

Staff Report and Recommendations

Agenda of January 26, 2026, Item 6b

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1740 • (805) 654-2478 • rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/

I. REQUEST:

Receive a presentation and provide feedback on the draft Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2025-2026 to be included in the Certified Local Government Annual Report that will be prepared in spring 2026 for submittal to the California Office of Historic Preservation.

II. BACKGROUND:

The County of Ventura has been a Certified Local Government (CLG) for the purpose of cultural and historic resource preservation review since 1991. Each year, the County of Ventura must prepare the CLG Annual Report and submit it to the California State Office of Historic Preservation for review and filing. The CLG Annual Report is a summary of Cultural Heritage Program during the reporting period; one voluntary component of this report is the inclusion of goals and priorities for the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program for the subsequent reporting period.

A statement of goals and priorities is an important aspect of the Cultural Heritage Program. It provides direction to Planning Division staff and helps rank various elements of the preservation program, outlines the work program for the community, and represents a statement of the philosophy by which the Cultural Heritage Board guides the preservation program. Planning Division staff is bringing this draft document forward for input by your Board well in advance of the deadline for preparation of the CLG Report in 2026 so that priorities can be established and pursued, as needed.

III. DISCUSSION:

The draft goals and priorities currently under review cover the CLG reporting period of October 1, 2025–September 30, 2026, which corresponds to the Federal Fiscal Year 2025–2026, as required by the State Office of Historic Preservation. Following your Board's review and input today, the full draft CLG report for the previous reporting period, including the 2025-2026 Goals and Priorities, will return for your Board's approval in spring 2026 prior to submittal to the State Office of Historic Preservation. However, staff will move forward with identified priorities immediately, or as needed, dependent on the timing of the tasks. The draft 2025-2026 Goals and Priorities are included in Exhibit 1 for your review.

Your Board's input is critical to the development of these 2025-2026 goals and priorities. Your direction is needed to focus limited staff time on specific program tasks. Please note that Exhibit 1 provides more information on decision points for your Board in the last column, titled "Proposed Actions" for each of these tasks. In addition, newly proposed priorities by staff are underlined in Exhibit 1 for your consideration. These are summarized as follows:

- Proposed Task #5: Collaborate with public agencies and organizations to identify opportunities, build partnerships, and advance shared objectives in historic preservation. Partner with public agencies and organizations to strengthen collaboration, share resources and expertise, and amplify the reach and impact of historic preservation initiatives.
- Proposed Task #17: Host *Treasures of Ventura County* Art Show in partnership with Ventura County Arts and Culture Division and the Ventura County Arts Council. A local group of artists, Plein Air Ventura County, along with the Cultural Heritage Board, the Ventura County Arts and Culture Division, and the Ventura County Arts Council, plan an Art Show for May 2026, during Historic Preservation Month, featuring paintings of over 100 historic landmarks.

Finally, additional goals and priorities not included in Exhibit 1 may be suggested by your Board. In addition to providing input on tasks proposed by staff and on ongoing CHB Program tasks, your Board may weigh in on the preferred prioritization and the timeline for specific program tasks. This item has been scheduled for an early hearing well before the CLG annual report deadline so that discussion may take place and direction provided to staff from your Board.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comment regarding this item has been received to date.

V. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

CHB staff recommends the CHB take the following actions regarding this item:

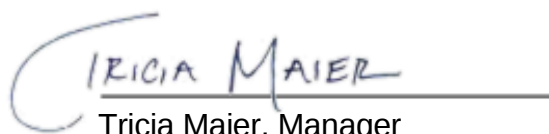
1. **CONDUCT** public hearing, **RECEIVE** oral and written testimony, and **CONSIDER** the Planning Division staff report and all exhibits and attachments hereto; and
2. Based on the preceding evidence and analysis, **PROVIDE** comments on the proposed Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program goals and priorities for 2025-2026.

Prepared by:



Dillan Murray, Senior Planner
Ventura County Planning Division
(805) 654-5042

Reviewed by:



Tricia Maier, Manager
Planning Programs Section
(805) 654-2464

Exhibits:

Exhibit 1: Ventura County Cultural Heritage Program Proposed Goals and Priorities for 2025-2026