

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD PROPOSED PRIORITIES
October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

PRIORITY No.	PRIORITY LEVEL (High, Low, Medium)	PROPOSED TIMELINE (where applicable)	PROGRAM TASK	DESCRIPTION	ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE PREVIOUS REPORTING YEAR (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026)	PROPOSED ACTIONS (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027)
1	HIGH	On-going	Verify Mills Act contracts are in compliance	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. 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. 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.	CHB staff maintained a Mills Act Program-specific webpage located at: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/mills-act-program/. CHB staff maintained a self-certification instructions webpage located at: https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/mills-act-program-self-certification/. CHB staff reviewed 11 self-inspections submitted by Mills Act contract holders during the reporting period to verify compliance and recommend preservation measures (as necessary). CHB staff followed up with two non-responsive County contract holders and reported findings for four non-responsive contract holders to the City of Oxnard.	Staff will continue to maintain web resources for customers. CHB staff will review annual Mills Act contract self-certifications submitted by February 15, 2027.

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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.	The opportunity to attend the annual California Preservation Foundation conference was offered to Cultural Heritage Board members and CHB staff. Training and educational opportunities are regularly offered to CHB members, including the following: • “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 • The Automotive Revolution & Development of Freeway Grades in Ventura County, Mr. Andy Ludlum, December 8, 2025; • The Story of the Port of Hueneme and the Legacy of the Bard	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 in 2027. The CHB guest speaker series (Task #12) will continue into the 2026-2027 reporting period, providing additional opportunities for training and education.

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					Family, Ms. Connie Korenstein, February 23, 2026; and El Camino Real: Tracing California's Historic Roadway, Mr. Richard Senate, May 11, 2026.	
3	HIGH	On-going	Provide training to Resource Management Agency Divisions (e.g. Building and Safety and Code Compliance divisions), Public Works Agency, and City of Oxnard and other contract city staff on the review process for permit requests at designated or potentially eligible cultural heritage sites	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 aware of the required cultural heritage review process. An internal training video on the cultural heritage review process has been recorded by CHB staff and made available in perpetuity.	CHB staff were joined by City of Oxnard staff for all project site inspections in the City of Oxnard, providing opportunities for cross-training and education.	CHB staff will remain available to meet with Building and Safety Division staff to review the required cultural heritage review process. In addition, CHB staff will meet with new City of Oxnard Planning Division staff and other contract cities on an as-requested basis. Additionally, CHB staff will reach out to other local cities (e.g., Santa Paula) to inform them that contracting with the County for cultural heritage services is an available option.

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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 related to the day-to-day running of the Cultural Heritage Program	Periodic training of other Planning Division staff on these topics is ongoing as a routine component of new employee orientation. An internal training video on the cultural heritage review process has been recorded by CHB staff and made available in perpetuity.	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.
5	HIGH	On-going	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	CHB staff previously met with Museum of Ventura County team to explore additional training and research tools and to discuss the areas of alignment between organizational goals.	CHB staff will contact local historical societies and colleges to identify opportunities for future collaboration based on shared mission and goals.

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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 Annual CLG Report (2024-2025) before submission to the State Office of Historic Preservation in spring 2026.	The CHB will review the draft Annual Report (2025-2026) before submission to the State Office of Historic Preservation in spring 2027.
7	HIGH	Summer 2027	Install an informational display booth at the Ventura County Fair	Displays and brochures from past years are now stored with the Planning Division. The display boards and flyers may be revamped for use at the summer Ventura County Fair and potentially other events as appropriate.	A Cultural Heritage Board informational display booth was installed at the Ventura County Fair during August 2026.	An agenda item related to the creation of a Ventura County Fair CHB ad hoc committee will be scheduled in spring 2027. The ad hoc committee may develop an additional, smaller mobile display for use in conjunction with a CHB table at other events (e.g. Oxnard community events). County Fair materials and display boards can be repurposed for ongoing public outreach at future community events.
8	HIGH	On-going	Continue the Annual	Beginning in 2024, the CHB issued preservation awards	In recognition of the month of May as Historic Preservation	Planning staff and Cultural Heritage Board

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			Preservation Award Program in recognition of Historic Preservation Month	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.	Month, the Planning Division, in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage Board, hosted its second annual Preservation Awards Program. In May 2026, awards and accompanying resolutions were given in a public hearing to dedicated individuals, advocates, property owners, community organizations, and volunteers.	members will identify potential awardees for 2026 and develop the Annual Preservation Award Program beginning in February 2026. Awards will be presented in May 2026 to coincide with Historic Preservation Month.
9	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 2026, a part-time Planning Division intern began creating 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/ . In addition, a Planning Division intern began creating a new brochure related to a	A Planning Division intern will continue creating web content (both text and photo) for Ventura County historic resources. The intern will present a summary of their work products to the CHB.

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					heritage driving tour of Santa Clara Valley. When completed, the brochure will be added to the Cultural Heritage Program webpage and used during community events.	
10	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.	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/. 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 additional Landmark-specific webpages with photos and 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/	Staff will continue to maintain web resources for customers and will update them on an as-needed basis. Staff developed a new webpage for historic property owners, providing resources on procuring and installing commemorative plaques. In addition, all paper landmark files have already been digitized and are expected to become publicly accessible during the next reporting period.

