

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD GOALS AND PRIORITIES
October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

TASK No.	PRIORITY LEVEL (High, Low, Medium)	PROPOSED TIMELINE (where applicable)	PROGRAM TASK	DESCRIPTION	ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE PREVIOUS REPORTING YEAR (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025)	PROPOSED ACTIONS (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)
1	HIGH	On-going	Verify Mills Act contracts are in compliance	<p>This is an ongoing annual goal. Currently, there are 11 properties in the city of Oxnard and 7 properties in the unincorporated County area subject to Mills Act contracts.</p> <p>Periodic inspections by County staff are required by state law to ensure proper maintenance of a property with an approved Mills Act contract. County staff must inspect the property prior to entering into a Mills Act contract with a property owner, and conduct interior and exterior inspections every 5 years thereafter.</p> <p>In addition, the owner of a property with an approved Mills Act Contract is required to complete the County's annual reporting form and pay the annual contract administration fee by February 15th of each year.</p>	<p>CHB staff maintained a Mills Act Program-specific webpage located at: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/mills-act-program/.</p> <p>CHB staff maintained a self-certification instructions webpage located at: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/mills-act-program-self-certification/.</p> <p>CHB staff conducted 5-year inspections of 14 Mills Act contract properties during the reporting period to verify compliance and recommend preservation measures (as necessary).</p> <p>In addition, CHB staff reviewed two self-certifications during the reporting period and reported findings for one non-responsive contract holder to the City of Oxnard.</p>	<p>Staff will continue to maintain web resources for customers.</p> <p>CHB staff will review annual Mills Act contract self-certifications submitted by February 15, 2026.</p>

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2	HIGH	On-going	Provide training opportunities for the Cultural Heritage Board on both general historic preservation topics and internal review processes.	Annual training opportunities are provided, including online webinars and resources.	<p>The opportunity to attend the annual California Preservation Foundation conference was offered to Cultural Heritage Board members and CHB staff. CHB staff attended the CPF conference in May 2025.</p> <p>Training and educational opportunities are regularly offered to CHB members, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Life & Legacy of César Chávez: Labor & Civil Rights in Ventura County, Dr. Frank P. Barajas, December 9, 2024; • The History of Agriculture in Ventura County and How it Became the Lima Bean Capital of the World, Mr. Jeffrey Maulhardt, March 24, 2025; • Historic Review, Ordinances, and Districts – Defining 	<p>If the Planning Division budget allows, Cultural Heritage Board members and CHB staff will have the opportunity to attend the annual California Preservation Foundation conference.</p> <p>The CHB guest speaker series (Task #11) will continue into the 2025-2026 reporting period, providing additional opportunities for training and education.</p>

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					<p>Historic Districts and Designing Sensitive Infill, CPF webinar, April 14, 2025;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventura County’s Indigenous Communities and the Natural World, Ms. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, May 12, 2025; and • “From Buckets to Bulldozers: Wildfires Then and Now,” comparing the Great Forest Fires of 1917 with the Thomas Fire of 2017, Ms. Betsy J. Green, September 22, 2025. 	
3	HIGH	On-going	Provide training to Resource Management Agency Divisions (e.g. Building and Safety and Code Compliance divisions), Public Works Agency, and	This training/outreach is intended to ensure other Resource Management Agency division (e.g. Building and Safety and Code Compliance Divisions), Public Works Agency, and City of Oxnard staff are	CHB staff were joined by City of Oxnard staff for all Mills Act contract inspections in the City of Oxnard (Task #1), providing opportunities for cross-training and education.	In November 2025, CHB staff held a training with the Public Works Agency to discuss the purpose and intent of the Cultural Heritage Program, tools for identifying designated and potentially eligible

