

ILLINOIS STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION SURVEY

March 21 – April 21, 2023

The following is a summary of the Illinois Statewide Historic Preservation Survey open to the public between March 21 and April 21, 2023. The survey was accessible through the project website, via multiple email invitations, and on social media. The following is a summary of 322 responses.

1) Which Illinois historic resources are most important to preserve?

(Rate each resource by selecting one of the following: Not Important, Somewhat Important, Neutral, Important, Very Important)

Responses: 319 (skipped 3)

Responses in order by weighted average:

- (4.42) Archives, collections, and artifacts
- (4.32) Public buildings (courthouses, schools, universities, libraries, museums, city halls, etc.)
- (4.32) Historic housing and neighborhoods
- (4.27) Historic parks
- (4.25) Cemeteries, parks, and other designed landscapes
- (4.18) Cultural properties, sites, and landscapes (hunting grounds, burial sites, ceremonial sites, etc.)
- (4.03) Intangible cultural resources (oral traditions, folklore, traditional skill sets, performing arts, cultural spaces, etc.)
- (4.02) Traditional downtown commercial buildings
- (3.95) Monuments, public sculptures, and objects
- (3.94) Terrestrial archeological sites and resources
- (3.90) TIE - Agricultural resources (farmhouses, barns, grain elevators, rural landscapes, etc.)
- (3.90) TIE - Resources of underrepresented communities (African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, Indigenous Peoples, Women, LGBTQ+, other ethnic and cultural groups)
- (3.88) TIE - Bridges and other engineering structures
- (3.88) TIE - Houses of worship and other religious buildings
- (3.74) Theaters, stadiums, and recreational facilities
- (3.73) Post-World War II and Mid-Century buildings
- (3.68) Maritime archeological sites and resources
- (3.63) Historic roads and transportation-related resources (gas stations, depots, etc.)
- (3.46) Industrial buildings and complexes

Other (please describe)

- Natural Resources - prairie, fen, savanna, forest, river, stream, lake...
- Forest preserves.
- Important resources that have not reached the 50-year-old mark yet.
- Historic documents and photos (deeds, wills, communications).
- Personal libraries after owner's death.
- Architectural drawings, archeological excavations drawings.
- Bishop Hill Historic Site.
- Late 20th Century buildings, brutalist, and postmodern buildings.
- For the US Bicentennial, many Illinois communities held Quilt Registry Days. When will these registered quilts and their histories be digitized? Does anyone know if they are sitting in boxes and where they are?
- ALL cultural resources that reside on PUBLIC LAND.
- African American Funeral Home Records.
- Support for adaptive reuse. Less focus on rigid Department of Interior standards and more focus on working with communities to flexibly continue using and INVESTING in their historic properties so they will remain in good shape for decades and centuries to come.

- It is so important to preserve our history!

2) What issues or trends impact Illinois preservation practice, programs, and efforts?

(Rate each resource by selecting one of the following: No Impact, Slight Impact, Moderate Impact, Significant Impact)

Responses: 285 (skipped 37)

Responses in order by weighted average:

- (3.58) TIE - Declining political support at the local level for preservation activities
- (3.58) TIE - Declining political support at the state level for preservation activities
- (3.57) Need to educate local stakeholders and decision-makers on the benefits of historic preservation
- (3.55) Lack of local preservation incentive programs
- (3.46) Lack of resources to preserve and protect historic resources in rural and agricultural areas
- (3.43) Need for diverse funding and financing sources for advocacy groups, museums, and historical societies
- (3.40) Need for adequate local planning tools and protection mechanisms (surveys, design guidelines, preservation plans, preservation ordinances, etc.)
- (3.39) Shortage of skilled local craftspeople and contractors
- (3.38) Lack of understanding, recognition, or knowledge of cultural landscapes and their importance in understanding local or regional history
- (3.35) Declining number of staff in the IL-SHPO office
- (3.34) Retention and recruitment of volunteers for nonprofit preservation organizations, museums, and archeological and historical societies
- (3.27) Changes to state-level legislation and policies
- (3.26) Declining community populations and changing demographics
- (3.24) Lack of resources to adopt new technologies for historic resource surveys, archival documentation, museum operations, and community outreach
- (3.23) Increasing growth and development pressures in urban and suburban communities
- (3.12) Loss of affordable housing due to gentrification, displacement, and demolition in historic neighborhoods
- (3.11) Lack of diversity and youth engagement
- (3.06) Recognizing resources and places associated with underrepresented communities in Illinois
- (2.80) Addressing the long-term post-Covid economic impacts on historic downtowns and heritage tourism destinations
- (2.79) TIE - Prioritizing preservation of vernacular resources
- (2.79) TIE - Climate change and the increasing number of severe storms and flooding events
- (2.74) Prioritizing preservation of Mid-Century resources
- (2.67) Prioritizing preservation of industrial resources

Other (please describe)

