

MEMORANDUM

TO: Portland Landmarks Commission

FROM: Heather Flint Chatto, Executive Director, Architectural Heritage Center

DATE: June 2, 2025

RE: 6/9 Presentation: Overview & Opportunities in Historic and Cultural Preservation

This memorandum outlines the topics proposed for discussion during our upcoming June 9, 2025 session with the Portland Landmarks Commission. The intent is to provide an overview of the Architectural Heritage Center's (AHC) & Bosco-Milligan Foundation (BMF) offerings and initiatives, to share collaborative opportunities with the City of Portland, and highlight areas for strategic advocacy in support of historic and cultural preservation.

1. **AHC & BMF Overview:** what we do, resources we offer, new directions in preservation and sustainability
2. **Opportunities for Collaboration with City**
 - a. Near-term Opportunities:
 - Cast iron installation at Darcelle XV Plaza in partnership with Parks Dept.
 - 2025 Exhibits: LGBTQ+Preservation Exhibit opening 7/10, City Model & Vision for the City Exhibit, Main Street Architecture Exhibit
 - Central City Design Charrette 6/27-6/28, public sessions & reception
 - b. Future Opportunities:
 - Legacy Business Program, Commercial Deconstruction Program, Character Statements, Story Windows, leveraging AHC Collection, walks/talks/programs/events/education
 - 2026 Exhibits: "Culture, Climate, & Carbon" and "Hidden Density"
3. **Advocacy for Historic & Cultural Preservation**
 - a. Recent Legislative Positions: Special Assessment, Design Review, etc.
 - b. Preservation Watch List: Opportunities to save/adapt/reuse Cleveland High School, Burnside Bridge Towers, PSU Historic Residences (Blackstone Hall & Montgomery Ct.)
 - c. Top 3 Advocacy Issues:
 - Streetcar-era Main St. Commercial Centers - possible small Commercial Conservation Districts leveraging [existing research and mapping](#)
 - Rehab Tax Credit
 - Incentives for "Adaptive Density" (commercial to residential for revitalization of downtown + incentives for increasing density in historic residential neighborhoods with less demo)

We look forward to engaging with the Landmarks Commission and exploring ways we can collaborate more deeply to preserve Portland's historic and cultural fabric.