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			City of Oxnard staff on the review process for permit requests at designated or potentially eligible cultural heritage sites.	<p>aware of the required cultural heritage review process.</p> <p>An internal training video on the cultural heritage review process has been recorded by CHB staff and made available in perpetuity.</p>		<p>historical resources, and steps involved in the required review process.</p> <p>CHB staff will remain available to meet with Building and Safety Division staff to review the required cultural heritage review process.</p> <p>In addition, CHB staff will meet with new City of Oxnard Planning Division staff and other contract cities on an as-requested basis.</p>
4	HIGH	On-going	Provide training to Planning Division staff on historic preservation standards and guidelines, the Cultural Heritage Ordinance, application procedures, permitting procedures, Section 106 review, and all areas	<p>Periodic training of other Planning Division staff on these topics is ongoing as a routine component of new employee orientation.</p> <p>An internal training video on the cultural heritage review process has been recorded by CHB staff and made available in perpetuity.</p>	CHB staff held trainings with new Planning Counter staff on the cultural heritage review process.	CHB staff will continue to schedule trainings with new Planning Counter staff on the cultural heritage review process on an as-needed basis.

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			related to the day-to-day running of the Cultural Heritage Program.			
5	HIGH	On-going	<u>Collaborate with public agencies and organizations to identify opportunities, build partnerships, and advance shared objectives in historic preservation.</u>	<u>Partner with public agencies and organizations to strengthen collaboration, share resources and expertise, and amplify the reach and impact of historic preservation initiatives</u>	<u>CHB staff met with Museum of Ventura County team to explore additional training and research tools and to discuss the areas of alignment between organizational goals.</u>	<u>If desired by the CHB, other agencies and organizations may be identified for future collaboration based on their mission and goals.</u>
6	HIGH	On-going	Satisfy annual CLG goals and objectives.	The CHB annually reviews the CLG goals described in the CLG report.	The CHB reviewed and commented on the draft Annual CLG Report (2023-2024) before submission to the State Office of Historic Preservation on February 26, 2025.	The CHB will review the draft Annual Report (2024-2025) before submission to the State Office of Historic Preservation in spring 2025.

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7	HIGH	Summer 2026	Install an informational display booth at the Ventura County Fair.	<p>Displays and brochures from past years are now stored with the Planning Division.</p> <p>The display boards and flyers may be revamped for use at the summer Ventura County Fair and potentially other events as appropriate.</p>	A new Cultural Heritage Board informational display booth was installed at the Ventura County Fair during August 2025.	<p>An agenda item related to the creation of a Ventura County Fair CHB ad hoc committee will come forward in spring 2025.</p> <p>County Fair materials and display boards can be repurposed for ongoing public outreach at future community events.</p>
8	MEDIUM	On-going	Develop web content for individual Ventura County Landmarks and Points of Interest.	The County's Historic Preservation Plan (adopted December 2000) includes goals related to the Cultural Heritage Program. One such goal is to foster an awareness and appreciation of Ventura County's rich history and variety of cultural resources among both residents and visitors and among cities. This task is aligned with this program goal.	In summer 2025, a part-time Planning Division intern created additional web content (both text and photo) for the Ventura County Interactive Landmark and Points of Interest Inventory. A number of new pages were made available and linked on the Cultural Heritage Program webpage: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/ventura-county-landmarks-districts-points-of-interest-inventory/ .	A Planning Division intern will continue creating web content (both text and photo) for Ventura County historic resources.

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					<p>In addition, a Planning Division intern created a new brochure highlighting both historic resources that have been lost in Ventura County and ways for the public to get involved in historic preservation. The brochure was added to the Cultural Heritage Program webpage and used during community events.</p>	
9	MEDIUM	On-going	Continue to expand the breadth of online historical data available to the public on the Planning Division website.	This includes adding items such as GIS maps, scanned DPR forms, new historic surveys, and historic photographs, as well as links to Ventura County properties listed in the National and State Registers.	<p>Planning staff continued to maintain an inventory of digital scans of HABS photography that was linked on the Cultural Heritage Program webpage: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/historic-american-buildings/.</p> <p>Planning staff continued to maintain an online interactive map of all Ventura County Landmarks and Points of Interest launched on the CHB webpage. Planning Division staff developed approximately 15 Landmark-specific webpages with photos and</p>	<p>Staff will continue to maintain web resources for customers and will update them on an as-needed basis.</p> <p>Staff may develop a new webpage for historic property owners, providing resources on procuring and installing commemorative plaques.</p> <p>In addition, all paper landmark files have already been digitized and are expected to</p>

