

NAPC's 2026 Commission Excellence Awards and FORUM Scholars Program

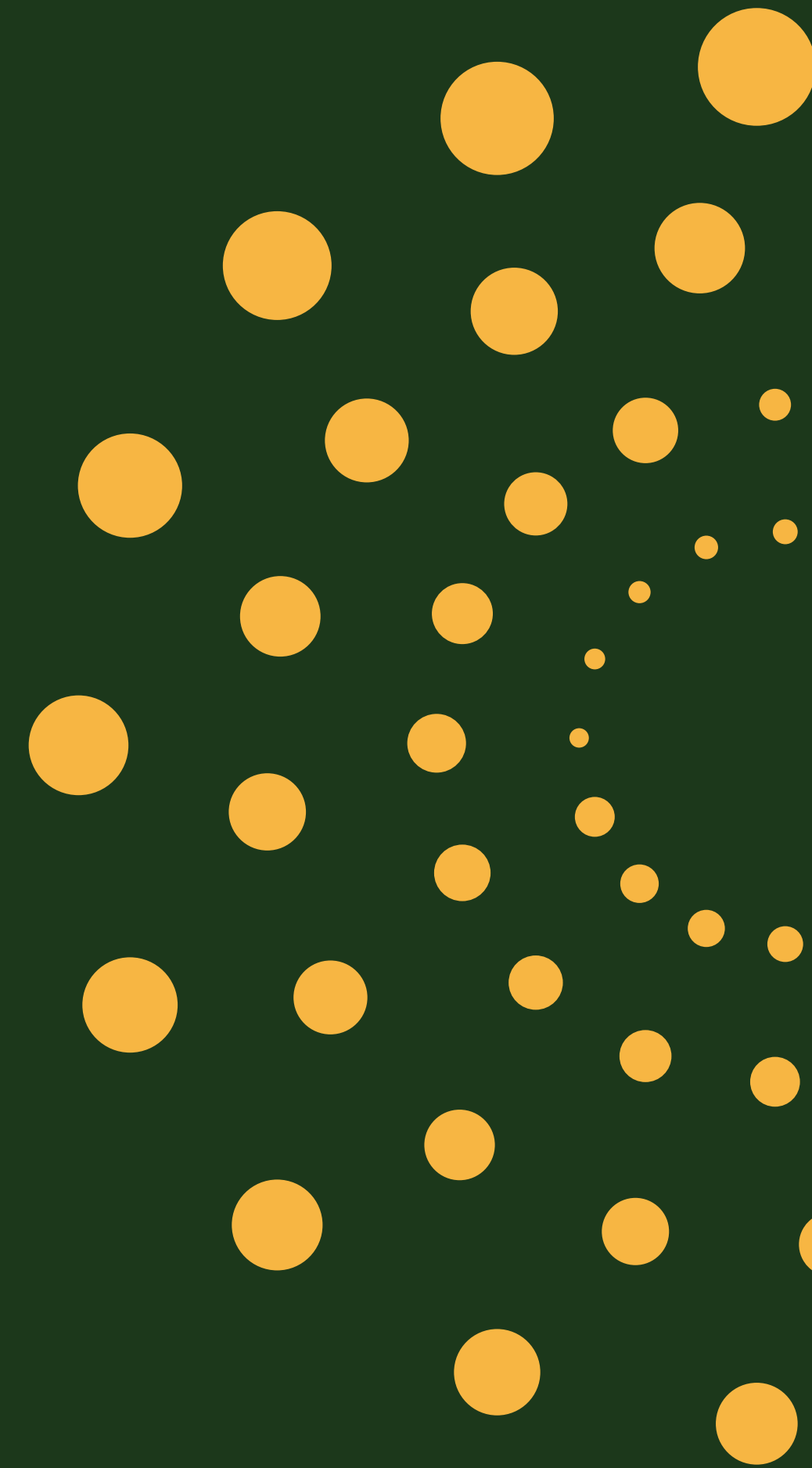


Agenda

- ✓ Brief Overview of NAPC
- ✓ FORUM 2026
- ✓ Commission Excellence Awards
- ✓ FORUM Scholars Program



**Helping to build strong
local preservation
programs and leaders
through education,
training, and advocacy.**



NAPC Membership

- Current issues of The Alliance Review
- FREE Webinars throughout the year
- Watch previously-recorded webinars
- Discount on FORUM registration
- Discount on Virtual Summer Short Course



Education

The Alliance Review

NAPC's quarterly online publication is filled with articles to serve as a valuable resource for local commission members, staff and preservationists of all levels of expertise.

