



Agenda
Museum Board Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:00 PM
566 W Maple, Birmingham, MI
The Birmingham Museum

Mission Statement: The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Call to Order**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes**
Minutes of March 12, 2026
- 4. New Business**
 - A. Appointment to the Collection Subcommittee
 - A. Appointment to the Collection Subcommittee
- 5. Unfinished Business**
 - A. "What's Your Story?" Oral History Project
 - A. "What's Your Story?" Oral History Project
 - B. Review Historic Preservation Plan
 - C. Celebrate Birmingham Parade Planning - Update
- 6. Communication and Reports**
 - A. Director's Report
 - B. Member Comments
 - C. Public Comments
- 7. Next Meeting:**
June 4, 2026
- 8. Adjournment**

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-3405 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT www.bhamgov.org. City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

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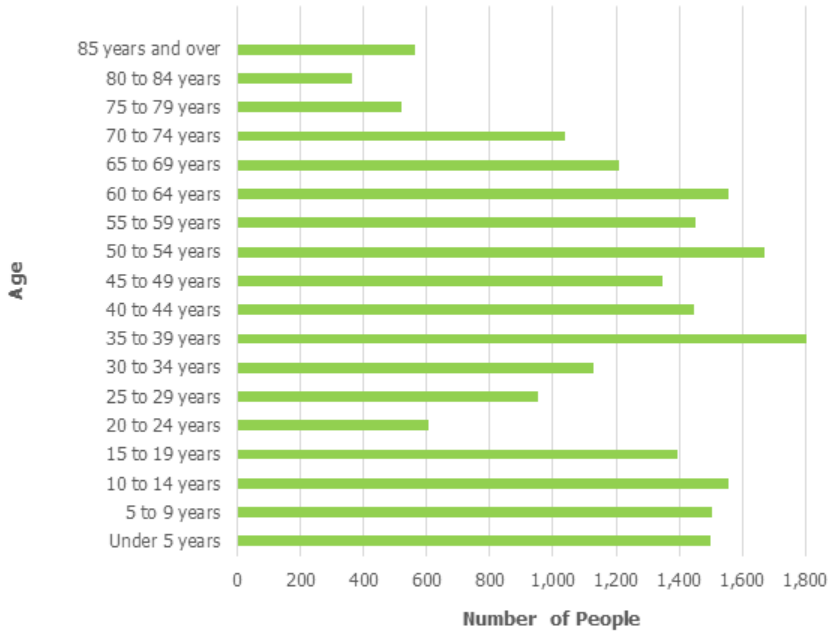
(Excerpted for Birmingham Museum)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MASTER PLAN

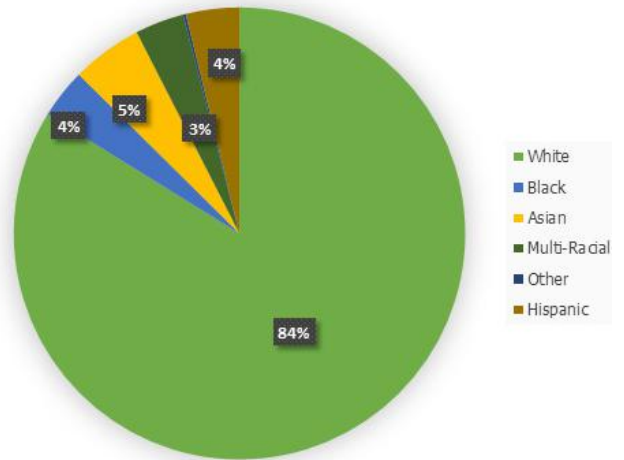
2026 - CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MI

(Historic Context of Birmingham)

Age of Birmingham Residents



Race & Ethnicity



From the Birmingham Museum

The formal settlement of the area now known as Birmingham occurred over 180 years ago. The pioneer story of this small Michigan community began when three enterprising men purchased the first land parcels at the crossing of the Rouge River and the Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Ave.) in 1818. Elijah Willits, John Hamilton and John West Hunter brought their families onto their combined 480 acres of wilderness land to start new lives. Unlike other pioneering communities that attracted farmers looking only for rich new farmland, Birmingham's founders diversified, developing new business opportunities relating to the trail and the intensified settlement of the area. Foundries, tanneries, blacksmith shops, broom- and brick-making factories and transportation services were just some of the businesses that quickly defined this frontier community. Birmingham's name was chosen after England's biggest industrial center by those optimistic about the potential growth of the village and its manufacturing capabilities.

