

## Big Ideas Summary | Historic Preservation

PDR staff received 417 big ideas related to Historic Preservation. The ideas included both citywide and location specific recommendations

### Location Specific Big Ideas

Participants provided 47 location specific big ideas which included ideas for new historic district, preservation of city facilities, and developing a plan for Shockoe Bottom. The neighborhoods and ideas included:

- **New City Old and Historic Districts or Design Overlays:** Preserve historic neighborhoods and structures by creating new City Old and Historic Districts, Design Overlays or other tools to encourage preservation in the Fan, Ginter Park, McGuire Cottage, Cary Street Road, Seminary Road, Museum District, Oregon Hill and Southside.
- **Shockoe Bottom:** Develop of plan for Shockoe Bottom and the Devil's Half Acre that includes honoring the African American experience throughout Richmond's history, acknowledging the area as the birthplace of the city, and providing protections for the archeological resources in the area.
- **City Facilities:** Revitalize the City-owned historic structures including the Pump House and the historic school buildings.
- **Commercial Corridors:** Revitalize Brookland Park Boulevard and the commercial corridors in the Southside by reusing some of the older commercial structures including movie theaters and banks.

### Citywide Big Ideas

Participants provided 370 citywide policy recommendations. The largest number of recommendations involved the importance of historic preservation in Richmond and balancing preservation with development. Below is a summary of the citywide big ideas.

- **Priority:** Historic preservation should be a priority in Richmond. Continue to preserve the city's historic structures to ensure the neighborhoods remain unique and desirable.
- **Balance Preservation and Development:** Acknowledge that not everything that is old should be preserved. Balance preservation with growth and economic development by allowing new development and changes in use.
- **Acknowledge All History:** Present a balanced view of Virginia's history including the city's dark periods.
- **African American History:** Preserve black history and culture in the City to include developing a plan for Shockoe Bottom and expanding the slave trail. Preserve the city's African American neighborhoods.
- **New Building Design:** Encourage the redevelopment of vacant parcels. (Please note that the comments regarding new building design varied though all comments encouraged better design)

- **Compatible New Development:** Encourage new development that matches the character of the historic neighborhoods. The architecture should complement the character of the neighborhoods.
- **Contemporary Buildings:** Encourage modern contemporary buildings while preserving the historic structures. Do not require new construction to match the style of the historic structures in a neighborhood.
- **Commission of Architectural Review (CAR):** Make the CAR process and guidelines easier to understand and flexible to modern designs. Increase enforcement of violations in City Old and Historic Districts.
- **Demolitions:** Prevent demolitions of historic structures. Encourage and incentivize the rehabilitation of structures in lieu of demolition.
- **Grants and Incentives:** Provide grants for façade improvements and for low-income residents to maintain their historic homes.
- **Monuments:** Address the confederate monuments in the Master Plan. (Please note that opinions on what should be done with the monuments varied greatly and included removing all monuments, keeping all monuments, relocating monuments to museums, and providing interpretive signage. With 51 people commenting on the monuments, the disposition of the confederate monuments appears to be something the public thinks the Master Plan can address.)
- **Preservation and Gentrification:** Address issues with gentrification in historic neighborhoods. Who benefits from historic preservation and tax incentives?
- **Promote History Through Tourism:** Promote the city's historic resources and neighborhoods for tourism through signage and connectivity between resources.
- **Tax Incentives:** Maintain tax incentives for historic preservation including historic tax credits and the City's tax abatement program. Concerns were expressed about who benefits from these incentives (developers or residents).
- **Trolley Cars:** Emphasize Richmond's tie to trolley cars.
- **View Shed:** Preserve the views of the River.