- Loss of institutional knowledge and connecting seasoned preservationists with those less experienced. Also, less knowledgeable and less professional commissions do more to damage/restrain preservation than any other single component of local and regional preservation...especially when commissions appear to be highly subjective and uninformed.
- Public education and outreach are key.
- Possibility of a serious earthquake (New Madrid Fault).
- Our local preservation organization is struggling in the wake of Covid, etc. No support is provided by local government, despite their mouthing support. The state preserve office is apparently stretched too thin to function in a real leadership capacity to support preservation at the local level. This and the issues raised in this survey section all combine to undercut real progress. We are very discouraged.
- Shoddy preservation examples by Pullman National Historic Park (non-slate roof on clocktower), State-owned Hotel Florence lack of repair and use. The Pullman House Project, shoddy inaccurate restoration with complete disregard for original details (like 1/2 round copper gutters instead of original box gutters. Non-slate roofing. Deferred maintenance to the point of collapse).
- Education, education, education!
- Lack of local understanding about planning as a discipline, and lack of local understanding about how to write and correctly implement historic preservation ordinances as well as zoning and other municipal planning related ordinances. Lack of understanding at a local level about how to implement and/or comply with comprehensive and

land use plans. Lack of understanding about how development outside a historic or culturally significant area will affect that area.

- Subjectivity of sites that "meet criteria" to be on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Lack of interest by the public at the local level.

3) How important is it for the Illinois Statewide Historic Preservation Plan to include the following preservation initiatives to implement over the next ten years?

(Select one for each resource: Not Important, Somewhat Important, Neutral, Important, Very Important)

Responses: 269 (skipped 53)

Responses in order by weighted average:

- (4.53) Expand existing revenue streams and financial incentives to fund and support historic property rehabilitation and adaptive use.
- (4.43) Develop the next generation of preservation advocates.
- (4.32) Revitalize Main Street districts and traditional downtowns.
- (4.32) Preserve and protect archaeological sites and cultural landscapes.
- (4.30) TIE - Expand public education and outreach programs regarding Illinois' history, historic preservation benefits, and IL-SHPO programming.
- (4.30) TIE - Provide funding and technical assistance for Historic Preservation Commission education and training.
- (4.28) Promote information directed to elected officials on the benefits of historic preservation.
- (4.22) Strengthen history programs in statewide elementary education curriculum.
- (4.21) TIE - Strengthen a community's preservation ethic by adopting or updating protective preservation ordinances.
- (4.21) TIE - Create attainable housing using historic preservation to rehabilitate vacant buildings and revitalize neighborhoods.
- (4.21) TIE - Strengthen heritage tourism statewide to help promote area culture, attract visitors, and increase local revenue.
- (4.15) Support continued cultural and historic resource surveys and documentation activities using the latest digital technologies.
- (4.06) Promote greater diversity and recognition of underrepresented communities in local history programs and historic preservation initiatives.
- (4.02) Enhance capacity-building for staff and volunteers of preservation and history-related groups.
- (4.01) TIE - Improve access to National Register, and architectural and cultural survey information and data.
- (4.01) TIE - Review of cultural resources affected by government funding or actions.
- (3.96) Encourage the use of alternative preservation tools such as cultural districts, conservation districts, and legacy business programs.

Other (please specify)

- Promote preservation as a sustainable building type.
- Training programs for contractors or programs to encourage more preservation-minded local contractors. It's hard for our City to promote placing preservation restrictions on buildings when there seems to be a lack of people to do the work.
- Public education and outreach are key.
- Celebrations of successes.
- As our country grows older the history we don't consider "really old" is getting older day by day. The Midwest doesn't consider itself very old. No big events took place here but our buildings and stories go back to the immigration period so there is plenty to preserve.
- Recognize that having an ordinance and an HPC are great, but they require support from planning people and government officials/bodies if they're actually to work.
- Funding for residential restoration, especially single-family homes. There are no programs to help and only wealthy people can take on these projects.
- Bring back a board of directors to strengthen cultural voices.

4) Which of the following IL-SHPO programs are most important to you?

(Rate each program by selecting one of the following: Not Important, Somewhat Important, Important, Very Important)

Responses: 262 (skipped 60)

Responses in order by weighted average:

- (3.53) Historic Tax Incentives
- (3.42) National Register of Historic Places
- (3.24) Regulatory Review: Section 106 and 707 (review of state and federal actions affecting historic resources)
- (3.16) Historic Resources Surveys
- (2.93) Certified Local Governments

Other (please specify)

- Need to reevaluate the CLG program. Champaign never really operated under the CLG requirements but was never "de-listed!" REMOVE IT.
- Program to connect preservationists with masons, carpenters, roofers, painters, and landscapers who specialize in Historic Preservation.
- The Agency is afraid to use the 106 and 707 process. It has become too political and has become a rubber stamp checking the box. The will to stand up and save structures is not there.
- It can be difficult to determine, as we are from a small community in which the idea of Historic Preservation is alien. Finding the right place to start with a group of volunteers that have little experience with Historic Preservation is a challenge in itself.

5) How can the IL-SHPO improve its current programs, including application and review procedures, as well as accessibility to the public and other interested agencies?

(Please provide suggestions for any or all of these programs if you are familiar with them.)

Responses: 88 (skipped 234)

The following responses are organized by subject matter.

