



Preservation Commission Report

915 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

www.cityofsacramento.org

File ID: 2022-01033

May 18, 2022

Discussion Item 04

Title: African American Experience Support Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a motion **Item 1:** Creating an ad hoc subcommittee of the Preservation Commission to support the African American Experience Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15060(c)(2), 15061(b)(3), and 15378(b)(5); and **Item 2:** Appointing no more than two members of the Preservation Commission to serve on an ad hoc subcommittee along with city staff and members of the public to support the African American Experience Project.

Contact: Sean de Courcy, Preservation Director, (916) 808-2796,
sdecourcy@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

Presenter: Sean de Courcy, Preservation Director, (916) 808-2796,
sdecourcy@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-Project Partners
- 3-Tentative Project Schedule
- 4-Letters of Support

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: In late 2021, the City of Sacramento applied for and received \$50,000 in grant funding from the African American Action Fund, a grant fund administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The City's grant proposal is described in greater detail in the Background section below. Staff has recently completed selecting a historic consultant, Page & Turnbull to support this project. Staff is recommending the Preservation Commission appoint no more than two members to serve for the duration of the grant project (approximately 12 months) to assist with public outreach, public education, review and comment on draft documents, and generally assisting staff and our consulting team during the grant project. The project is scheduled to end by the early summer of 2023 and it is anticipated the subcommittee will convene once a month during that period.

Public/Neighborhood Outreach and Comments: At the writing of this report, there have been no public comments regarding this subject.

Policy Considerations: The proposed action implements 2035 General Plan Historic and Cultural Resources Goals and Policies, including the following:

HCR Goal 1.1. – Comprehensive City Preservation Program. Maintain a comprehensive, citywide preservation program to identify, protect, and assist in the preservation of Sacramento's historic and cultural resources.

HCR Policy 1.1.3. – Certified Local Government Requirements. The City shall maintain provisions in the Sacramento City Code for a preservation program consistent with the Federal and State Certified Local Government requirements. (RDR/SO)

HCR Policy 2.1.13. – Historic Surveys and Context Statements. Where historic resource surveys may no longer be valid, or for areas that have not been surveyed, the City shall seek funding to prepare new historic context surveys. In these surveys, the potential eligibility of all properties 45 years and older for listing in National, California or Sacramento registers shall be evaluated. (RDR)

Economic Impacts: Not applicable.

Environmental Considerations: This report is informational in nature only, and its content is not defined as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not involve any commitment to a specific course of action which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment per CEQA Guidelines sections 15060(c)(2), 15061(b)(3), and 15378(b)(2).

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: There has been no official action to date on this item.

Background: The City of Sacramento has a demonstrated goal to preserve and interpret the history of its marginalized communities. Expanding the public's understanding of African American/Black history is currently one of Sacramento's critical historic preservation priorities. Recently, Sacramento has strived to recognize places of special African American historical significance - including the landmark designations of the Shiloh Baptist Church (2012), and Kyles Temple AME Zion Church (2015). Over the past six months, staff conducted research and launched landmark nominations for properties associated with important African American individuals, including Nathaniel Colley and James Dodd.

Consistent with the City's preservation goals and policies, staff intends to develop a city-wide historic context statement and survey focused on the historical African American/Black experience in Sacramento from the city's early history to the recent past. This project will provide a foundation for the identification, evaluation, registration, interpretation, and treatment of historic properties and future surveys associated with places important to understanding the history of the African American/Black experience in the City. Preservation staff has selected historic planning consultant Page & Turnbull to assist with this project. The project has the following components and goals:

1. **Research:** The historic consultant will conduct historical research focused on the African American/Black experience in Sacramento from the city's early history to the recent past. Secondary source and primary source research would be required to create a comprehensive historic context, which would include consultation with local subject experts and African American/Black community individuals and organizations.
2. **Oral Histories:** To address recent past and contemporary history associated with the African American/Black community in Sacramento, oral histories are an important component of the research needed to prepare a comprehensive historic context. Students from Sacramento State University will conduct up to ten oral histories in support of the background research component, drawing upon archival information at the Center for Sacramento History (CSH), among other sources.
3. **Community Outreach:** Community outreach and engagement is fundamental to the success and use of the context statement and survey.

Community outreach will include a [project website](#), community meetings, workshops, and other specialized events to encourage community participation. Workshops, events, and outreach efforts would focus on different neighborhoods across the city to introduce the project, obtain information, and encourage participation from residents. Preservation staff with community outreach experience would leverage other city departments with communication and public relations expertise to assist with press releases and social media coordination to publicize the project.

4. Historic Context Statement: The final document would provide a foundation for the for the identification and evaluation of resources associated with Sacramento's African American/Black community, as guided by state and national guidelines, including the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for History and Archeology. This organizing document would group information about historic properties that share common associations with Sacramento's African American/Black community. The context would be an analytical framework for identifying and evaluating resources, rather than a chronological recitation of significant events.