An archive of past issues is available on NAPC's website.



Preview the latest issue here:

Education

NAPC-L

NAPC's discussion group (listserv). A go-to resource for anyone with questions or challenges facing their commission or community.

Connect with over 1,000 preservation commission members, local preservation program staff, state and federal preservation professionals, consultants, and more.

Learn more and join the listserv here:



Advocacy

The Historic Preservation Fund & Local Commissions

What is the HPF?

The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is a federal funding source that supports the core historic preservation activities of **State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs)** under the **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**.

HPF funding helps to **identify, protect, and preserve** historic places in communities across the United States. It supports essential programs such as:

- **Revitalizing communities through the Historic Tax Credit Program**, which fuels investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings.
- **Identifying and documenting** historic places to ensure their stories and significance are recognized and preserved.
- **Giving locals a voice** in federal projects to protect historic resources and cultural heritage.
- **Overseeing the National Register of Historic Places** to honor America's historic treasures.
- **Equipping local preservationists with the knowledge and skills they need** to make a lasting impact in their communities through education and training.

When was the HPF created? How is it funded?

The HPF was established by Congress in 1976 when the National Historic Preservation Act was amended.

The HPF is funded through revenue from offshore oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The fund was established with the idea that revenue from the extraction of non-renewable resources (oil and gas) should support the preservation of another non-renewable resource—historic and cultural assets.

NAPC advocates for effective practices, programs and funding that benefit local preservation programs.

In the past year, NAPC focused on sharing information about the nation's preservation framework so that local commissions are better informed of how federal and state actions will impact their local programs.

MESSAGING GUIDE FOR LOCAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

NAPC's Advocacy webpage and Resource Library contain helpful and FREE resources for those working or volunteering in local preservation.

Training

The Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP®) is NAPC's signature training, which provides live training to preservation commissioners, city staff, and community partners at the local level.

- Virtual or In-Person
- Single-community CAMPs are hyper-focused on situation and challenges
- CAMP Add-on available to help local programs strategically plan for the future
- Regional and statewide CAMPs work to bring communities together for sharing, networking, and learning.
- CAMP can be presented during statewide preservation conferences



Training

NAPC's Webinar Series

- Watch live or on-demand.
- Features experts from around the country.
- Eligible for continuing education credits.
- Free for NAPC members.
- Small admission fee for non-members.
- Presented on a regular schedule throughout the year with breaks for NAPC's Virtual Summer Short Course and FORUM.

NAPC's Webinar Series Presents:

In partnership with the American Planning Association (APA)

Integrating Preservation into Municipal and Planning Processes

THURSDAY, OCT. 30 | 1 PM EST | 1.5 AIA/AICP/HSW

In order to be successful, preservation planning can't operate in a vacuum; it must be woven throughout a community's larger planning efforts and municipal processes. This topic provides a broader look at preservation within the context of urban planning and explores strategies for integrating preservation into tools like comprehensive plans, disaster plans, and code updates.

PRESENTERS



Rebecca Ballo
Acting Historic
Preservation Division
Chief, Montgomery
County, MD Planning
Department



**Katie McLaughlin
Friddle**
Principal Planner, Current
Planning and Urban Design,
City of Oklahoma City
Planning Department



Adrian Scott Fine
President and CEO, Los
Angeles Conservancy



Jenny Wolfe
President, Planning 2
Preserve, LLC

This webinar is sponsored by Planning 2
Preserve



This webinar is free for NAPC members and APA members. Non-members are welcome to join for a \$15 admission fee.



Register
Here →



American Planning Association
Creating Great Communities for All

Training

Virtual Summer Short Course

The NAPC Virtual Summer Short Course (VSSC) is a two-day online training that covers a range of important topics geared toward those working and volunteering in local preservation programs. This biennial event takes place every other year.



A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The top bar shows the meeting title "Tough Cases in the Application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" and a "RECORDING" button. Below the title bar, there are two main video windows. The left window shows a hand-drawn diagram of a house with a pink roof and a yellow square on top, with the word "AUTO" written next to it. The right window shows a black and white photograph of a small, single-story house with a porch. To the right of the video windows is a chat panel with a "Public" tab selected. The chat panel contains several messages from participants, including Jeffrey Fetzer, Christopher Fullerton, R Kevin Mallinson, Robert Mabry, and Marc Millis. At the bottom of the screen, there is a green bar with the NAPC logo and the text "NAPC VIRTUAL SUMMER SHORT COURSE".