Education, Outreach, and Training

- Mental health support for the frustrated, angry, disillusioned, blocked, and broken advocates. Compassionate, responsive, and timely access to help with initiatives, programs, and procedures.
- More training on current historic preservation issues (postmodern/late modern heritage and cultural heritage, in order to make it easier for these styles and resource types to be recognized and incentivized).
- An updated HARGIS map.
- HARGIS is a really great tool. It would be especially helpful if we could download district and building point data as a shapefile for our research. Wisconsin does this and it's incredibly helpful.
- Approach small organizations. They do not have the staff that bigger organizations have to continually watch for programs and initiatives.
- Get in front of local communities more to help spread the message and benefits of historic preservation.
- Better communication with local preservation commissions about preservation issues.
- Increase educational programs and opportunities, particularly virtually, via platforms like Zoom / online, with local governments and the public.
- It would be great to have the IL-SHPO attend the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, which is a part of Preservation Action's National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week. The IL-SHPO should partner with the statewide preservation organization Landmarks Illinois on new programs or assisting in advocacy for the historic tax credit.
- That SHPO is buried in the IDNR structure - you are hard to find - website is clumsy.
- Is there a statewide preservation conference anymore? Giving all preservation advocates a chance to get together, network, and revive flagging spirits might help.
- Suggest an educational program for the mayors and city council persons to talk about the importance and economic benefit of historic preservation with examples of adaptive use.
- Greater outreach.
- Fully comprehensive, state of the art digital archive for education about its programs.
- Send out information to the historical society.
- Support for local history groups.
- I would like to see more public information events that help education community members on the importance of saving some of our most historic elements. If grassroots efforts don't start at basic community levels, opportunities for preservation are lost through local decision-makers with little to no knowledge.
- Improve communication with the public.
- More local and public education and training in the cultural and aesthetic and economic value of preserving historic buildings.

- Public conversation and education are missing at the local level. Engineering, architecture, construction, and real estate programs should include preservation as an element of curriculum.
- More support for advocacy.
- We need help with advocacy to local building inspectors and planning and zoning bodies.

National Register Program

- Staff needs to be more committed to vernacular and informal properties considering condition/integrity equally with significance.
- More consistency across departments. National Register staff may recommend not to proceed with a National Register nomination based on eligibility concerns after the same resource has been determined eligible through regulatory review. These inconsistencies should not be occurring.
- Allowing National Register nominations to incorporate more than one criterion. In other states, National Register nominations routinely use more than one criterion. The current SHPO preference that only one criterion be used is not in line with common or best practices.
- More IHSAC meetings. It is difficult to meet the deadlines for National Register listing if they are only twice a year.
- National Register nominations are discouraged by attitudes, arrogance, and an unwillingness to really help. It's an elitist approach that is outdated and inappropriate for today's changing society. If you don't have a paid consultant, you're discouraged from submitting a nomination. The facts show just by the number of nominations submitted over the past 10 years. We haven't run out of sites or buildings, just the willingness to value things that really matter to a lot of people.
- Provide accurate, helpful information in a timely fashion. This is not necessarily the case. Be specific in critical responses.
- Streamline the historic registration process.
- Make sure all data is up-to-date.
- Thorough public outreach regarding resources before determining whether or not a site meets criteria for the National Register.

Certified Local Government Program

- Strengthen CLG training and recruit for well-run commissions to train other commissions so that commissions are valued parts of local government and distinguished from quasi-legislative advocacy groups that don't know how to run meetings or know the law, which confuses elected officials and the public at the local level and leads to discrediting of preservation on the whole.
- More outreach from SHPO CLG staff to existing and potential CLGs. CLGs should regularly have opportunities to interact with SHPO CLG staff.
- Perhaps divide the state into regional CLG centers and have half or full day conferences.
- I feel, if it hasn't happened already, that the Certified Local Government Program should be a name contact with all local municipalities. Our local government doesn't have any experience with historic preservation, and has not taken any interest in assisting us, and declined to provide us funding assistance.
- Better programs and resources for CLGs/local commissions. As a singular staff-person managing a fairly large community commission, I would greatly appreciate having better guidance/resources from SHPO, including better connections to other CLGs.
- We believe that SHPO should be holding cities to their agreements. By not doing so, many cities, including ours, have become slack on historic preservation overall. It has been very bad for our city.
- More frequent communication with Historic Preservation Commissions about upcoming grant cycles (giving them greater response time).
- Consistent deadlines for grant programs, technical assistance for applying for funding, more oversight of projects impacting historic properties.
- Require CLG communities to adhere to their agreements with the State.
- Create more consequences for municipalities that fail to comply with existing ordinances. Create incentives for local governments to participate in training.

Funding/Tax Incentives

- More funding for SHPO office, more staff, more outreach.
- The Illinois state historic tax credit program needs to be expanded if IL-SHPO and the State of Illinois are serious about historic preservation.
- I believe the SHPO has done a great job in continuing to improve. I think the state HTC program application process can be updated to be based on other markers besides speed of application and disaster relief markers. I'm not sure what other options may exist though.