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					divisions/planning/ventura-county-landmarks-districts-points-of-interest-inventory/ .	
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. Through the CLG Program, local governments receive federal grants to assist with historic preservation programs. 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.	CHB staff maintained CLG certification in order to be eligible to apply for the CLG Grant Program. No other actions were taken during the reporting period.	This is a continued task for the next reporting period.

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12	MEDIUM	On-going	Hold a Cultural Heritage Board guest speaker series	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. Speakers are video recorded, and sessions are uploaded to the Cultural Heritage Board website. 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. This series is in line with the County's goal to foster an awareness and appreciation	Held four guest lectures as part of the guest speaker series titled <i>Ventura County Chronicles: Fire, Freight & Freeways</i>. The series brought to life the important events, influential people, and key infrastructure developments that have shaped Ventura County's history. Events were held in September 2025, December 2025, February 2026, and May 2026.	This is a continued task for the next reporting period. The Cultural Heritage Board's new speaker series titled <i>Rails, Runways, and Harbors: Ventura County Through the Lens of Mobility and Military Heritage</i> will explore the pivotal transportation systems and military institutions that have shaped Ventura County's growth, identity, and landscape. Through stories of the railroad's arrival, the evolution of regional aviation, and the enduring presence of Naval Base Ventura County and the Seabees, this series highlights the movement, infrastructure, and strategic forces that built the county's modern landscape.

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				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.		Presentations will occur quarterly and feature subject-matter experts who bring these themes to life for the community.
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	Planning Division long range planning staff review the Capital Improvement Projects list each spring. CHB staff will coordinate with Planning Division staff as necessary to review the Capital Improvement Projects list when it is made available.	The CIP list was reviewed in spring 2026 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	Ventura County Fair displays and brochures from past years are stored with the Planning Division.	No actions taken during the reporting period.	The Cultural Heritage Board may identify 1-2 community events to install an informational display booth and/or participate.

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				The display boards and flyers may be used at other events as appropriate in order to educate the community on the CHB's role.		CHB members may install and take down the display with assistance from Planning staff.
15	MEDIUM	On-going	Designate Additional Points of Interest	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. 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.	Two new Points of Interest were designated in July 2026 consisting of the Piru Citrus Association Labor Camp (El Campo) and the Piru Quonset Hut Community Center. Resolutions were recorded and information on these sites was added to the Cultural Heritage Program online interactive map.	A Planning Division intern will research additional potentially eligible Points of Interest and compile necessary information and contact property owners. Following this research, CHB staff will bring forward nominees for designation to the CHB for action.

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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. 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.	The CHB held a site tour and public meeting at the City of Oxnard Service Center for nearby projects that were being heard that day.	CHB Members may identify suitable historic locations to hold CHB hearings within their districts and provide that information to staff for scheduling (e.g. Strathearn Park or Piru). 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. Prior to each meeting, the CHB may provide direction to staff on the level of public outreach and official promotion of such events, as desired.

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<u>17</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>May 2027</u>	<u>Explore hosting another <i>Treasures of Ventura County</i> Art Show in partnership with Ventura County Arts and Culture Division, the Ventura County Arts Council, and Plein Air Ventura County</u>	<u>Building on the success of last year's event, explore pursuing a similar or modified Art Show for May 2027 to commemorate Historic Preservation Month, potentially featuring artwork that highlights Ventura County's historic landmarks.</u>	<u>In 2026, 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, held an Art Show for May 2026, during Historic Preservation Month, featuring paintings of over 100 historic landmarks.</u> <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> <u>In May 2026, the Board of Supervisors presented a proclamation recognizing Historic Preservation Month and announced the Art Show.</u>	<u>CHB staff will contact the Ventura County Arts and Culture Division, the Ventura County Arts Council, and Plein Air Ventura County to understand the interest and feasibility of hosting another art show.</u>

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					<u>CHB staff assisted with the scheduling and logistics of the Art Show.</u>	
18	MEDIUM	As opportunities arise	Help Promote Heritage Tourism	Staff will work with the RMA Public Information Officer and local tourism staff to develop content and strategies to promote heritage tourism.	A Planning Division intern began creating a new brochure related to a heritage driving tour of Santa Clara Valley. When completed, the brochure will be added to the Cultural Heritage Program webpage and used during community events.	CHB staff will meet with both Supervisor Long's staff (District 4) and the RMA Public Information Officer to discuss potential strategies and next steps.
19	MEDIUM	As opportunities arise	Increase Publicization of the Cultural Heritage Program	Staff will work with the RMA Public Information Officer to increase public awareness of the Cultural Heritage Program, including available incentives such as the Mills Act Program.	RMA social media accounts shared information related to the Art Show, CHB guest lectures, and new Point of Interest designations.	CHB staff will target meeting with the RMA Public Information Officer to discuss additional strategies and next steps.