PRESERVATION CURRENTS

National Alliance of Preservation Commissions

FORUM 2026

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
JULY 22-26, 2026



EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Leave with practical knowledge that can be applied immediately.

NETWORKING

Connect with preservationists from across the country.

TOURS AND EVENTS

Get inspired with motivational stories and preservation in action.

FORUM 2026: PRESERVATION CURRENTS

Schedule At-A-Glance



Photo of the Mill City Museum by Erin Que

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

- Pre-Conference Programming (NAPC Short Course)
- Offered Tours (Ticketed \$)
- Board Meetings (By Invitation)

Thursday, July 23, 2026

- Pre-Conference Programming (Ticketed)
- Offered Tours (Ticketed \$)
- Thursday Evening Reception at the Pillsbury A Mill (Ticketed \$)

Friday, July 24, 2026

- Conference Programming Begins
- Friday Morning Plenary at the Conference Hotel
- Concurrent Educational Sessions
- Offered Tours (Ticketed \$)
- Friday Evening Reception at the Mill City Museum

Saturday, July 25, 2026

- Concurrent Educational Sessions
- Offered Tours (Ticketed \$)
- Saturday Luncheon at the Conference Hotel (Ticketed \$)
- Saturday Evening Commission Excellence Awards Ceremony at the Conference Hotel

Sunday, July 26, 2026

- Concurrent Educational Sessions
- Offered Tours (Ticketed \$)
- Conference Concludes at 12:30pm

FORUM 2026: PRESERVATION CURRENTS

REGISTRATION RATES



NAPC Member Early Bird \$350

NAPC Member Regular \$450

Non-Member Early Bird \$450

Non-Member Regular \$550

Student Early Bird \$150

Student Regular \$200

Early Bird - Before May 8

Regular - After May 8

Registration Opens March 25, 2026

FORUM 2026: PRESERVATION CURRENTS

Hotel Room Rates

FORUM 2026 will be held at the Marriott City Center, 30 S 7th St, Minneapolis, MN.

The conference dates are Wednesday July 22 through Sunday July 26, 2026.

Wednesday and Thursday will be filled with pre-conference programming and tours.

Educational sessions and panels will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning (July 24, 25 and 26).

Hotel room block information will be released in early 2026.

The rates will be as follows:

- NAPC Room Block Rate: \$239 per night
- Government Rate (State and Federal Employees): \$148 per night



COMMISSION EXCELLENCE AWARDS



The Awards program runs every other year in coordination with FORUM, and it recognizes and honors outstanding efforts and achievements by local historic preservation commissions as well as individuals.

AWARD CATEGORIES



- **Commission of the Year Award**
- **Best Practices Awards** in the following areas:
 - Identification/Registration
 - Protection
 - Public Outreach/Advocacy
 - Technology

