

Ideas for Outreach and Community Engagement



Skelly Preservation Services
Community planning with the past,
present, and future in mind.

Chris Skelly
Skelly Preservation Services
Community Planning and Preservation
www.skellypreservationservices.com
ccskelly12@gmail.com

Community Education, Outreach and Engagement

- Begin a historic plaque program for property owners
- Install interpretive signage throughout the district
- Create a local preservation website
- Manage a social media presence
- Hold a workshop for contractors
- Hold a workshop for realtors
- Hold a workshop on wood window repair
- Hold an architectural styles workshop
- Hold a research your old home workshop
- Hold a workshop on energy conservation in historic buildings
- Install entering historic district signs to your districts
- Incorporate historic districts into wayfinding signage
- Analyze your preservation program through an Equity Audit
- Organize an old house fair
- Write a monthly newspaper column
- Speak at meetings of local social and benevolent groups
- Meet with the chamber of commerce to discuss economic development
- Print a poster of the historic district suitable for framing
- Print copies of old historic maps
- Publicize and celebrate relevant anniversaries
- Display historic photos in the library or town hall
- Write a monthly or quarterly newsletter to property owners
- Invite property owners to an annual listening session
- Submit success story press releases to the newspaper
- Create a calendar of historic photos
- Organize a historic photo scanning event
- Organize an oral history project
- Hold a celebration for new national register listings
- Provide certificates to owners of national register listed properties



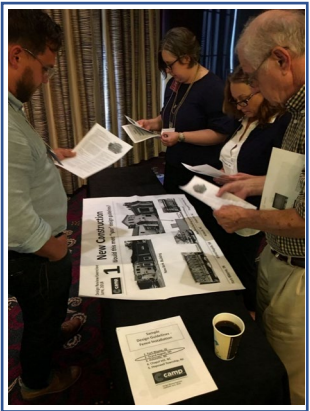
Holding Public Meetings and Hearings

- Treat all people fairly and respectfully
- Listen and ask questions
- Don't engage in side conversations
- Maintain strict ethical standards
- Come to meetings prepared
- Review whether the hearing room meets best practices for public hearings
- Improve and update your local historic district design guidelines
- Quote from your design guidelines in the decision-making process
- Adopt Findings of Fact that support your decision
- Explain the local historic district process at each public hearing
- Have a meeting procedures handout in addition to a printed agenda
- Send your agendas to other local boards and commissions



Commission Education and Improvement

- Organize a regional training session for preservation commissions
- Become a certified local government
- Attend the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Forum
- Attend local and online preservation commission training events
- Review educational materials provided by your SHPO and NAPC
- Regularly review applicable state historic preservation laws
- Regularly review your local historic preservation ordinance



Local and State Elected Officials

- Present accomplishments annually to your local elected officials
- Provide quarterly written progress updates to your local elected officials
- Invite local and state elected officials to speak at events
- Submit an annual report to your local elected officials
- Present a preservation award to a local or state elected official



School and Student Activities

- Create an architectural eye spy scavenger hunt for children
- Create a local historic building coloring book for children
- Meet with local educators about bringing local history into the classroom
- Create before and after photos for classroom activities

Local Non Profits and Friends Groups

- Start a local non-profit preservation organization or friends group
- Sponsor social and entertaining events
- Hold fundraising events
- Hold an annual preservation awards program
- Start an annual endangered properties program
- Lead historic walking or bicycling tours



Preservation Planning

- Update and expand your local historic property inventory
- List properties on the National Register of Historic Places
- Prepare a historic preservation plan with the assistance of a consultant
- Adopt a realistic annual work program to accomplish specific preservation plan goals and objectives
- Review zoning and other municipal regulations

