

Historic Preservation Month Activities Ideas

Any other time!	In a social distancing world!
Public display of preservation work. (library, city hall, courthouse, etc.)	Put it online. Extend it beyond May.
Send a press release about preservation month with a good story about the significance of historic places.	Hey! You can still do this and we all need a good story.
Organize a community gathering where residents share their memories.	Use your social media accounts and encourage everyone to post stories and photos of historic places in your community. You might even find some photos of places you have never seen before!
Invite a guest speaker to present about the history of local historic places.	Think about hosting a Facebook or Instagram Live event. People can ask questions and watch the speaker. Or maybe a series of YouTube videos!
Invite a guest speaker to present about the value of historic places.	See if the guest speaker would be willing to create a YouTube video. This can be shared with many and used in the future!
Organize a walking tour of historic places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook live a tour! Or create some Instagram stories. • Promote you walking tour brochures, to spice up neighborhood walks. • GIS Story Maps are fun and interactive!
Add a special feature to the website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same. • Think about adding to your outreach efforts and create some new social media accounts. Create a community hashtag. #HeritageRocks
Hold a preservation scavenger hunt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same. • Develop a sheet of close-up architectural features for people to find. Fill it out and submit for a drawing. Or upload a photo on social media to be put in a drawing (include a hashtag so you can find everything). • Mail out “This Place Matters” signs for owners to post in the windows of historic properties and have people search for them on walks.
Hold a historic cemetery clean-up day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold an online training. • Let people sign up to plots to care for – while social distancing. This is a great household activity.



<p>Hold a “How-to” Workshop – wood window repair, weatherization, how to pick historic paint colors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold online training. • Partner with a local hardware store to show off some of the materials they have for sale that can be used for window repairs and more. They may have some helpful tips to share!
<p>Celebrate achievements – hold a ribbon cutting of a preservation project, mount historic signs during the month, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media to celebrate preservation heroes in your community. • Hang a sign on their building!
<p>Create a “Guess the house” display with historic and modern photos of places.</p>	<p>Did you know that you can create your own Buzzfeed quiz? You can! “Which Silverton historic building are you?” “What Pendleton building is this?” “When was this Bend building built?” The options are endless! And then share the link with everyone.</p>
<p>Ask to present at history, vocational, art, and other appropriate school classes.</p>	<p>Hold a coloring contest! Grab some great photos of historic properties, transform them into coloring pages, add a fun historic fact, and then send them out to the community (think about partnering with local schools or libraries). If you want to take this an extra step, reach out to local businesses that now occupy these buildings. They might be willing to offer a prize (something as simple as a sticker or candy!) for those kids that bring the colored sheet into the store once we can shop again. Great way to get people back downtown and connected to historic places again!</p>
<p>Host a specials tours for organizations like first responders, Rotary, 20/30, Chamber of Commerce, Realtors Association.</p>	<p>Partner with these groups and see if you can set up a Skype, Zoom, or GoTo meeting.</p>
<p>Coordinate with the local paper to run a series of stories</p>	<p>You can still do this! Think about picking a topic that will help small businesses or connect to current events.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a local downtown bookstore that is still open? See if they would be willing to feature books about the community’s history or historic preservation on their social media accounts for people to purchase during May. Education and economic win-win! • Partner with local businesses that are delivering to see if they would pass out a walking tour brochure, coloring sheet, or scavenger hunt sheet with their orders.