- HTCs are only viable for deep pocketed investors who can afford to let their building sit while their application goes through. Historic buildings have to 'work' to be saved. Make the financial case more accessible and egalitarian and you'll move mountains.
- Give SHPO opportunities to cross-germinate within other granting agencies so that their historic expertise can help guide projects where cultural resources are impacted.
- Increase funding in order to fully fund tax incentives.
- Unsure of current process for applications.
- Better staffing for better responses! We are floundering out here with no assistance or guidance!! Tax credit programs are a turnoff for most developers because of the perception they are too burdensome.
- Explore more funding opportunities.
- Make the application simpler. I had to hire someone for this.
- Ranking HTC distribution by submittal times violates ADA by disadvantaging slower applicants. Use another method to randomize reward.
- Provide more grant funding for historic preservation, particularly to non-profits like historical societies.
- Developing a greater presence in smaller cities and towns would be helpful, if it pushed the idea that the state actively supports preserving our cultural, architectural, and archaeological heritage of the state in a broad way. You'd likely need additional staff to pull that off.
- Provide more easily accessible funding to small rural communities. Provide preservation workshops for local contractors to educate them on easy to implement preservation tactics.
- There is just nothing to help regular homeowners. I have a coded orange amazing house that I would love to properly restore but as a single mom I can't afford more than basic stuff.
- Improve funding and stop neighborhoods from barring improvements of local sites because they don't want to.
- Expand the ways a project can qualify for the programs.
- More CLG funding, better incentives and less rigorous reviews for state tax freeze program.
- Frankly, it is access to upfront capital (grants). The tax credits are useful, but most historic buildings require some remediation and that cost is high. Small businesses can't afford to rehab a historic building due to the upfront remediation costs.
- We need engaged representatives to help guide historical organizations in uncovering and securing funding.

Staffing

- The major issue that I see at SHPO is the severe understaffing of archaeology personnel. Other states have multiple archaeology reviewers that cover portions of their states. While our SHPO archaeologist does an absolutely incredible job, they are clearly overworked, and adding at least one more member of staff would be very effective.
- Staff needs to be more accessible and more responsive.
- MY GOD, hire more people. The IL-SHPO staff have been over-worked and under-staffed for years. HIRE QUALIFIED people, not political appointments.
- More staff, travel budget to visit sites, and more partnerships with other organizations. State staff has been MIA for a very long time - many communities do not know the department even exists anymore.
- More SHPO staff.
- Hire a director of IDNR/SHPO that has experience working in the field and has insight into current issues. It disrespects the field to have the head position of a state DNR/SHPO belong to an individual with little experience in the agency they are leading.
- Add capacity.
- Increase funding in order to fully staff SHPO and fully fund tax incentives.
- More staff and speed up reviews.
- Increase staff to better educate and work with HPCs and local preservation groups.
- Hire and retain qualified historic preservation regulatory review staff. We all know the State's change to Tier 2 pensions a decade ago has hurt its ability to compete with other states for quality professional staff in a spectrum of fields, compounded by the Baby Boomers who were the professional backbone of most State agencies retiring en masse over the last dozen years.
- Please add more staff to these programs and those new hires should be of the highest quality to protect our State's historic resources.
- Quicker response and feedback on historic renovations consistent with NPS guidelines - i.e., increased staffing.
- Provide more funding to SHPO so they can add staff and provide adequate outreach. Move SHPO out of IDNR and make its own separate agency again.
- Get rid of any MOU/MOA with other state agencies who have different missions and incentives to circumvent laws related to cultural resources. Alternatively, if another state agency wants to pay the salary of SHPO employees to assist with reviews, that would be more beneficial. More employees in the SHPO office.

- Hire more staff!

Regulatory Review

- Be responsive to requests in a timely fashion. Keep contractors informed of steps in process. This is not done.
- Be more flexible with the review of historic buildings to provide architectural consistency for the next 50 years over the replacement of historic windows and elements. Design consistency is very important.
- Need more and experienced staff in the Section 106 review process.
- Improved electronic submission process including uploading or otherwise sharing sensitive documents in a secure way.
- Accepting digital submissions, website improvements, and tracking for users to see the status of their project review.
- Doing a pretty good job so far. Expand capacity for large files.
- Stricter enforcement of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties to ensure better outcomes for the resources while being clear on how the Standards are being implemented.

Underrepresented Communities

- Prioritize underrepresented and marginalized groups. Prioritize groups facing the most hardships and struggles and make programs accessible and reflective of the community's needs and goals.
- Support and fund under-privileged areas.

Miscellaneous

- Begin a focus on the growing AI movement and its applications.
- A regulatory agency's purpose is specific: identify, strengthen, and support a focused mission using established, consistent, and clear standards and criteria. So by its very nature a regulatory process is exclusionary. Broader inclusion (accessibility) at the entry phase especially is the best civics. The Main Street USA project was like this 20 years ago. Worthy preservation projects -- some that fit the agency's criteria and review -- will follow, but all who participated will become part of a larger network of civic, community, historical, and economic purpose.
- Recognize the inability of rural communities and towns to financially support preservation. Any additional state tax increase cannot be borne.
- The Hotel Florence (state-owned) is falling apart. The caretaker is hostile to the community. It needs new management and direction to coincide with the Pullman National Historical Park that it is now part of.
- Historic buildings should be vital 'historic vessels' that contribute to society beyond their original purpose. Allow preservation to evolve and be useful. Modernize preservation.
- Work the local developers to balance historic preservation with future community sustainability.
- SHPO does a great job currently.
- Current programs do not have a streamlined way to reserve site visits. Volunteer and employment opportunities are not posted in communities served. Seasonal jobs are rare.
- The census method to measure the median income is inaccurate - over 49,000 is a joke.
- If possible, the IL-SHPO should have some enforcement capabilities. In two cases in Oak Park local government used TIF money to acquire and demolish National Register-eligible buildings. This is supposedly illegal. In both cases, I contacted the office of Senator Don Harmon, a co-sponsor of the bill making this illegal, and was told by staff members that I'd need to hire a lawyer and sue privately to challenge government action. In both cases, the SHPO sent disapproving letters to the Village government; these were ignored. Passing laws with no teeth encourages local officials to laugh and ignore them.
- I can't think of anything to improve what is currently being offered. I have had no issues or challenges with state staff or these existing programs that state staff have purview over.

