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Historic Preservation Annual Report 2017 (B)

The Historic Preservation division of the Department of Doing is proud to represent the energy and momentum of the City of Gainesville. Gainesville is growing and brimming with innovation, and the Historic Preservation Staff lead in providing citizen-centered service, managing change that occurs in our historic districts, and ensuring that our built heritage will reflect the forward-thinking nature of our community while acknowledging the role that historic architecture plays in defining Gainesville.

The Historic Preservation team was awarded the City’s 2017 Employee Recognition for Community Relations. This year’s Annual Report reflects the work we have done to meet citizen needs and build stronger relationships with our residents, the private sector, the University of Florida and local and state governments.

We have completed all recommended actions from the 2016 audit and created additional goals and a work plan that will carry on the professional nature of the audit’s corrective actions. We have proactively sought positive relationships with our community through outreach projects such as volunteer cleanup days and project support and advisement for building owners and applicants. We will continue to expand our community outreach and educational opportunities during our grant-funded survey this upcoming year. Our community relations goal includes providing clear and reliable information to the public; we have updated our historic district maps on our revised webpage and have included the register of historic properties for the entire city. Over the next year we will update our design guidelines and create a larger inventory of surveyed properties for citizen and Staff use.

The Annual Report also reflects our progress in planning management. We have developed a solid, organizational basis for future projects by making our processes more efficient and ensuring that Staff and the Historic Preservation Board follow standard procedure as listed in our ordinances. We have streamlined our forms, presentations and staff reports, and developed tracking mechanisms for annual assessment and updates. As part of the Department of Doing, we have created new, graphically clear brochures for residents of the historic districts, and will continue to update our forms and public information to this higher standard.

The work reflected in the Annual Report was accomplished by a small team of Staff and our Historic

Preservation Board members. We have achieved numerous goals and have created a solid foundation of organization and expertise for next year's work. While historic preservation values the past, we are inspired and driven by the present but also look forward to the future. Our work is not done when a district is designated, for our cities continue to change and our districts and heritage change with them. Of utmost importance for the future of the Historic Preservation division is to be mindful that our mission was created by our constituents and our work must be relevant to the needs of our communities. We look forward to an exciting, new year.

None

The City Commission review the Historic Preservation Annual Report.