Most of the manufacturers of the 1830s were gone by the 1860s, and so were the visions of Birmingham as a major industrial center. Instead the quiet Village of Birmingham emerged as a local commercial and agricultural hub for area farmers. The Eccentric newspaper, banks, merchants, and other professionals such as doctors, dentists, and lawyers established successful practices in town. By the 1890s, long-time residents who had worked toward infrastructure, education, and cultural improvements began to see better roads, the development of interurban street car lines, quality public schooling, the establishment of a paid fire department, a clean water supply and a new public library.

These improvements made Birmingham both quaint and progressive, and its location on Woodward Avenue continued to offer commercial and business opportunities into the 20th century. Farms evolved into small subdivisions and the growing automobile industry in both Detroit and Pontiac made Birmingham especially appealing as a place to live. In 1929, Birmingham was one of the first communities in Michigan to form a planning commission and develop a comprehensive village plan. In 1933, after more than a decade of preparation, Birmingham successfully made the transition from a village to a city governmental structure and balanced growth with preserving the city's downtown character. Today, Birmingham's business district and residential areas still enjoy much of the small town charm that is integral to Birmingham's sense of place.



The Birmingham Museum

The [Birmingham Museum](#) was established in May 2001 at the former Marion and Harry Allen House and surrounding four acres. It includes the oldest house in Oakland County, the 1822 John West Hunter House, as well as the 1928 Allen House. These historic structures are linked by a public plaza that serves as the gateway to the grounds, and was dedicated in 2007 as the John West Hunter Historic Park. The landscape includes some of the city's most complex and diverse topography in a natural setting, including a spring fed pond, historic walled pool, and a connection to the Rouge River trail - all just a short walk from Downtown Birmingham. The Allen House houses the Museum's archives and features changing exhibits about Birmingham and its heritage. The John West Hunter House reflects 19th century pioneer life in the early settlement, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The award-winning Birmingham Museum works in partnership with other cultural organizations, especially the [Friends of the Birmingham Museum](#) (aka the "Birmingham Historical Society") to preserve and interpret Birmingham's unique story with public tours, educational lectures, and innovative social media. They also work together to create self-guided walking tours and host special events such as docent-led tours of historic [Greenwood Cemetery](#). The Friends of the Birmingham Museum also assist with lectures, historic research, funding support, and publish a regular newsletter for their members, *The Heritage*.

Recently, the Historic District Commission and Historic District Study Committee have utilized the resources of the Birmingham Museum in several ways. In one example, in researching and developing reports for the review of proposed alterations, City Staff has been requesting historical photographs from the Museum to get a sense for context, materials, design elements and other important considerations when applying the Hierarchy of Treatment for Historic Properties. The Museum also recently played an integral role in the recent designation of the Frederick E. Good House. The Museum provided critical research into the home and its first occupants, which helped make the case for designation. This Plan continues to consider the Birmingham Museum as a critical partner and aims to build stronger connections between the two to support the City's broader preservation efforts.

Museum Mission Statement

"The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story."



Want to know more about the Birmingham Museum?

- [BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM STRATEGIC PLAN 2026](#)
- [INSTAGRAM](#)
- [YOUTUBE](#)
- [FACEBOOK](#)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Understanding the Summary of Actions

The following tables consolidate all of the objectives contained within this Plan and provides for a one-stop-shop to review what this Plan is recommending, but also estimates as to when the City may expect to start each of the projects based on the interconnectedness of the goals, relationships to other plans, or political environments. This summary is aspirational and the goals and associated objectives and timelines are expected to ebb and flow over the implementation of this Plan.