6) Which of the following programs and initiatives would you like to see the IL-SHPO provide in the future?

(Rate each program by selecting one of the following: Not Important, Somewhat Important, Important, Very Important)

Responses: 261 (skipped 61)

Responses in order by weighted average:

- (3.43) Education and outreach regarding preservation programs and tax incentives
- (3.32) Training and support for local historic preservation commissions
- (3.16) Design and technical assistance
- (3.0) A statewide conference on historic preservation

Other (please specify)

- Training for local contractors. Recruitment of people to make careers in the trades.
- Celebration of successes.
- Stewardship comes from all ages being involved and learning.
- The last state-wide conference was in Evanston, maybe 8-10 years ago.
- Most people assume tax incentives are only for major rehabilitation projects. If that's not so then education is necessary.
- Have the training and support for local historic preservation commissions to extend to city officials. The City is our biggest obstacle in getting support.
- I only want to see training programs that look at issues more broadly and do not encourage local reviewers to strictly follow National Register criteria and/or standards for review for local landmarks.
- Training and support for local historic preservation commissions should be done in partnership with other voluntary and professional associations every two or three years.
- Rather than a statewide conference, consider local or regional lunch or dinner meetings to draw more city officials who may not be aware of historic preservation benefits.
- Education at the local level is so important. I know my own personal hometown courthouse, which is over 100 years old, is at risk of being torn down due to local politics and lack of funding.
- Programs that are specifically designed to educate preservation advocates about political networking to reach goals.
- Significantly more help attaining funding for preservation.

7) How can the IL-SHPO better support historic preservation efforts across the state (outside of providing grants for local preservation projects)?

Responses: 103 (skipped 219)

The following responses are organized by subject matter.

National Register

- There should be better support in place for nominating archaeological sites for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Provide helpful support in the National Register and community services. They are non-existent. The architectural review staff are fantastic and very helpful. We need more staff like them that really care about preservation.
- Check on communities (such as the one I live in) that have achieved National Register status to be sure they are continuing to abide by the conditions for the status - or are neglecting those conditions.

Education, Outreach, and Training

Next Generation

- Support training programs for new preservationists.
- Offer a Preservation Box to school districts: benefits, tools of observation, process application samples, nominate a local landmark.
- Teach children about local history.
- Provide support programs to educate youth in the trades like plaster work, repairing wood windows, stone work, etc.
- Focus on the next generation and underserved communities. There lies the future.
- Use public media to educate and inform the public about these issues before there is a threat of tear downs - school projects to start the process of making future generations aware of the importance of preserving the past that unless they care and get involved our history will only be in books and not in tangible, visual buildings, landscapes, and open space that we can use and admire.

Preservation at the Local Level

- Provide resources to local commissions in the form of educational handouts and workshops.
- Offer training programs virtually.
- Visiting rural communities, more support for HPCs.
- Educate city decision makers.
- Offer to meet with local officials in rural communities.
- Many local history/preservation groups work on slim budgets and small all-volunteer staffs. They could use more support tailored to the types of issues they face as they attempt to preserve history in the local communities.

- Educate even the smallest communities that may or may not know about the programs offered.
- Educate local communities through media strategies, on the benefits of historic resources, the value to their communities, and how the State and Federal HTC can benefit them.
- Education in schools, for local officials, and community members. I learned at age 50 that the school I attended is located next door to the town founder's original home and farmstead from the 1850s. Why was this not once mentioned or cared about?
- Outreach and education for local communities and developers.
- Put out regular updates to local communities where there are IL-SHPO locations.
- Train local council people, city planners, and mayors in the economic value of historic preservation.
- Education on why historic buildings are important to preserve and/or repurpose. Deliver a cost/benefit template for public and local use. Locals must support historic preservation or they tend to fail in the long term.
- Legal advice and access to lawyers willing to work for little or nothing to add support to issues many of us have on a local level.
- Guidance/support for local historic inventory, education of town officials on the economic/tourism opportunities that historic preservation presents, helping them get over the easy response that it is too hard, too difficult, too much work, and not their job. It is so much easier to just say no.
- IL-SHPO should be able to meaningfully intervene when municipalities and developers ignore preservation laws and policies.

Website

- A better website.
- Have a website where one can find the grants available. I'm not sure where to look.
- Create an online portal, which would guide the subject to needed resources through Q & A.

Conference

- I would like to see the state historic preservation conference come back. It was an amazing way to learn what was going on in the state, and to meet colleagues and discuss issues.
- Return to holding yearly statewide preservation conferences.
- Statewide preservation conference!
- A more robust, pronounced educational conference or small meetings in rural communities would go a long way. Some of the oldest parts of the state are in Southern Illinois and those communities do not have professional staff capable of navigating IL-SHPO programs.