The final document, which would be adopted by resolution of the City Council, would include a direct and precise narrative explaining what aspects of geography, history, and culture significantly shaped the physical development of Sacramento's African American/Black cultural landscape, what significant property types associated with this history are, and why they are important. The document would include framework for evaluating the integrity of these properties. Further, the document would establish tangible and intangible characteristics and patterns that are important representations of the African American/Black experience in Sacramento.

5. Survey Component: Consultants will develop a survey methodology and coordinate with Sacramento State University Public History Students to document up to 10 potential historic resources associated with African American History in Sacramento. Areas of potential to contain resources include but not limited to the Central City, Oak Park, and Del Paso Boulevard neighborhoods, along with other subdivisions marketed to African Americans/Blacks during the first half of the 20th century when legal housing segregation practices were prevalent and explicitly integrated housing was rare (e.g., Glen Elder Tract, Eichler Tract in South Land Park Hills).

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.

Sacramento African American/Black Historic Context and Survey Project Partner Organizations

The following organizations have made a pledge to provide additional support toward the City of Sacramento's African American/Black Experience Historic Context and Survey grant project. If awarded the grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, these partner organizations' support will allow city to gather broad-based community support and create project deliverables that will help further the City's goal of celebrating the people, places, and sites associated with the Black experience in Sacramento.



Partner Organization:	Sacramento Modern (Sac Mod)
Non-profit Status:	501(c)(3)
Mission Statement:	Sacramento Modern is dedicated to preserving modern art, architecture, and design in the Sacramento region.
Support Pledge:	Should the City's grant application be awarded, SacMod would assist via research, connecting with community members, and promoting the project.



Partner Organization:	Sacramento State: Public History Program
Non-profit Status:	Public University Non-profit
Mission Statement:	The Capital Campus Public History Program works with partners throughout the region to train the next generation of public historians. Our students at the BA, MA, and PhD level learn from practitioners in the field, engage in public projects, work as interns in history institutions, and build competitive resumes to prepare them for careers in history institutions, government agencies, and non-profits.
Support Pledge:	<p>Should the City's grant application be awarded, the Public History Program will provide student assistance in the following grant areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct primary and secondary source research on the African American/Black Experience in Sacramento• Following review of the geographic historic context research, students from Sacramento State will meet with the willing individuals and conduct up to 15 oral history interviews, process those interviews, and provide them to the historic consultant for inclusion as part of the final historic context document.• City staff would work with students and faculty at Sacramento State to conduct property-specific research and prepare at least 15 individual historic property evaluations based on research and survey methodology developed by the consulting team.

300 Richards Blvd., 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811



California Black Chamber of Commerce

"Dedicated to Economic Empowerment"

Partner Organization:	California Black Chamber of Commerce
Non-profit Status:	501(c)(6)
Mission Statement:	<p>To provide programs and services which strengthen our member organizations in their regions of operation</p> <p>To advocate policies which improve business opportunities for African Americans throughout California</p> <p>To actively promote economic development and build coalitions with other organizations throughout the state</p> <p>To implement and maintain programs that, promote youth entrepreneurship, training and community economic development.</p>
Support Pledge:	<p>Should the City's grant application be awarded, the California Black Chamber of Commerce will provide support in the following grant areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public outreach via FM radio on KDEE 97.5• Assistance identifying community leaders, informal historians, and historical documents• Participate and publicize community workshops, and other events associated with the project

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PRESERVATION **SACRAMENTO**

Partner Organization:	Preservation Sacramento
Non-profit Status:	501(c)(4)
Mission Statement:	Preservation Sacramento is dedicated to protecting Sacramento's historic places and encouraging quality urban design through advocacy, outreach, and activism.
Support Pledge:	<p>Should the City's grant application be awarded, Preservation Sacramento will provide support to the project in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public outreach publication for the project on social media and via email• Providing support for up to 3 community meetings• Assisting in identifying primary source research material• Identifying volunteers to conduct online and (if possible) in person research to assist the historic consultants and future placemaking goals



Partner Organization:	Sacramento Promise Zone/Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA)
Non-profit Status:	Public Housing Authority in partnership with local government; City/County Joint Power Authority/Quasi-Government
Mission Statement:	The Sacramento Promise Zone drives community revitalization in 22 square miles of the Sacramento's most underprivileged neighborhoods. By building the capacity of partner organizations and facilitating cross-sector collaboration, the Promise Zone
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) improves educational outcomes2) fosters a sustainable economic base3) accelerates job creation4) promotes healthy behaviors5) supports sustainably built communities.
Support Pledge:	Should the City's grant application be awarded, Sacramento Promise Zone/SHRA will provide support in the following grant areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistance identifying community leaders, informal historians, and legacy businesses in the Black community• Participate and publicize community workshops, and other events associated with the project• connecting with community members and community leaders• Promote the project locally and federally• Public outreach via social media mediums• Connect with partners that can also support the project

