

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025

**RALEIGH HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION (RHDC)**

ANNUAL REPORT (ADOPTED 8/18/25)

SUMMARY OF REPORT

We are pleased to submit this summary of the work that the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) has accomplished over the past year. We look forward to continuing our preservation public service in the year ahead. As evidenced within this document, our work gives all of us a better understanding of how Raleigh has developed through its history and supports the efforts of our neighbors to celebrate their culture. By looking at our community more holistically, we can be more effective stewards of local resources while better serving Raleigh's residents.

PURPOSE

Legal Authority

The City is authorized by the North Carolina General Statutes to safeguard the heritage of the City by preserving any property or district that embodies important elements of its culture, history, architectural history or prehistory and to promote the use of and conservation of historic districts and historic landmarks for the education, pleasure and enrichment of the residents of the City and state as a whole.

Mission Statement

The Raleigh Historic Development Commission serves as the City Council's official historic preservation advisory body to identify, preserve, protect, and promote Raleigh's historic resources.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

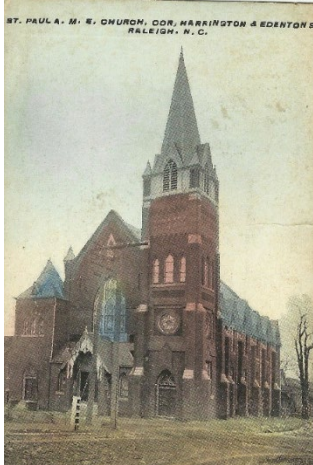
RHDC accomplishes many of its activities and duties through the work of four standing committees: Research, Community Awareness, Nominations, and Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

Research Committee

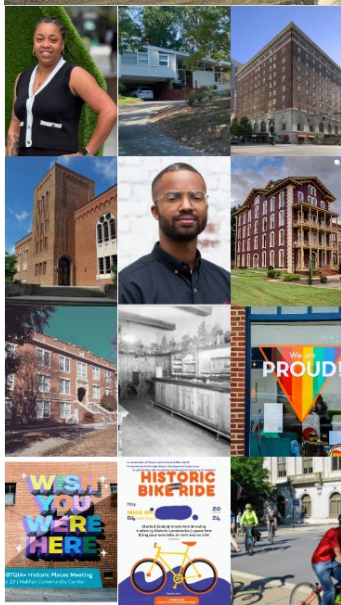
Bang Le, Octavia Rainey, David Serxner, Lauren Woodard (special assignment)

- Recommended approval of two landmarks: Charles and Maude Heck House, Elizabeth Hunter and William Henley Deitrick House II.





- Engaged with the owners of 11 properties. This includes owners who reached out independently as well as of properties in the [Places Worthy of Preservation](#) list. This year's letters were focused on Black churches.
- The RHDC hosted a two-part series of events to build relationships with pastors of Black churches and share information about the National Trust's for Historic Preservation's Preserving Black Churches grant program. Throughout the project, the RHDC engaged with over 90 participants and more than 20 churches.



Community Awareness Committee

Jon Anderson, Shannon Johnson, Katie Pate, TraShanna Sanchez

- Shared Raleigh's history via images and blurbs posted on social media.
- Shared bios and photos of 2 commissioners on social media.

- Tabled at two events: RTP180's history event and Out! Raleigh Pride.
- Reprinted the Architecture Activity Book
- Partnered with the Design Review Commission to present Raleigh Historic Landmark plaques to owners of one



recently designated property as part of the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards celebration. This now annual collaboration shines a brighter light on the landmark designation program and brings more recognition to the stewards of our landmarks.

- Hosted the 2nd annual Raleigh Historic Bike Ride in partnership with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission. The public group ride led about 40 cyclists of varied skill levels on a 4.5-mile route through downtown Raleigh. Riders visited and learned about 6 important places highlighted in the recently completed LGBTQIA+ Historic Context project.



Nominations Committee

Rob Allen, Katie Pate, David Serxner

- Identified and suggested Commissioner candidates with the requisite skills to fill vacant positions for City Council consideration.

Certificate of Appropriateness Committee

Rob Allen, Jordan Ryland, Melissa Todd, Wes Tripp, Lauren Woodard

FY 2025 saw a 31% increase in application decisions.

- 109 COA applications were approved administratively by staff.
- 41 COA applications were decided by the Committee in quasi-judicial evidentiary hearings.



Accomplishments and Activities (not Committee based)

- Celebrated Preservation Month (May).
- Reviewed 4 Recombinations/Recorded Plats.
- Made recommendations on 2 rezoning applications.
- Successfully submitted the 2024 Certified Local Government Annual Report to the NC State Historic Preservation Office, thus maintaining the City's CLG status.
- Completed CLG required trainings, including attending the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's Annual Forum, Preservation NC Conference, and preservation related webinars.
- Recommended that the Bill and Betty Weber House has the requisite significance to be a Raleigh Historic Landmark and that City Council approve use of the Preservation Revolving Fund.



Raleigh's LGBTQIA+ Historic Context

- Reviewed and accepted the [LGBTQIA+ Historic Context](#) report. The LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study sought to document historic places important to Raleigh's LGBTQIA+ communities. Deliverables included 5 community meetings, 4 online surveys, 8 oral histories, and a final report. The report includes a general history, list of identified places, a way to evaluate places for local landmarking, and recommendations for next steps. Additional City-led projects to highlight and build on the report content are underway. Owners of properties determined to be eligible for landmark designation were notified of the eligibility in addition to the final public meeting.
- Kicked off the National Register of Historic Places nomination process for Biltmore Hills.

RHDC MEMBERS (CUMULATIVE APPOINTED TERMS)

Katie Pate, Chair (2019-25)

Rob Allen, Vice-Chair (2022-26)

Jonathan Anderson (2022-27)

Shannon Johnson (2023-25)

Ariel Kocourek (2025-27)

Bang Le (2024-26)

Octavia Rainey (2022-26)

Jordan Ryland (2022-26)

TraShanna Sanchez (2024-26)

David Serxner (2023-27)

John Shimer (2025-27)

Melissa Todd (2024-27)

Samuel "Wes" Tripp (2022-26)

Lauren Woodard (2024-27)

Christina Jones, City Council Liaison

Tania Tully, Staff Liaison

Collette Kinane, Staff Liaison

Erin Morton Pugh, Staff Liaison



Explore the architecture, places, and people that have shaped Raleigh's history.

Download the RHDC mobile app today!

RaleighHistoric.org

RaleighHistoric is compatible with iOS and Android devices and also includes a companion website that is accessible from any web browser.