Contractor Training/Database

- Again, I think that the SHPO should consider launching training, technical assistance, and recruitment programs related to construction work. There is an appearance at least in Joliet that there is a lack of skilled contractors sympathetic to historic preservation that a local homeowner could reasonably hire.
- Database of contractors/craftspeople with preservation expertise.
- Most local contractors lack the knowledge and skill to work on historic buildings. We live in an age of vinyl siding and pole barn carpenters. We must educate them on ways to preserve the integrity of the building while still providing an affordable cost to the customer.

Tax Incentives

- Better resources/information about tax incentives and studies on the economic benefits of preservation.
- Provide financial toolkits for available types of funding and make education about these financial incentives a priority.
- Help package and coach attaining funding and seeing local preservation projects through.

General Education and Outreach

- Providing a path for friends' groups and nonprofits to connect with one another.
- A regular column to all daily and weekly newspapers in Illinois supporting historic preservation.
- Celebrate successes. Recognize champions. Create traveling Landmarks Illinois exhibit for Illinois museums and libraries. Become constructively visible in local mission-aligned Chamber of Commerce marketing.
- Be visible.
- Advertising, emails, Facebook - small amounts of education at a time.
- Assistance with design on historic buildings (if small project, through zoom meeting).
- Bolster the programming for education and technical support.

- Build relationships and find mentors within communities and agencies who can teach and model all the facets involved in historic preservation.
- Public education and outreach are key.
- Education and networking.
- Provide newsletter of what is happening around the state and what is happening in the nation.
- You will fail to engage in minority and low-income neighborhoods if you continue to place art history above community history. Most of their historic structures have been compromised from an art history perspective.
- Education.
- Use media to solicit interest and donated dollars.
- Be in touch two or three times a year with all partners through a newsletter or online meeting. Help to make connections.
- There needs to be a program to inform landowners of cultural resources on their property and the advantages of preserving them. Too many have no knowledge of the resource until it is too late. Sites, burial mounds, cemeteries, and buildings are destroyed through ignorance, not deliberate intent.
- Presence, programs, public engagement!
- You need partners who can tell the citizens why preservation is important. Not sure what the forum to do this is.
- Share information from other states.
- Share knowledge gained from other preservation efforts throughout the state that might be applicable in other applications.
- Help in preventing demolition of historic properties, especially in Chicago and those coded orange. Also to code a lot more properties red and orange.
- Better education on the process and resources.
- An increased marketing of historic places would be beneficial (think tourism).

Certified Local Government Program

- Provide grants on a published schedule. Preservation Commissions need support and networking. It is imperative that you explain processes clearly and accurately and in a timely fashion.
- Support and resources for local Commission staff.
- Provide training and workshops for historic preservation commissions.
- Our mayor and our local historic preservation commission need to know the importance of ordinances to protect our city.
- Educate the local Historic Preservation Commission on the importance of ordinances to protect our city, including our mayor who does not support preservation.
- Better review of CLGs. For example while Aurora has a preservation ordinance, it is not enforced based on the City not appropriately providing staff per the ordinance requirements. It is not a functioning ordinance.
- Helping our local Historic Preservation Commission. They do not understand our ordinance nor abide by it. This must be fixed. It is a travesty what is happening in Galena.
- Provide historic preservation commissions with resources, tools, and classes.

Regulatory Review

- Technical review workshops. Speedy reviews.
- The SHPO is understaffed, which means their response time is often very bad. Any way they can find to create greater efficiency or streamline their processes for speedier response time would be a huge help. This is especially true when it comes to the Section 106 process.
- Enforce Federal and State historic preservation standards consistently for grant-funded projects awarded by State agencies. It seems that under the most recent previous IDNR leadership the SHPO went out of its way to make State-funded CDBG public infrastructure projects, especially for water tower replacements, much more costly and lengthy to accomplish, with the local community forced to remain reliant on a clearly failing and potentially dangerous old water tower.
- Better overseeing.
- Improve review of potential impacts to cultural resources.
- Be involved in planning and technical assistance for projects that could avoid resources.
- Get rid of any MOU/MOA with other state agencies.
- Keep the grants to the highest standards with historical accuracy.

Funding/Tax Incentives

- Make sure the reviewers understand that what we do as a society today is not what was done when the building was first put into service and designs should be flexible based on the current use.

- It would be great to start a statewide grant program where legacy businesses (local, small businesses in operation for at least 20-25 years) can get assistance.
- A specific grant to help local historic preservation commissions that have a lack of funding, or support, that doesn't meet the criteria of a certified local government, to help get them on their feet and in the right direction.
- Perhaps advocating for more state funding for historic preservation. I think I remember there being much more rigorous national funding under the years Jimmy Carter was president. We need to preserve original windows and doors - especially on our Greek Revival and Federal Style buildings since these are what give these their character and beauty. Lately these are all going into the trash. We need programs to support BEAUTY in historic neighborhoods and downtowns, LARGE shade trees and funding to promote this action and education to eliminate light pollution - to counter the false narrative that MORE lighting is safer. Funding for the preservation of brick streets and sidewalks.
- Make sure the grants are uses in ordinance with the state.
- Give density bonuses and create incentives for property owners who restore buildings.
- Help support and strengthen the use of financial incentives for rehab projects.
- Expand the ways a project can qualify for the grants.