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Partner Organization:	Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA)
Non-profit Status:	501(c)(3)
Mission Statement:	Oak Park Neighborhood Association, a community building organization, serves as a resource to inform & advocate for the quality of life in our neighborhood.
Support Pledge:	<p>Should the City's grant application be awarded, the Oak Park Neighborhood Association will provide support in the following grant areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting at least one community workshop• Assistance identifying community leaders, informal historians, and legacy businesses in Oak Park's Black community• Participate and publicize community workshops, and other events associated with the project• Public outreach via OPNA's social media platforms and email listserve

PROPOSED PROJECT SCHEDULE

[illegible]

★ = DELIVERABLE

= REVIEW PERIOD

= SACRAMENTO STATE SURVEY WORK

*While keeping within the general timeline proposed in the RFP and included in the grant application, P&T recommends modifications that will emphasize work on the Administrative Draft HCS, followed by preparation of the Administrative Draft Survey Methodology Framework. P&T believes that the HCS will inform the Methodology Framework, and that it would be most advantageous to produce them sequentially rather than at the same time.



OAK PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Oak Park Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 5755
Sacramento, CA 95817
(916) 572-6762
opna@oakparkna.com

April 27, 2021

Mr. Brent Leggs
Executive Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

RE: Support for Sacramento African American/Black Historic Context and Survey Project

Dear Mr. Leggs:

The Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) supports the City of Sacramento in advancing a grant application seeking funding to develop a city-wide historic context statement and geographically-focused survey of the historical Black experience in Sacramento from the city's early history to the recent past.

The Oak Park Neighborhood Association (OPNA) is a resident-led community building organization that serves as a resource to inform and advocate for quality of life in the Oak Park neighborhood. Oak Park is a formerly redlined community, which emerged as a center of Black thought, activism, and culture. Central to our mission is advocacy for the preservation of neighborhood history, particularly as our community changes in the face of California's unprecedented housing crisis and rapid gentrification.

This project would provide a foundation for the identification, evaluation, registration, interpretation, and treatment of historic properties and future surveys associated with places important to understanding the history of the Black experience in Oak Park and the City of Sacramento at large. Considering Oak Park's status as Sacramento's first suburb and its strong legacy, we see immense value in bringing community members together to center the Black experience. Through OPNA's networks, we have a great deal of connectivity to residents new and old who can meaningfully contribute to this project.

Given the demonstrated competency and expertise of city staff and partners, and commitment to capturing the rich history of our neighborhood, we urge the selection of this proposal for a grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. If you would like to speak with us further, please do not hesitate in contacting OPNA President Adrian Rehn at adrian@oakparkna.com or (916) 572-6762. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Adrian Rehn

Adrian Rehn
President, Oak Park Neighborhood Association
(916) 572-6762
adrian@oakparkna.com



PRESERVATION SACRAMENTO

PO Box 162140, Sacramento CA 95816 – preservation.sacramento@gmail.com - PreservationSacramento.org

William Burg
Preservation Sacramento
PO Box 162140
Sacramento, CA 95816

April 28, 2021

Mr. Brent Leggs

Executive Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Leggs:

Preservation Sacramento is a historic preservation nonprofit, originally formed in 1972 and recently renamed and reoriented as a citywide preservation organization. In recent years we have worked to encourage greater inclusion and recognition of historic places in Sacramento associated with underrepresented communities and communities of color, including walking tours, home tours, surveys, and nomination of resources and districts. As a volunteer run nonprofit, our resources are limited, making our role best suited to assisting with city initiatives, and advocating on their behalf, especially when they pursue a project as worthy as this one.

I am writing to voice Preservation Sacramento's support for the City of Sacramento's grant application, seeking funding to develop a city-wide historic context statement and geographically-focused survey of the historical African American/Black experience in Sacramento from the city's early history to the recent past.

This project will provide a foundation for the identification, evaluation, registration, interpretation, and treatment of historic properties and future surveys associated with places important to understanding the history of the African American/Black experience in the city.

Sincerely,

William Burg
President, Preservation Sacramento

*Shiloh Baptist Church
3565 Ninth Avenue
Sacramento, California 95817
916-664-3850*

April 30, 2021

*Sean de Courcy
Community Development Department
City of Sacramento*

*Mr. Brent Leggs
Executive Director, African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
2600 Virginia Ave., NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20037*

RE: Historic African American/Black Experience Grant Project

Shiloh Baptist Church has existed in the Sacramento community for 165 years. Shiloh is the oldest African American Baptist Church in the Sacramento region. Shiloh has contributed to the Sacramento community since the church's inception. Shiloh is known nationally for our missionary work and community outreach.

We strongly support the Historic African American/Black Experience Grant Project. The design of this project has the capability and potential to support and positively impact the African American/Black Experience. Shiloh welcomes the opportunity to partner with the City of Sacramento in this endeavor.

Respectfully,

***Dorothy Randell,
Shiloh Historian***

***Dora Lee Sims-Buck,
Shiloh Board of Trustees Chairperson***