BEST PRACTICES - IDENTIFICATION/REGISTRATION

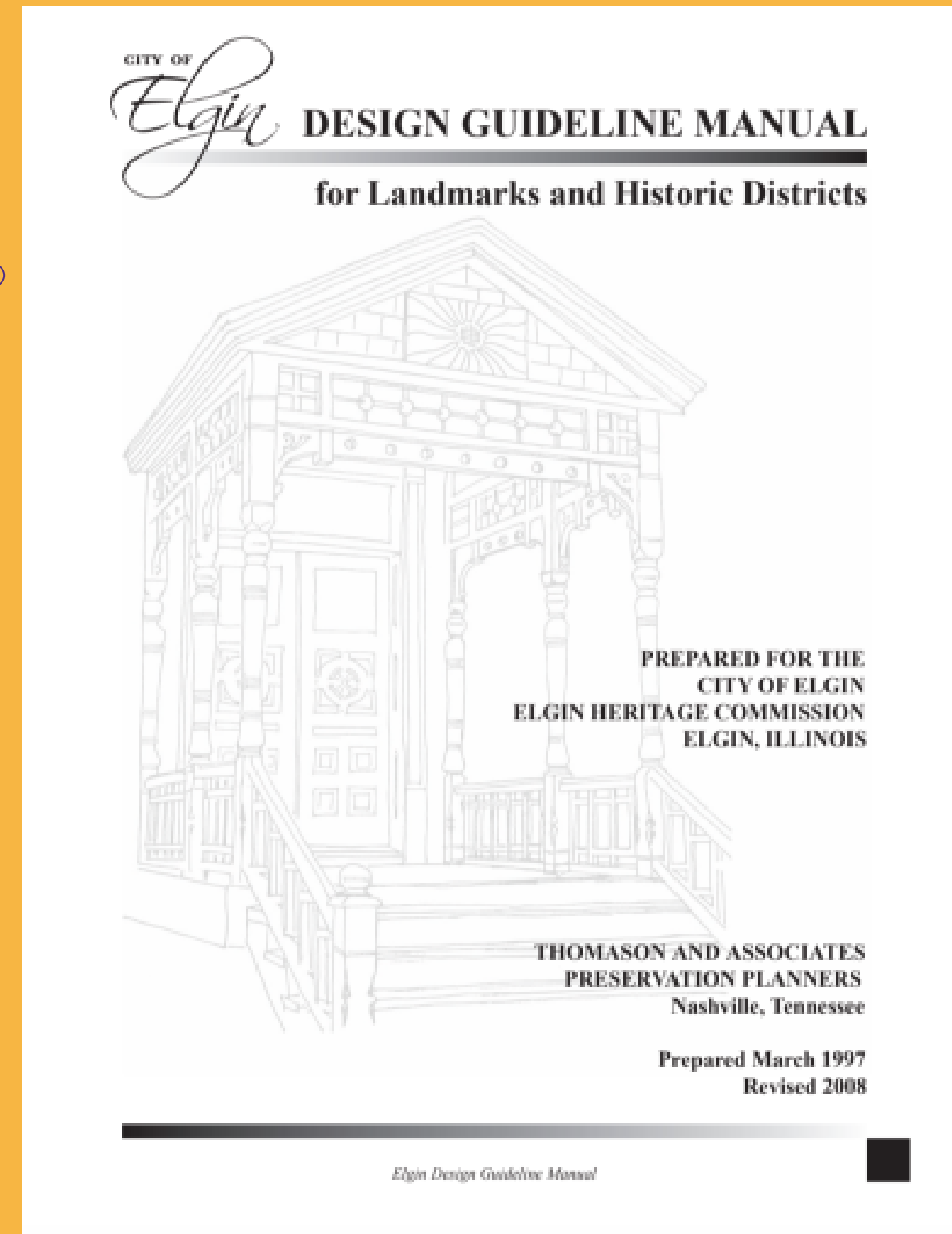


2024 Recipient - King County Landmarks
Commission

- **Examples include:**
 - Historic resource surveys
 - Historic contexts
 - Local designation reports
 - National Register of Historic Places listings

BEST PRACTICES - PROTECTION

- **Examples include:**
 - Preservation ordinances
 - New program tools/initiatives
 - Rules and regulations
 - Preservation plans and master plans
 - Incentives
 - Design guidelines and policies
 - Grant and revolving fund programs
 - Code enforcement programs
 - Zoning and building code provisions for historic properties



2024 Recipient - Elgin Heritage Commission

BEST PRACTICES - PUBLIC OUTREACH/ADVOCACY

- **Examples include:**

- Brochures, publications, websites, and other outreach materials
- Markers/signage
- Workshops
- Conferences
- Awards programs and other public participation and education initiatives
- Advocacy campaigns