Staffing

- Increase staffing within department.
- Hire more people so we don't burn out those who are already trying to do good preservation in Illinois.
- SHPO needs more staff and financial support to leverage its skills and abilities across the state.
- Increase staff and travel budget. Remote isn't always the best. We need to build more face-to-face relationships.
- Add capacity.
- Fully fund SHPO for increased staff and tax incentives.
- Satellite office in Chicago.
- More staff.
- The SHPO staff have been amazing to work with. They are excellent resources.
- SHPO needs more outreach and education staff to disseminate information to communities interested in preserving their cultural and historical resources.
- Be more visible to the general public.

Miscellaneous

- Tribal Nations as sovereign governments are not at all represented in this survey.
- Let's support Bishop Hill Historic Site. It's deteriorating quickly!
- Not needing union people to repair historical buildings. Don't discriminate against non-union workers.
- Be relevant and innovative. Welcome change to historic properties. Be part of the solution and not an obstruction.
- We need statewide historic preservation ordinances to cover municipalities that have failed to install them themselves.
- Pressure local board to offer incentives to improve local sites.
- Underutilized spaces should be available for recreation, cultural celebrations, and community gardens.
- As an advocacy group, we have found SHPO staff to be extremely supportive and helpful.

8) What is your primary involvement with historic preservation?

Responses: 256 (skipped 66)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (30) Local Historic Preservation Commission member
- (29) Other (please specify)
- (26) Interested Illinois resident
- (24) Owner of a historic property
- (21) TIE - Preservation consultant, architect, landscape architect
- (21) TIE - Staff or board member of a museum
- (17) TIE - Staff of a local community or county that is a certified local government
- (17) TIE - Staff or board member of a nonprofit historic preservation advocacy organization
- (17) TIE - Staff of a federal or state agency
- (9) Manager or steward of a historic property
- (7) Economic development professional
- (6) TIE - Staff or board member of a heritage tourism organization
- (6) TIE - Builder, contractor, or developer

- (5) TIE - Educator
- (5) TIE - Elected official
- (5) TIE - Professional or amateur archeologist
- (5) TIE - Staff or board member of a Main Street revitalization program
- (4) Staff or volunteer at an Illinois Historic Site
- (1) TIE - Staff of a local community or county that is not a certified local government
- (1) TIE - Realtor
- (0) Tribal representative
- (0) Student

Other responses:

- Director of Regional History Center
- I am involved in many different roles from professional staff to local advocate to historic property owner to NFP board member to professional consultant.
- Staff of a destination management organization.
- Board member of advocacy organization, preservation architect, and own historic home and properties.
- Former Illinois Main Street program staff member.
- Real estate consultant.
- Home owner in a historic town.
- Proprietor, Heritage Tourism business.
- Vice President of Alton Area Landmarks Association and a historic home owner.
- Staff of a non-profit.
- Rental property owner.
- Retired.
- Staff member of a professional association.
- Volunteer at historical society.
- Board member of the advocacy group "Aurora Heritage League."

9) What is your age?

Responses: 250 (skipped 72)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (97) 66 and over
- (65) 56 - 65
- (34) TIE - 46 - 55
- (34) TIE - 36 - 45
- (20) 26 - 35
- (0) 19 - 25
- (0) 18 and Under

10) How would you describe yourself? (multiple choice)

Responses: 249 (skipped 73)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (224) White or Caucasian
- (20) Prefer not to answer
- (3) Black or African American
- (1) TIE - Hispanic or Latinx
- (1) TIE - Asian or Asian American
- (0) Native or Indigenous American
- (0) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- (0) Another race or ethnicity not listed here

11) What is your household income?

Responses: 250 (skipped 72)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (60) Prefer not to answer
- (59) \$100,000 to \$149,999
- (48) \$150,000 or more
- (33) \$50,000 to \$74,999
- (24) \$75,000 to \$99,999
- (12) \$35,000 to \$49,999
- (11) \$20,000 to \$34,999
- (3) Less than \$20,000

12) What is your highest level of education?

Responses: 249 (skipped 73)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (111) Master's or Professional Degree (MD, JD, DVM, etc.)
- (71) Bachelor's Degree
- (26) Associate degree/Vocational/Military
- (22) High School/GED
- (19) Doctoral

13) Do you currently live in Illinois?

Responses: 256 (skipped 66)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (249) Yes
- (7) No

14) Please tell us the county in which you live.

Responses: 257 (skipped 65)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- Cook County (47)
- Jo Daviess County (33)
- Madison County (17)
- Will County (13)
- Winnebago County (12)
- Rock Island County (11)
- Lake County (10)
- McHenry County (10)
- Sangamon County (10)
- Jackson County (7)
- Kane County (7)
- DuPage County (8)
- Coles County (6)
- Champaign County (6)
- McDonough County (4)
- Clark County (3)
- Grundy County (3)
- Henry County (3)
- Iroquois County (3)
- Kendall County (3)
- Morgan County (3)
- Peoria County (3)
- St. Clair County (3)
- Adams County (2)
- Boone County (2)
- DeKalb County (2)
- LaSalle County (2)
- Lawrence County (2)
- Macon County (2)
- McLean County (2)
- Pike County (2)
- Vermilion County (2)
- Cass County (1)
- Christian County (1)

- Crawford County (1)
- Cumberland County (1)
- Fayette County (1)
- Jersey County (1)
- Knox County (1)
- Marion County (1)
- Moultrie County (1)
- Ogle County (1)
- Piatt County (1)
- Shelby County (1)
- Tazewell County (1)
- Whiteside County (1)

15) Please tell us the community or city in which you live.

