

**CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
CITY OF PALM DESERT
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: March 26, 2025

PREPARED BY: Niko Romaidis, Planning Technician

SUBJECT: CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION COMMITTEE WORK PLAN
PRIORITY RANKING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the City Council approve the Cultural Resources Preservation Committee (CRPC) Work Plan for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year, as presented in Table 3 of the staff report.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On March 4, 2025, City Staff requested each of the seven (7) CRPC members to provide a ranked list of CRPC priorities they would like to focus on for Fiscal Year 2025/2026. The top five (5) goals selected by the CRPC form the basis of a workplan to present to the City Council. Three (3) CRPC members submitted rankings of their top goals which are provided as Attachment 1 of this report. Two (2) CRPC members stated they would agree with other committee members' priority rankings and found the current work plan acceptable. Two (2) CRPC members did not submit priorities but were part of the discussion. Priorities raised by multiple committee members are listed below in Table 1:

Table 1 – Multiple Vote Priorities

Committee Votes	Priority	Description
3	City wide survey	Complete the city-wide cultural resources survey, complete with GIS resources, provide quarterly updates, and inform residents .
2	Update the website	Update CRPC presence on city website to have correct and updated information.
2	Education	Establish onboarding resources for new CRPC members. Provide educational resources for CRPC members, residents, and visitors such as handouts, booklets, and informational workshops.
2	Active role in Modernism week	Encourage the City to have an active role in Modernism alongside HSPD.

The following are priorities that were provided by only one CRPC member:

Table 2 – Singular Vote Priorities

Priority	Description
Preservation of native plants in public spaces	Native plants that originate from city property don't require water but benefit from it. We need an educated horticulture department.
Research developing a Historic Districts program	While PD has a historic site program, it doesn't yet have a Historic Districts program. CR should investigate the pros/cons of having such a program and make a recommendation about PD adopting a Historic District program.
Development of Existing Partnerships	Review past partnerships and evaluate which ones should be deepened/developed.
Explore New Partnerships	Review potential new partnerships and evaluate which ones should be considered.

Staff recommends the addition of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Designation to the FY 2025/2026 Work Plan to carry over from the FY 2024/2025 CRPC Work Plan. If accepted, the final Work Plan presented to City Council would be as follows:

Table 3 – Proposed FY 25/26 CRPC Work Plan

Priority	Description	Cost	Time/Process
City wide survey	Conduct community workshops and education of Phase 1 of the Historic Context Statement and Survey and begin Phase 2	Estimate: \$100,000	<u>Time:</u> 6-9 months <u>Next Steps:</u> Phase 1 is currently being completed; Phase 2 is anticipated to begin next fiscal year
Update the website	Update CRPC webpage on City website with updated and accurate information.	City staff time	<u>Time:</u> 3-6 months <u>Next Steps:</u> City staff will work with Public Affairs to update and refresh website
Education	Establish onboarding resources for new CRPC members. Provide educational resources for CRPC members, residents, and visitors such as handouts, booklets, and informational workshops.	Estimate: \$3,000	<u>Time:</u> Ongoing <u>Next Steps:</u> Staff will seek educational resources to provide to CRPC and identify options for public education (booklets/pamphlets)
Modernism Week	Encourage the City to have an active role in Modernism week in collaboration with the Palm Desert Historical Society	City staff time	<u>Time:</u> 12 months <u>Next steps:</u> Reach out to event coordinators to discuss options
CLG Designation	Begin the process of an application to the California State Office of Historic Preservation office for a	Estimate: Included in City wide survey	<u>Time:</u> 9-12 months <u>Next Steps:</u> Wait for city wide survey to conclude then City staff will work on submittal of application

Cultural Resources Preservation Committee
City of Palm Desert
CRPC Work Plan Priority for Fiscal Year 25/26

	Certified Local Government designation.	Phase 2 (\$100,000)	
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ATTACHMENTS:

1. CRPC Ranking Sheets