



NATIONAL ALLIANCE *of* PRESERVATION COMMISSIONS

education + training + advocacy

CORE VALUES & PRINCIPLES

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions helps communities build strong local preservation programs and leaders through education, training, and advocacy. The following statements will guide our work and provide touchpoints to ensure that our programs, messaging, and decision-making are consistent and reflect the organization's values and beliefs. In addition to communicating to our members, partners, and the public what NAPC believes about the importance of historic places and the communities who steward them, these values and principles will:

- Help determine advocacy priorities and positions on issues of importance to the organization and local preservation programs;
- Shape the tone, direction, and content of publications and training materials;
- Guide the Board of Directors and staff in the establishment of priorities, implementation of programs, and development of partnerships; and
- Provide a framework for evaluating past performance and future plans.

1

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions believes the preservation and maintenance, use, (re-)interpretation, and appreciation of older and historic places:

- Strengthens community identity and distinctiveness by preserving places that reflect collective and individual identities and memories;
- Encourages communities to learn about, recognize, and share their histories;
- Strengthens communities as it preserves past and existing cultures and stories;
- Contributes to a sense of well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability;
- Leaves a lasting and tangible legacy for future generations.

2

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions believes strong local preservation programs:

- Understand that change to older and historic places is often necessary and inevitable and seek to manage that change in ways that are sensitive to the values and meanings that people ascribe to those places;
- Recognize significant places in a community are not limited by their age, the demographics they represent, or merely design and that intangible heritage, culture, and the continued use of older and historic places are important aspects of significance and meaning;

- Meaningfully engage with people in their community, particularly groups and individuals who have been left out of discussions about significance and preservation;
- Seek new information and regularly update existing information about older and historic places in their communities, including histories previously absent from dominant historical narratives;
- Find ways for older and historic places to adapt to and meet other community needs, including affordable housing, economic prosperity, climate resilience, and equity;
- Align with and inform other municipal functions and programs including planning, zoning, demolition and building permitting, transportation, infrastructure, and economic development;
- Interpret and apply ordinances, standards, and policies in an equitable, yet flexible manner;
- Provide decision-makers and community leaders with regular, timely, and relevant training and continuing education opportunities;
- Build partnerships with local, regional, state, and national entities;
- Regularly assess and update policies and practices to ensure preservation remains relevant, valued, and responsive to change.

3

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and its Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers will:

- Lead discussions on national preservation issues that have impacts at the local level, including critical thinking about current practices as well as thoughtful attention to emergent topics;
- Support a range of effective practices for building strong local preservation programs and be open to new ideas and understandings of what preservation programs can and should accomplish;
- Recognize the evolving and diverse definitions of significance and integrity and support local communities' interpretation of these concepts;
- Value the knowledge, experience, and expertise of those working in preservation at the local level and continue the tradition of teaching and learning from each other;
- Demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and representation in organizational leadership and hold ourselves accountable for meeting that commitment.