Table Key:

BROAD OVERALL GOAL			
Shorthand Abbreviation of Goal for Ease of Association	Objective	Regulatory or Non-Regulatory	Post-Adoption Implementation Timeline Intention

GOAL #1 - GET BACK TO THE BASICS			
B2B-1	Provide annual training for Historic District Commission and Historic District Study Committee members.	NR	YR. 1+
B2B-2	Perform biennial reviews of all historic district boundaries and resources.	NR	YR. 2
B2B-3	Update the city's historic preservation webpage with current information and resources.	NR	YR. 1
B2B-4	Create simple, high quality resources for commonly requested information including (but not limited to) the process for historic designation, what it means to be a designated historic resource, and the "do's and don'ts" of preservation.	NR	YR. 1
B2B-5	Pursue a nomination of City Hall and the Baldwin Public Library to the National Register of Historic Places.	NR	YR. 3
B2B-6	Review and update historic preservation ordinances to meet current needs.	R	YR. 4
B2B-7	Develop policy and procedures for the review of work performed on noncontributing resources/properties within historic districts.	R	YR. 1
B2B-8	Increase and regularize enforcement of maintenance requirements to ensure that historic materials are not lost to neglect.	R	YR. 1
B2B-9	Develop a consistent Certificate of Appropriateness to issue to property owners after project approval.	R	YR. 1

B2B-5 - Pursue a nomination of City Hall and the Baldwin Public Library to the National Register of Historic Places.

A major theme of the “Back to the Basics” goal is to ensure that in seeking to expand the City’s stock of historically designated resources, we do not forget about the existing stock. These two particular resources are government controlled and have been contributing to the City’s historic preservation efforts for 100 years. As noted in an earlier section, this objective would be considered *non-regulatory*, as National Register nominations have no protections build in at the federal level. The nomination process for buildings is rather arduous, thus this objective should be considered a lesser priority in comparison to others beginning in 2028. Although arduous, there are no application fees or other direct costs to be placed on the National Register. **It is anticipated that the Planning Department would work closely with the Birmingham Museum, City Commission, and Michigan State Historic Preservation Office to achieve this objective.**



B2B-6 - Review and update historic preservation ordinances to meet current needs.

The City’s historic preservation ordinances are *regulatory*, and are legally necessary to engage in the historic design review processes and other preservation activities in the City. Although the current ordinances appear to be aligned with the requirements of Public Act 169, the City should review these ordinances to ensure that they align with the goals of the City while also maintaining adherence to State and Federal statutes. These updates could be as minor as formatting and grammar, or could be broader changes to the roles and duties of the HDC or HDSC. Because the ordinances are considered legally sound and up to date in terms of design review standards and processes, this objective should be pursued in 2029 after other work from this plan is completed, which is expected to reshape the preservation environment in Birmingham. Thus, it would be helpful to ensure that any ordinances reflected that new environment after it is formed. This objective will be carried out by the Planning Department in close coordination with the City Attorney, and will be overseen by the HDC and City Commission. As the historic preservation ordinances are hosted in the Municode online platform, there will be a minor cost to update the language if/when adopted by the City Commission. However, maintenance of the Municode platform is currently budgeted for on an annual basis, so no budget updates are expected to be required.

