

Historic, Cultural, and Arts Resources

GOAL

Celebrate Sitka’s historic, cultural, and arts resources, which are:

- Ethnically, religiously, and racially diverse
- Highly valued and essential to defining Sitka and local quality of life
- Integral to the economic base of the community

OBJECTIVES (POLICIES) *It is the policy of the City and Borough of Sitka to...*

1. Acknowledge and celebrate Sitka’s historic, archaeological, architectural, traditional, cultural, and scenic heritage by recognizing and preserving sites, structures, and districts with significant value.
2. Promote availability of funding for Historic Property Renovation.
3. Support visual and performing arts in Sitka.
4. Maintain and improve community facilities where historic, cultural, and arts programming and performances occur, are taught, and where art and artifacts are archived and stored.
5. Support cultural heritage tourism.

Which 10 actions do you think are most important for Sitka to accomplish?
Put an “X” in the box of your top 10.

5 OBJECTIVES with 32 ACTIONS

1. Objective: Acknowledge and celebrate Sitka’s historic, archaeological, architectural, traditional, cultural, and scenic heritage by recognizing and preserving sites, structures, and districts with significant value.	
A. Develop and adopt Sitka’s Historic Preservation Plan.	
B. Continue to provide support to the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission.	
C. Facilitate and support CLG grants to obtain National Register Historic District status for eligible districts. <i>Who: Sitka Historic Preservation Commission, Sitka Tribes of Alaska, Sitka ANB/ANS, Revitalize Sitka Group, land and building owners, Planning Commission</i>	
D. Coordinate and collaborate with the Russian Orthodox Church, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and other interested parties to compile cemetery information.	
E. Develop resource information in order to protect sacred sites, such as a historic district map.	
F. Develop a checklist to use in the planning stage of all City projects, and projects needing city approval, to integrate consideration of cultural and historic values.	
G. Consult with the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission on issues and development that could affect preservation and enhancement of the unique character of downtown Sitka.	
H. The City and Borough of Sitka supports, as appropriate, efforts to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return any future tribal artifact discoveries to Sitka Tribe of Alaska. • Support STA, BIHA, and property owners in the rehabilitation of clan houses. 	
I. Integrate place names that are representative of Sitka’s diverse history into community facilities, services, places, and streets.	
J. Develop a Katlian Avenue master plan in collaboration with STA, ANB/ANS, and other interested parties. Possible elements may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition and celebration of area history • Interpretive signage • Promoting mixed-use development along Katlian Street (commercial on 1st floor, residential in 2-3rd stories) • High value to walkability and enhancing pedestrian use while allowing slow moving commercial and 	

industrial vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase III of the seawalk (from Totem Square to Siginaka Way) Discrete places to reconnect of Sitka Indian Village with the waterfront. <i>(Partners in this effort would be City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Alaska Native Brotherhood & Sisterhood, property owners, and local business owners.)</i>	
K. Initiate mapping of sites, location, info links (Rtown, GIS, public and private info)	
L. The preservation of exterior facades should be the emphasis of the City's encouragement of historic preservation.	

2. Objective: Promote availability of funding for Historic Property Renovation.

A. Advertise historic preservation opportunities, tax incentives, and grants available to rehabilitate historic properties, sites, and within districts.	
B. Look for funding opportunities for downtown revitalization. <i>Cross reference with action in Land Use or Economic Development chapter</i>	
C. Work with nonprofits, interested groups, and City staff to solicit and also seek grant funding for historic preservation projects	
D. Present the option of a more diversified grant position	

3. Objective: Support visual and performing (V&P) arts in Sitka.

A. Support development of pop-up shops for local vendors.	
B. Provide staff support to the City Hall gallery.	
C. Encourage public art displays, when appropriate (murals, etc.)	
D. Develop temporary use permits that promote opportunity for V&P arts	
E. Work with V&P groups and interested parties in developing community wide V&P events	

4. Objective: Maintain and improve community facilities where historic, cultural, and arts programming and performances occur, are taught, and where art and artifacts are archived and stored.

A. Market and promote use of the City and Borough of Sitka's newly renovated Harrigan Centennial Hall and Sitka History Museum.	
B. Market and promote the Performing Arts Center. Support agreements and public/private partnerships to diversity financial support and promote use to the highest degree.	
C. Create an historical zoning district or overlay for the Sheldon Jackson Campus. Encourage year-round use of the campus through marketing and use for local meetings.	
D. Support efforts to develop a Sitka Tribal Museum.	
E. The City encourages public educational institutions to promote the importance of Sitka's history and historic landmarks.	
F. Interpretative/historic signage on public owned buildings & lands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mitigating condition for planning permits and projects 	

5. Objective: Support cultural heritage tourism.

A. Pursue grant funding for a heritage tourism advertising project. (maps, guidebooks, etc.)	
B. Install interpretive signs on any historic structures owned by the municipality lacking such signage.	
C. Encourage the display of interpretive signs for historic structures through zoning code provisions and other appropriate means.	
D. Coordinate projects such as a potential Rtown(tm) or cemetery mapping project with visitor's bureau.	
E. Seek grants and projects that promote, protect, or educate public on HAC and/or promote heritage tourism.	

Other Action Ideas?

