

2023-2030 IDAHO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Purpose and Objectives of the Public Engagement Process

Public participation is vital to any good public planning process. If people feel that they have an active voice in the process, it is more likely that they will support and use the resulting plan document. Rigorous public engagement is also a useful opportunity to build new and strengthen existing networks and partnerships.

The Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), therefore, are taking extensive and proactive steps to ensure broad public participation and engagement in the next update to the State's Historic Preservation Plan. This Public Engagement Plan describes the anticipated and planned public engagement efforts to be carried out by the SHPO throughout the Historic Preservation Plan Update process.

The Goals and Objectives of the public engagement process are as follows:

- To identify and engage key groups and individuals vital to historic preservation efforts in the state;
- To strengthen existing networks and establish new networks and connections around the state;
- Engage the citizens of Idaho in the Historic Preservation Plan Update process to the greatest degree possible;
- To generate feedback and ideas from the citizens of Idaho related to historic preservation efforts in the state;
- To identify the trends and issues related to historic preservation in Idaho;
- To develop appropriate goals, objectives, and strategies to address those issues; and
- To establish a framework and process by which the goals and objectives of the updated State Historic Preservation Plan may be achieved.

Guiding Principles

The Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan Update public engagement efforts are guided by a set of founding principles. These principles are intended to create a public engagement process that is both effective and productive, and to help ensure that everyone involved in the process has a clear understanding of what the process is attempting to achieve.

1. **Right to participate** – Everyone in the State of Idaho has the right to participate in the Historic Preservation Plan development process.
2. **Seek out involvement** – The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office will actively seek out involvement by the citizens of Idaho.
3. **Voices will be heard** – The views and contributions of the public will be heard and considered during the planning process, and particular effort will be made to reach underrepresented communities.
4. **Consideration of differing needs** – Not everyone has the same needs or desires; even if not all those needs and desires can be addressed through the resulting State Historic Preservation Plan, they will nonetheless be considered during the planning process.
5. **Informing the public** – It is necessary and desirable that the public is kept informed about opportunities to participate, how their input is being used, and the results of their input throughout the planning process.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

It is the intent of the SHPO that the updated Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan is truly a *state-wide* plan, which will serve the people of Idaho in the coming years. To this end, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office intends to conduct the public engagement portion of the State Historic Preservation Plan Update process in a way that achieves the goals of this Public Engagement Plan and adheres to the Guiding Principles to the greatest degree possible. To accomplish this, the Idaho SHPO intends to use a wide range of methods and opportunities, both online and in-person, to engage the public from around the state. Each of these is intended to ensure that the Idaho SHPO gets a wide range of input for the updated State Historic Preservation Plan.

Project Website (throughout planning process)

The Idaho SHPO will develop a series of web pages dedicated to the Historic Preservation Plan Update. These pages will be hosted on the Idaho Historical Society's website, will remain active throughout the planning process, and will serve as a central hub for online information related to the plan update. The website will be used to post notices of public meetings, links to surveys, information gained through the public engagement process, draft documents for public review, and provide a way for members of the public to stay informed and/or get involved in the planning process. Once the State Historic Preservation Plan has been completed and published, the pages will be archived but will remain accessible to the public.

Social Media (throughout planning process)

The Idaho SHPO will use their social media accounts to help provide updates on the planning process, events, opportunities for the public to be involved, and push out notifications about draft documents and survey results. These social media posts will be used to actively engage and interact with the public through informational posts, mini-surveys, and invitations to participate in the planning process. The social media posts will also provide the public another way to express their views and opinions to the Idaho SHPO during the planning process. Comments on posts and social media messages sent to the Idaho SHPO throughout the Historic Preservation Plan update process will be included as part of the official public input record.

Email Distribution List (throughout planning process)

The Idaho SHPO will establish and maintain an email distribution list to keep the public informed on the Historic Preservation Plan update. As part of every public engagement effort, members of the public will be given the opportunity to sign up for this list. Providing an email contact will **not** be a requirement of any kind of public engagement activity, but will provide a way to be more informed for those who might wish. The Idaho SHPO will use this distribution list to send emails notifications about public meetings, surveys, draft documents, and general updates about the Historic Preservation Plan update status.

Steering Committee

The Idaho SHPO will invite 12-15 people to serve as the Steering Committee for the Plan Update process. The Steering Committee will take an active role in the planning process, providing advice and guidance to SHPO staff throughout the process. For the Steering Committee, the Idaho SHPO will invite representatives from the Idaho State Historical Society Board of Trustees, other historic preservation organizations and consulting firms, staff from the offices of the Governor and Legislative leaders, Native American Tribes, underrepresented communities, and the general public.