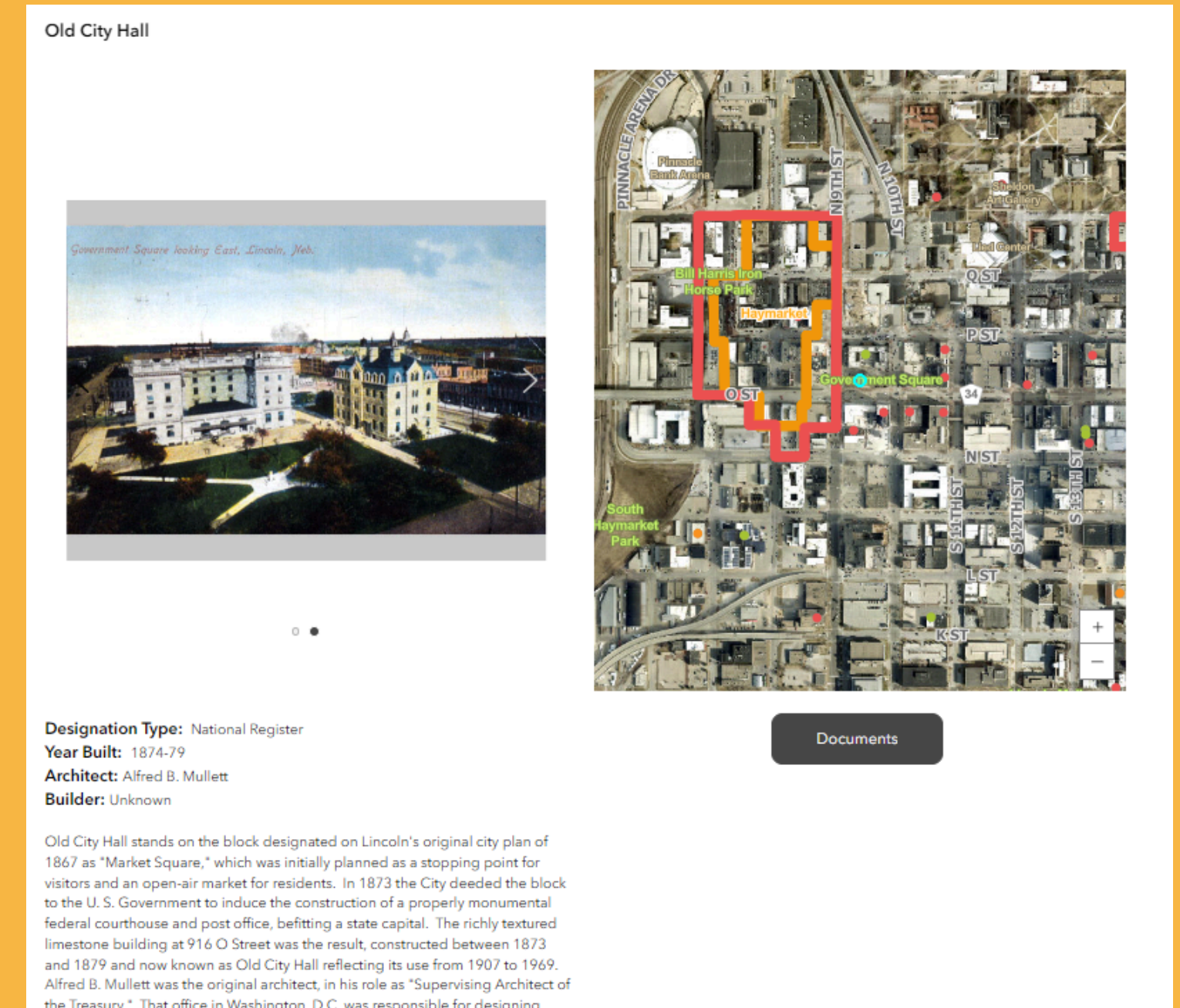


2024 Recipient - Austin Historic Landmarks Commission

BEST PRACTICES - TECHNOLOGY

- Examples include innovative uses of:

- GIS
- Databases
- Photography
- Digitization
- Other technology used in the protection and identification of historic resources
- Use of technology for organizing and orchestrating grassroots efforts



2024 Recipient - Lincoln Historic Preservation Commission

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- The John and Sue Renaud Award for National/State/Tribal Leadership to Advance Historic Preservation at the Local Level
- The Daniel L. Becker Professionalism Award for Municipal Leadership
- G. Bernard Callan, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer



ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a local preservation commission, board of architectural review, or related body for Commission of the Year and Best Practices awards.
- Nominations may be self-submitted or submitted without knowledge of the nominee.
- The nominated effort or achievement must have been completed within the past three years.



AWARD CRITERIA

Each nomination in the 'Commission of the Year' and 'Best Practices' categories will be reviewed and scored by a committee based on the Award Criteria. The supplemental material will also be considered for a score out of a total of 100 pts.

Award Criteria for Commission of the Year:

- Achievement and Effort
- Quality and Best Practices
- Impact and Outcomes
- Leadership and Model Practice

Award Criteria for Best Practices:

- Originality and Innovation
- Transferability
- Challenges and Problem-Solving
- Impact and Demonstrated Results

Nominations for 'Lifetime Achievement' awards are not scored using set criteria. Each nomination is thoughtfully considered and evaluated by the selection committee.

