

# Yellowstone Historic Preservation Board Work Plan 2025-2026

## Goals & Objectives:

- I. Promote the preservation of historic buildings, sites or neighborhoods.
- II. Increase community awareness on the benefits of historic preservation activities.
- III. Promote increased awareness of preservation activities and the work of the YHPB through the four governing bodies represented on the Board.
- IV. Comply with the duties and responsibilities of historic preservation organizations under the State Certified Local Government Program and the requirements of the Inter-local Agreement.

### 2024-2025 Projects Completed

#### **1. Complete a National Registration Riverside Park in Laurel.**

Time Frame: Draft nomination by summer 2024  
Who: YHPB Board, HPO/WHC, City of Laurel  
Status: YHPB has allocated hours to allow the WHC to work on the nomination. Board has also volunteered to assist in reading over narratives and other tasks associated with the creation of the nomination.

#### **2. Complete an update to the YHPB Downtown Walking Tour Application. With funds from SHPO, this is currently being updated through the Western Heritage Center.**

Time Frame: Summer, 2024  
Who: YHPB, WHC, HPO  
Status: The YHPB was provided cash and in-kind match for the SHPO fund.

#### **3. Through additional SHPO funds, the YHPB was able to purchase two Window Restoration Toolkit from Preserve Montana. This spring the YHPB will host hands-on work shop to teach basic window restoration.**

Time Frame: Spring, 2024  
Who: YHPB, WHC, HPO, Preserve Montana  
Status: Identifying local partners in the building of the toolkit.

### 2025-2026 Projects

1. YHPB will look to develop a local program similar to the State Historic Preservation Offices' Montana Hidden History. Two suggestions have been a tour of the Lincoln Center Tunnels and a Cohagen House Tour. This would be an opportunity for the YHPB to generate some income towards historic preservation activities, such as funds for local match of grants, program development, limited survey and national register work, etc.

Time Frame: Throughout 2025 and beyond – Lincoln Center Tunnels during May (Preservation Month)  
Who: YHPB, HPO, WHC  
Status: Early stages of discussion and development

- 2. Complete an MPD for Chandler Cohagen properties with the City of Billings. Additional SHPO funding has been allowed for this project. The WHC is currently developing this package.**

Time Frame: Through fall of 2025  
Who: WHC, YHPB, HPO  
Status: Early stages of discussion and development

- 3. Update and improve the YHPB web presence. The YHPB would like to have a better face on the internet and provide those seeking information about the many historic items in Yellowstone County and Billings, an easy to navigate formatted page.**

Time Frame: Through fall of 2025  
Who: WHC, YHPB, HPO  
Status: Early stages of discussion and development

### **Annual Board Activities**

- 1. Continue the review of building permits submitted for properties located within the designated historic district.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: Committee and HPO

- 2. Continue the review of Community Development Block Grant rehabilitation projects as needed.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: YHPB/WHC

- 3. To continually update the local governing bodies of the activities undertaken by the YHPB, annual PowerPoint Presentations will be made to the City of Billings, the City of Laurel and Yellowstone County.**

Time Frame: Yearly  
Who: Chair/WHC/HPO  
Status: The scheduling of these meetings will take place yearly during spring.

- 4. To provide up to date information to the general public, continually update the web site and social media sites on activities and programs.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: WHC

- 5. Provide resources to property owners who are interested in listing a property to the National Register. Including State Historic Preservation Office contacts, literature and technical assistance.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: YHPB Board/HPO/WHC

- 6. Expand YHPB meetings to alternate locations. To take advantage of some of our many historic venues, the board wishes to expand meetings to alternate locations.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: HPO/WHC

- 7. Due to a loss of potential historic buildings within the City of Billings, an effort is being made to notify WHC and a member of the board about upcoming demolitions. The Building Division notifies HPO on the release of demolition permits, HPO notifies members of the demolition and a determination is made to either document/photograph building.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: HPO/WHC/Board

- 8. Continue exploration of grant opportunities to provide additional funds to the YHPB for historic preservation projects.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: HPO/WHC

- 9. Consultant, Historic Preservation Officer and YHPB will attend training meetings as needed. Historic Preservation Officer will attend the required annual Montana State Historic Preservation Conference.**

Time Frame: Ongoing  
Who: WHC/HPO

- 10. To provide a forum for Historic Preservationist to share their successes and discuss projects and to present historic preservation awards, continue to host the Historic Preservation Roundtable yearly.**

Time Frame: Yearly  
Who: WHC/HPO/Board  
Status: Preservation Month - March

- 11. Celebrate National Historic Preservation Month. Board will decide on a program, speakers and other events to commemorate this event.**

Time Frame: Yearly  
Who: Committee/WHC  
Status: This event will occur yearly during May.

- 12. YHPB will investigate and identify opportunities to display the YHPB banners.**

Time Frame: Yearly  
Who: YHPB, HPO, WHC