Responses: 224 (skipped 98)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Galena (26) | • Oswego (2) | • Knox (1) |
| • Chicago (25) | • Peoria (2) | • Lawrenceville (1) |
| • Alton (14) | • Pittsfield (2) | • Lemont (1) |
| • Rockford (11) | • Richmond (2) | • Libertyville (1) |
| • Plainfield (6) | • Rochester (2) | • Maywood (1) |
| • Rock Island (6) | • Watseka (2) | • Mokena (1) |
| • Springfield (6) | • Arenzville (1) | • Monticello (1) |
| • Carbondale (5) | • Barrington (1) | • Mt. Auburn (1) |
| • Champaign (5) | • Batavia (1) | • Murphysboro (1) |
| • Charleston (5) | • Belleville (1) | • Northwest Indiana (1) |
| • Oak Park (4) | • Berwyn (1) | • Oregon (1) |
| • Aurora (3) | • Bishop Hill (1) | • Peotone (1) |
| • Geneva (3) | • Bloomington (1) | • Peru (1) |
| • Jacksonville (3) | • Carbon Hill (1) | • Plano (1) |
| • Macomb (3) | • Centralia (1) | • Roselle (1) |
| • Marshall (3) | • Channahon (1) | • St. Louis (1) |
| • Moline (3) | • Chatham (1) | • Scales Mound (1) |
| • Naperville (3) | • Coal Valley (1) | • Shelbyville (1) |
| • Belvidere (2) | • Decatur (1) | • Sherman (1) |
| • Crystal Lake (2) | • East Dubuque (1) | • Solon Mills (1) |
| • Danville (2) | • Elsau (1) | • Sterling (1) |
| • DeKalb (2) | • Flat Rock (1) | • Sullivan (1) |
| • Evanston (2) | • Forsyth (1) | • Summit Argo (1) |
| • Geneseo (2) | • Frankfort (1) | • Tower Lakes (1) |
| • Highland Park (2) | • Glencoe (1) | • Utica (1) |
| • Joliet (2) | • Glenview (1) | • Vandalia (1) |
| • Lake Zurich (2) | • Greenup (1) | • Wellington (1) |
| • McHenry (2) | • Hanover (1) | • Winfield (1) |
| • Minneapolis, MN (2) | • Hawthorn Woods (1) | • Wonder Lake (1) |
| • Morris (2) | • Highland (1) | • Woodstock (1) |

Note: I live near Arenzville, IL in Cass County but I serve on the Boards of the Cass County Historical & Genealogical Society and the Friends of Rexroat Prairie, both located in Virginia, IL in Cass County.

16) How do you access information on historic preservation?

Responses: 253 (skipped 69)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (46) Historic site website, newsletter, or event
- (42) Other (please describe)
- (37) Website or newsletter for organizations related to local governments or historic preservation
- (29) Local preservation advocacy organization or Main Street program event, website, or newsletter

- (24) Social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube)
- (23) Local or county historic preservation commission website, newsletter, or event
- (19) National Park Service or other federal or state agency
- (17) Local media (newspaper, radio, other)
- (10) Illinois SHPO event, program, website, or publication
- (7) I have not / do not access information about history or preservation
- (0) Podcast or blog
- (0) College or university historic preservation program

Other responses:

- Several or most of the above choices. (8)
- All of the above except "do not access." (8)
- Just online generally.
- Landmarks Illinois, National Trust, Preservation Action, local organizations.
- We access a variety of sources that include Illinois SHPO, Social Media, Podcasts, National Parks Service, and publications.
- Most of the above; primarily various relevant websites including NPS and IL-SHPO.
- Public library.
- Alton Area Landmarks, the Historical Commission, Instagram.
- Social media, NPS, websites, etc.
- National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Variety of sources: Kanews Media, Historic Associations, Local Preservation Commission.
- Historic site newsletter, HPC participation, Landmarks Illinois, communications from IL-SHPO.
- Native American Tribe, Ho Chunk Nation - IL Historical Museum Staff - Dr. Phil Millhouse, Cultural Resource Archaeologist, Red Gates Archaeology.
- I review DCEO Grantee-completed ERR's for compliance with Federal and State laws.
- The obsolete Chicago historic resources survey or HARGIS.
- Technical bulletins, seminars, self-study/research, historic preservation agencies.
- Personal contacts with people more directly involved.
- Through a friend.
- Newspaper.

17) How did you learn about this survey?

Responses: 255 (skipped 67)

Responses in order by number of respondents:

- (162) Email communication
- (30) Preservation organization (Historic Preservation Commission, Main Street, Landmarks Illinois, etc.)
- (21) Other (please specify)
- (17) Social media
- (13) Press release or flyer
- (7) Illinois SHPO representative
- (5) Project website (www.IllinoisPreservationPlan.com)

Other responses:

- Newspaper article. (5)
- From a friend. (3)
- All of the above.
- Found by accident. The invitation was originally sent to the wrong person at the Village.
- Work colleague.
- Work email.
- LinkedIn.
- Received a tax grant.

- SHPO presentation in Alton.
- Preservation organization (Historic Preservation Commission, Main Street, Landmarks Illinois, etc.)
- Volunteer Facebook.
- Someone in contact with a SHPO representative.
- April 11, 2023, online workshop.