EXPECTED TIMELINE:

- **March 6, 2026-** Nomination Submission Deadline
- **May 2026-** NAPC Sends Decision Notifications to Nominees
- **May-July 2026-** NAPC works with Award Recipients on award ceremony details and award video production
- **July 22- 26, 2026- FORUM 2026:** Preservation Currents in Minneapolis, MN



CELEBRATE AT FORUM

- Awards will be presented at the Saturday Evening Commission Excellence Awards Ceremony on July 25, 2026 along with a **brief video** highlighting the work of the award recipient.
- Award recipients will receive ONE complimentary registration to FORUM 2026; others working or volunteering for the award recipient and attending the conference will receive reduced registration



Nominations are due March 6, 2026



TIPS WHEN APPLYING:

- **Submit Early.** This will allow NAPC to follow up with you if any information is missing.
- **Don't Forget Supplemental Material.**
 - 1-3 Letters of Support
 - 9-12 High Quality Images
 - Media Coverage of Effort (optional)
 - Short Video (optional)

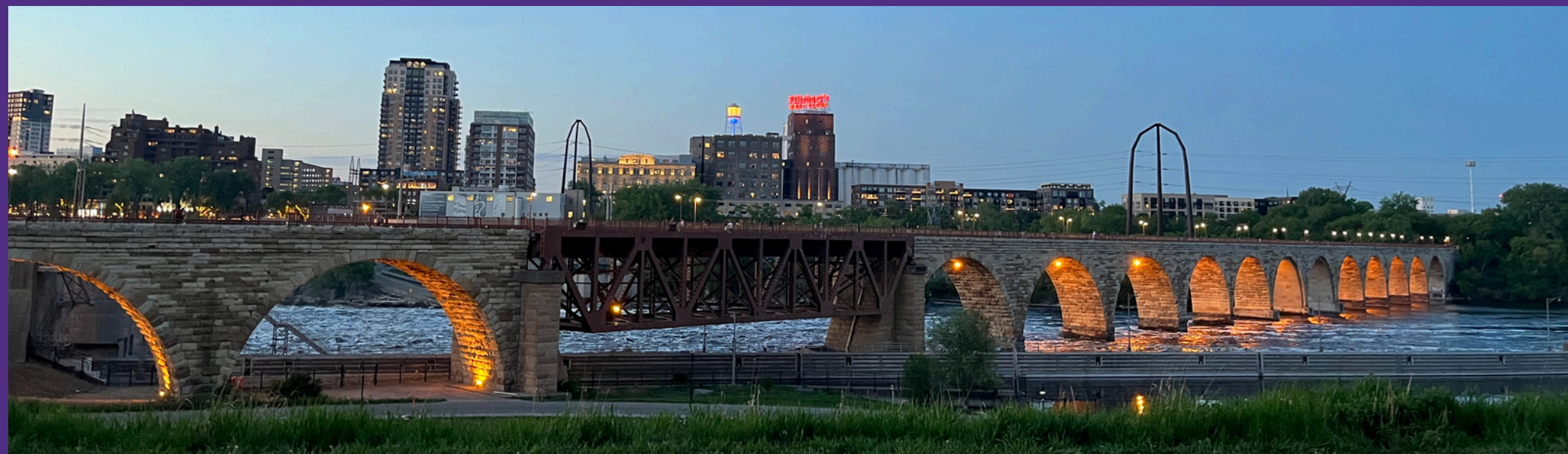


FORUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Improving access to NAPC's biennial conference for current students and recent graduates (3 years or less) in historic preservation or a related field.

Scholars will:

- Be paired with a mentor in their area of interest
- Network with other preservation professionals and students
- Share their work through the “New Voices In Historic Preservation” program (optional)
- Engage with conference attendees and NAPC staff through a small volunteer commitment at FORUM



FORUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Selected FORUM Scholars receive:

- Complimentary registration to FORUM 2026
- Reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for eligible travel and lodging expenses (with receipts)
- A one-year NAPC student membership, including:
 - The Alliance Review, our quarterly journal on preservation best practices and case studies
 - Discounts on the Virtual Summer Short Course
 - Access to free educational webinars throughout the year

Applications are due March 6, 2026



APPLICATION PROCESS

- Completed online scholarship application
- Proof of current student status or recent date of graduation: signed and dated letter
- from your program or academic institution's registrar certifying your status
- Resume
- Two academic and/or professional Letters of Support

Applications are due March 6, 2026



EXPECTED TIMELINE

- **March 6, 2026-** Nomination Submission Deadline
- **May 2026-** NAPC Sends Decision Notifications to Nominees
- **May-July 2026-** NAPC works with scholarship recipients on coordinating registration, travel, mentor connections and networkings opportunities
- **July 22- 26, 2026- FORUM 2026:** Preservation Currents in Minneapolis, MN



Thank You!!

Questions?