Goal 2: Proactivity (Museum Support for)

GOAL #2 - EMBRACE PROACTIVITY			
PRO-1	Engage with realtors, brokers, and other persons engaged in the sale of land and buildings towards the preservation of historic buildings.	NR	YR. 3
PRO-2	Petition for historic designation of all remaining Wallace Frost designed homes in the City.	R	YR. 4
PRO-3	Perform a full reconnaissance level survey of the Little San Francisco neighborhood.	NR	YR. 3
PRO-4	Study the feasibility of preservation overlay zoning districts in the City.	R	YR. 1
PRO-5	Generate a list of ready-made historic preservation projects eligible for Certified Local Government grant funding.	NR	YR. 1
PRO-6	Develop a network of historic preservation advocates to support historic preservation efforts in the City.	NR	YR. 3
PRO-7	Coordinate with the Planning Board and City Commission in the implementation of the Birmingham Plan 2040 to ensure that the historic preservation goals of the City are reflected in broader planning.	NR	YR. 2
PRO-8	Consider a demolition delay ordinance.	R	YR. 1
PRO-9	Incorporate historic preservation values, principles, and processes into applicable municipal policy, facilities planning, and programs.	NR	YR. 4
PRO-10	Create a financial incentive program in Birmingham to support historic property owners in the maintenance and upkeep of their historic buildings.	NR	YR. 5
PRO-11	Resurrect the City's Heritage Home Program to recognize buildings at or older than 100 years of age.	NR	YR. 1
PRO-12	Develop an annual budget and regular allocation of funds to support general historic preservation activity in the City.	NR	YR. 2
PRO-13	Historically designate 40 additional buildings or properties by 2040.	R	YR. 1

PRO-1 - Engage with realtors, brokers, and other persons engaged in the sale of land and buildings towards the preservation of historic buildings.

This *non-regulatory* objective aims to leverage what could be considered front-line individuals that are heavily involved at critical junctures in a properties lifetime. There are many benefits to engaging with these types of individuals at the time of sale/purchase of a historic property, predominantly regarding the transfer of information during due diligence periods. At no point after the purchase of a historically designated property should the buyer have questions as to whether or not their new building is historic, it should be communicated early and often and the City should ensure that expectations are clear and acknowledged. The Planning Department will be the main contact point for this objective, but will likely require assistance from the Birmingham Museum and real estate professionals in the area. It is not anticipated that this objective will require monetary resources, but there may be tools required in terms of access to real estate databases or software that could be considered. This objective should be started in 2028 after the City has time to build its capacity and resource base. Ultimately, the City could explore the expansion of this objective to consider other buildings that may be considered historic, but may not be designated at the time.

PRO-2 - Petition for historic designation of all remaining Wallace Frost designed homes in the City.

The City has long acknowledged the importance of local architect Wallace Frost and his architecture in Birmingham. There were 44 buildings in Birmingham known to have been designed by Wallace Frost. At present, there are only 36 remaining. Today, only 3 of the 36 have been historically designated. When it comes to considering places to start in expanding the City's stock of historic resources, protecting the remaining Wallace Frost designed buildings may be considered low hanging fruit. This objective would be considered *regulatory*, as the end result would be listing in the historic district ordinance and requiring that these properties adhere to the regulations within. As outlined in the historic district ordinance, the City Commission and HDSC would be responsible for designating these resources, and would receive support from the Planning Department and Birmingham Museum. It should be stated that this objective will also heavily involve the owners of these properties, as the City would be seeking *voluntary designation*. With the coordination required, as well as a strong desire to build support from Wallace Frost property owners, this objective should be started when the environment is right, perhaps in 2029.



Goal 3: Inform/ (Museum Support for)

GOAL #3 - INFORM & ENGAGE			
INF-1	Work with the Birmingham Museum to provide current, accurate descriptions of designated historic resources within the City.	NR	YR. 3
INF-2	Provide unique programming during National Historic Preservation Month every year.	NR	YR. 1+
INF-3	Develop and install historic district signage that is consistent with the wayfinding program for the City.	NR	YR. 4
INF-4	Produce updated historic plaques for all designated historic buildings in the Central Business Historic District.	NR	YR. 1+
INF-5	Create more opportunities for the City to interact with property owners of historic resources.	NR	YR. 3
INF-6	Establish an annual Preservation/Conservation Awards Program to highlight and celebrate preservation and conservation initiatives and achievements by residents and entities in Birmingham.	NR	YR. 5
INF-7	Develop historic tours as a part of the Birmingham Shopping Districts tourism initiatives.	NR	Yr. 3
INF-8	Through city staff, provide technical support to the owners of historic properties on the Michigan State Historic Tax Credit program.	NR	YR. 5
INF-9	Provide regular historic preservation related content in the City's newsletters.	NR	YR. 1+



INF-1 - Work with the Birmingham Museum to provide current, accurate descriptions of designated historic resources within the City.