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					content linked from the online interactive map. Those pages, when available, will also be linked on the Cultural Heritage Program webpage: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/ventura-county-landmarks-districts-points-of-interest-inventory/ .	become publicly accessible during the next reporting period.
10	MEDIUM	On-going	Continue the Annual Preservation Award Program in recognition of Historic Preservation Month.	Beginning in 2024, the CHB issued preservation awards to property owners of successful rehabilitation projects. The program is intended to award good treatment practices and promote the field of historic preservation. Additionally, awards are promoted on the CHB website.	In recognition of the month of May as Historic Preservation Month, the Planning Division, in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage Board, hosted its second annual Preservation Awards Program. In May 2025, ten awards and accompanying resolutions were given in a public hearing to dedicated individuals, advocates, property owners, community organizations, and volunteers.	If desired, Planning staff and Cultural Heritage Board members will identify potential awardees for 2026 and develop the Annual Preservation Award Program beginning in January 2026. Awards would be presented in May 2026 to coincide with Historic Preservation Month.
11	MEDIUM	As opportunities arise	Pursue grant opportunities to support the Cultural Heritage Board Program.	Each year, the California Office of Historic Preservation administers the Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program.	CHB staff maintained CLG certification in order to be eligible to apply for the CLG Grant Program. However, the	This is a continued task for the next reporting period.

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				<p>Through the CLG Program, local governments receive federal grants to assist with historic preservation programs.</p> <p>CLG Program funding or other grant sources could support the installation of plaques at County landmarks or honorariums for guest speakers who present at CHB hearings as subject matter experts on the diverse heritage of the County, or other efforts to share and preserve local history.</p>	CLG Grant Program was not available in 2025.	
12	MEDIUM	On-going	Hold a Cultural Heritage Board guest speaker series	<p>The CHB first launched a speaker series during the 2023-2024 reporting period. Guest speakers include experts and scholars of local historic resources who are invited to speak at a public hearing before the Cultural Heritage Board.</p> <p>Speakers are video recorded, and sessions are</p>	Held four guest lectures as part of two different guest speaker series, attracting a combined approximately 90 attendees. Across fall 2024-spring 2025, the series was titled “A Shared History: Diverse Voices Across Ventura County,” with sessions aimed to highlight traditionally underrepresented voices and stories and their	<p>This is a continued task for the next reporting period.</p> <p>The next speaker session will be held in February 2026. Retired educator and historic interpreter Connie Korenstein will bring to life the story of the Port of Hueneme.</p>

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				<p>uploaded to the Cultural Heritage Board website.</p> <p>Prior to each speaker session, a handout and flyer are designed by staff and widely distributed to promote the session on Ventura County social media channels and encourage awareness within the community. In addition, a press release is developed and shared to maximize visibility.</p> <p>This series is in line with the County’s goal to foster an awareness and appreciation of Ventura County’s rich history and variety of cultural resources among both residents and visitors. The speaker series will especially encourage dialogue and question and answer sessions (Q&A) with each speaker to facilitate public education surrounding these topics.</p>	<p>contribution to our county’s history. Events were held in December 2024, March 2025, and May 2025.</p> <p>In May 2025, the Cultural Heritage Board’s speaker series was acknowledged with a Planning Award from the American Planning Association’s Central Coast Section. For the series, the Cultural Heritage Board was granted the Advancing Diversity and Social Change in Honor of Paul Davidoff Award, which honors an individual, project, group, or organization that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion and demonstrates a sustained commitment to advocacy.</p> <p>The Cultural Heritage Board’s next speaker series titled “Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways” brings to life the important events, influential people, and key infrastructure developments that have shaped Ventura County’s</p>	<p>In addition, CHB staff is preparing for a guest speaker who will present in May 2026 to coincide with Historic Preservation Month.</p>