Planning Partners

The Idaho SHPO will reach out to a wide range of groups and organizations and invite them to participate in the Historic Preservation Planning process. The Planning Partners are groups whose work intersects with the Idaho SHPO. These groups will be asked to bring their specific areas of

knowledge and expertise to the process. The Planning Partners will receive more directed invitations to the Open Houses and Focus Group conversations. These Planning Partners may include: historic preservation commissions from around the state; the Idaho chapter of the American Planning Association; chambers of commerce and economic development departments; Native American Tribes; Federal and other State agencies; and other groups as appropriate.

State-wide Survey #1 (October 2020 – March 2021)

The Idaho SHPO will conduct a series of state-wide surveys throughout the planning process. During the first survey phase, there will be several different surveys available. There will be a general survey, which is intended to gauge the general level of knowledge of and views on historic preservation. There will also be a series of surveys targeted to specific groups, which will go into more detail on their group-specific views of historic preservation. The sub-surveys may include those for: local boards and commissions (historic preservation commissions, planning commissions, et cetera); preservation consultants; archaeologists; elected officials; city and county planning staff; state and federal agencies; et cetera. All of these surveys will be used to help prepare for the Open Houses and Focus Groups; they will also be used to identify the trends and issues facing historic preservation. The surveys will be available both online and hard-copy for six (6) months.

Open Houses (January – September 2021)

The Idaho SHPO will, in conjunction with the Steering Committee and the Planning Partners, organize and hold a series of Open Houses around the state. These Open Houses are intended to be an opportunity to directly engage the general public face-to-face. These Open Houses will include both another opportunity for the public at large to engage in the planning process and for the Idaho SHPO to provide education to the public on the Historic Preservation Planning process and preservation in general. These Open Houses will take place at different times and locations around the state, over a period of nine (9) months. Please note, the on-going Covid-19 pandemic may likely impact the Open Houses; if this is case, the Idaho SHPO will explore alternate methods of holding the Open Houses to ensure the health and safety of both participants and staff.

Focus Groups (January – September 2021)

The Idaho SHPO will conduct a series of Focus Group meetings with range of different interest groups. These Focus Group meetings will provide an opportunity to have more in-depth conversations, especially with groups that the Idaho SHPO does not frequently have contact with and underrepresented communities. These Focus Group conversations are intended to help identify and address specific group concerns and issues. The Focus Group meetings will take place at different times and locations around the state, over the same nine (9) months as the Open Houses, and may be held on conjunction with those Open Houses.

Issue Briefs (December 2021 – January 2022)

Based on the information collected from the first round of state-wide surveys, the Open Houses, and the Focus Groups, the Idaho SHPO will work with the Steering Committee to develop a series of "Issue Briefs" which will describe the issues and trends identified so far. These briefs will lay out these issues and provide information on the context for each. The purpose of the briefs is to provide a basis on which to develop the goals, objectives, and strategies for the updated Historic Preservation Plan.

State-wide Survey #2 (January 2022)

Once the Idaho SHPO has prepared the Issue Briefs, they will be made available to the public, including the Planning Partners and the Focus Groups for review and comment. This will primarily be done through a second state-wide survey, which will ask the public to weigh in on whether the issues identified are on track, or if there are additional issues which need to be addressed as part of the plan. This survey will be available online or in hard-copy for a period of 30 days. The Issue Briefs will be revised and refined based on this additional public input.

Planning Partner Workshops (February – April 2022)

Once the Issue Briefs have been revised and refined based on the second state-wide survey, the Idaho SHPO and the Steering Committee will work with the Planning Partners to help develop the goals, objectives, and strategies to address the issues identified. In addition to goals, objectives, and strategies developed by SHPO and Steering Committee, the Planning Partners will be asked to come up with additional ideas which might be incorporated into the final plan. These workshops will take place around the state over a period of three (3) months.

State-wide Survey #3 (June 2022)

The Idaho SHPO will release a final, formal survey to ask the public to weigh in and comment on a final draft of the goals, objectives, and strategies that have come out of the planning process. This survey will be available for a period of 30 days, both online and in hard copy. The Idaho SHPO will consider this feedback when finalizing the goals, objectives, and strategies.

Public Comment Period for Draft Plan (September – October 2022)

A final draft of the completed Historic Preservation Plan will be made available for public comment. The draft plan will be posted online and a link will be emailed to the Steering Committee, the Planning Partners, the Focus Groups, and members of the public who have requested it. The public will be invited to submit comments on the draft, either via email or written hard copy. The Public Comment period will be open for sixty days.

Distribution of Final Plan (December 2022 – January 2023)

Once the updated State Historic Preservation Plan has been completed, the Idaho SHPO is committed to making sure that the Plan is widely distributed and available to everyone. In addition to sending printed copies to our Steering Committee members, copies will be mailed to the Governor's office, all the members of the State Legislature, every county clerk, all of our Certified Local Government partners, and other appropriate groups and agencies. Additional printed copies will be on hand and available for anyone else who requests one. A digital version of the Plan will also be made available and posted on the Idaho SHPO's website.