

The HPC is exploring re-imagining local preservation, exploring cultural districts, and listening to neighbors, community members, while building on building on our community strengths.

As part of the beginning exploration into equity and heritage preservation, the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) held a listening session to allow the public to engage on the topics of bias and exclusion that the HPC began discussing with their August 2020 roundtable. This was an initial light touch to difficult topic.

The purpose was to help the HPC determine direction of future discussions, public engagement and knowledge of all the factors that are part of the systemic issues.

**Comments from the public listening session.**

(Comments are written in order of being received)

*We need to explore how people think about these topics in order to address these items.*

*Preserving heritage of everyone is outside our prerogative of the HPC.*

*It is remarkable idea to explore what is historic and not just a building focus.*

*Heritage preservation is important.*

*It is great to broaden the perspective of what is historic or significance.*

*It will be a challenge finding a multi-perspective on cultural significance.*

*Creating large scale historic districts is difficult and owners can't maintain as per the standards.*

*Historic districts often are used to shut down change.*

*Consider conservation districts for a cultural district.*

*Need to look at equity and inclusion everywhere in the city, with people of all backgrounds.*

*Look at evolution of why areas were preserved.*

*Replacing a \$200,000 house with a \$500,000 house is not diverse.*

*The goal and focus creating the HPC was preservation of the historic structures.*

*Teardowns of affordable homes is a city issue, is historic designation the right tool to stop this?*

*Is historic designation having unintentional consequences?*

*Is the city part of the equity problem?*

*Need to tell more stories about the development of Saint Paul and all the people that were involved. Need to research more context studies that can tell the stories of diverse cultural communities.*

*Keep the focus on diversity and the diverse stories of residents.*

*Expand the good protection but limit the harm of heritage preservation.*

*What harm occurs with the current regulations?*

*Historic preservation preserves whiteness, it excludes low income and people of color, it replaced redlining restrictions that were outlawed in 1968.*

*Heritage districts are too few and too successful. They raise the area values.*

*We should have more districts that represent the working class of our city.*

*Both development and designation can be good.*

*There needs to be more education on heritage preservation.*

*It is refreshing to get out of the bubble and consider how preservation can help rejuvenate areas, but it also can gentrify.*