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					history. The first event was held in September 2025.	
13	MEDIUM	On-going	Inventory and screen County of Ventura-owned properties and Public Works Capital Improvement Projects for the presence of designated or potentially eligible cultural heritage sites.	<p>Planning Division long range planning staff review the Capital Improvement Projects list each spring.</p> <p>CHB staff will coordinate with Planning Division staff as necessary to review the Capital Improvement Projects list when it is made available. The CHB will be provided an opportunity to weigh in following CHB staff review.</p>	The CIP list was reviewed in spring 2025 and information on designated and potentially eligible Cultural Heritage Sites was provided to Public Works Agency staff.	This is a continued task for the next reporting period.
14	MEDIUM	On-going	Install the CHB informational display booth at 1-2 additional community events.	<p>Ventura County Fair displays and brochures from past years are stored with the Planning Division.</p> <p>The display boards and flyers may be used at other events as appropriate in order to educate the community on the CHB's role.</p>	The CHB display was utilized at multiple community events, including the City of Ventura's Rancho Days event at the historic Olivas Adobe (September 2025).	<p>The Cultural Heritage Board may identify 1-2 community events to install an informational display booth and/or participate.</p> <p>CHB members may install and take down the display with assistance from Planning staff.</p>

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15	MEDIUM	On-going	Designate Additional Points of Interest	<p>A Point of Interest is typically the site of a building, structure or object that no longer exists, but was associated with historic events, important persons, or embodied a distinctive character or architectural style.</p> <p>A number of potentially eligible Points of Interest are known to CHB staff. Designating these sites would serve to both commemorate their historic significance and demonstrate the value in preserving fragile historic sites that still exist elsewhere.</p>	Two new Points of Interest were designated in August 2025 (Day Ranch House and Olivelihoods School). Resolutions were recorded and information on these sites was added to the Cultural Heritage Program online interactive map.	<p>A Planning Division intern will research additional potentially eligible Points of Interest and compile necessary information and contact property owners.</p> <p>Following this research, CHB staff will bring forward nominees for designation to the CHB for action.</p>
16	MEDIUM	As opportunities arise	Hold 1-2 Mobile Meetings of the Cultural Heritage Board Each Year at Offsite Locations	If desired, the CHB may meet at different, publicly accessible historic properties across the county approximately 1-2 times per year.	<p>The CHB held a site tour and public meeting at the historic Heritage Square in the City of Oxnard (June 2025).</p> <p>In addition, the CHB held a public meeting at the City of Oxnard Service Center for</p>	CHB Members may identify suitable historic locations to hold CHB hearings within their districts and provide that information to staff for scheduling.

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				<p>Mobile meetings would provide an opportunity for education for both CHB members and public hearing attendees. In addition, such meetings could provide an avenue for increased attendance, particularly for Ventura County residents, who live in eastern Ventura County.</p>	<p>nearby projects that were being heard that day.</p>	<p>As part of the hearing, the CHB Member from the local district may lead public hearing attendees on a tour of the property and/or provide a brief presentation on the history and significance of the site or arrange for a knowledgeable docent.</p> <p>The CHB may provide direction to staff on the level of public outreach and official promotion of such events, as desired.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>17</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEDIUM</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May 2026</u></p>	<p><u>Host <i>Treasures of Ventura County Art Show</i> in partnership with Ventura County Arts and Culture Division and the Ventura County Arts Council</u></p>	<p><u>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.</u></p>	<p><u>In preparation for the Art Show, the Cultural Heritage Board partnered with Plein Air Ventura County to participate in a series of mini exhibits throughout the year, promoting the project, showcasing the county’s historic sites, and building excitement for the upcoming event</u></p>	<p><u>CHB staff will assist with the preparation and production of artwork labels for all pieces.</u></p> <p><u>In spring 2026, CHB staff plan to send out notification letters to owners of historic properties with information on the Art</u></p>

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					<p><u>CHB staff assisted with the scheduling and logistics of the Art Show.</u></p>	<p><u>Show, among other topics.</u></p> <p><u>In May 2026, the Board of Supervisors will present a proclamation recognizing Historic Preservation Month and provide an opportunity for the announcement of the Art Show. Members of the CHB may attend the Board hearing and offer comments, as desired</u></p> <p><u>CHB Members may attend the Art Show planned for Thursday, May 28th from 5-7pm, and provide commentary and public remarks, as desired.</u></p>