National Register of Historic Places: *Background from the Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology*

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/designations/nrhp.htm](#)

[Publications of the National Register of Historic Places - National Register of Historic Places \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

[National Register Bulletin 24 Part 1 - Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning \(nps.gov\)](#)

[National Register Bulletin 24 Part 2 - Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning \(nps.gov\)](#)

[The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines For Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings \(nps.gov\) Part 1](#)

[The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines For Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings \(nps.gov\) Part 2](#)

Cordova Historic Preservation Commission

Pending Calendar Issues/Activities

Training or educational

- Training session on use of Resource Inventory (Interest expressed by Wendy Ranney)
- Ground penetrating radar

Projects

- Castle Inn – find new location for it and investigate grant opportunities to assist
- Cordova building inventory survey – develop updated inventory that can be shared with the state Resource Inventory
- Update, edit and republish Cordova Historic Walking Tour
-