The Birmingham Museum is a wealth of information and will continue to be the number one resource for information related to the City's historic properties. In the early 2010's, the Planning Department put together a file for each of the City's designated historic properties as a sort of "quick-reference" for use by the Planning Department. These folders have since become outdated, as are the descriptions within them. The Planning Department uses these descriptions during Design Reviews as well as for the historic plaque program. As this work will take considerable time and effort on the part of the Birmingham Museum, it would be best to give as much time to prepare as possible with a goal of 2028. At this time, there would be no cost in achieving this non-regulatory objective. Once completed, the City should make these resources available as a digital resource on the City's website.

INF-2 - Provide unique programming during National Historic Preservation Month every year.

Every year in May, the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) (NTHP) celebrates National Historic Preservation Month. Each year has a special theme, such as "People Saving Places" or "Harnessing the Power of Place." The NTHP provides the theme, free digital marketing kits, and stories to share. This toolkit makes celebrating preservation month that much easier, and that much more interesting. These activities provide for a unique opportunity for the community to showcase a piece of their history and channel some of the energy from the celebration into their preservation programs. In 2025, the City made their first major preservation month push with a well received celebration of [Wallace Frost](#), which involved themed social media posts, proclamations, newsletters, public engagements, and even a trivia challenge. This non-regulatory objective suggests that the City should build on the success of the program and endeavor to provide similar programming on an annual basis. Programming will be led and designed by the Planning Department, but will include assistance from the Communications Department and Department of Public Services.



INF-3 - Develop and install historic district signage that is consistent with the wayfinding program for the City.

In 2024, the City adopted a [Wayfinding and Signage Master Plan](#) to provide guidance to Birmingham personnel and outside consultants involved in specifying, fabricating, and installing signs for the City. It is designed to guide the use of the Birmingham design standard and to assure that it is correctly and consistently applied. The design scheme is based on the Freedom of the Human Spirit sculpture located in Shain Park, which is also integrated in the City's logo. In an effort to integrate historic preservation into City branding and wayfinding, the HDC should endeavor to develop complementary wayfinding signage for its historic districts and historic places. This *non-regulatory* objective would require funding from the City Commission, as well as potential design consultation services. The Planning Department and Communications Department spearhead the City's wayfinding program and should continue to do so with the assistance of the Wayfinding and Branding Committee. At this point, it would be best to consider this objective after the City has completed the first phases of the broader wayfinding program in 2029.

INF-4 - Produce updated historic plaques for all designated historic buildings in the Central Business Historic District.

Recently, the City has noticed that the majority of the existing commercial historic plaques have begun to deteriorate. The existing plaques, which were the first of their kind, were constructed of porcelain enameled steel and mounted to a bracket. The initial plaques were placed as a part of a voluntary, *non-regulatory* program, which the City would look to continue. The City was recently given an opportunity to replace two plaques downtown after one was stolen and the other removed for construction. At that point, it was clear that the existing style would be very hard to recreate, and at a cost of nearly \$600 a sign, the effort would be cost prohibitive. Thus, the City purchased two plaques to use as a pilot for a new program. These plaques are constructed of acrylic with applied vinyl, and are attached to the building on standoffs. At around \$200 a plaque, they are much more cost-effective, and have a much cleaner aesthetic. **The Planning Department will manage this program with content help from the Birmingham Museum, and currently has an annual budget of \$1,000 to purchase historic plaques.** As a single years budget will not be sufficient to replace all of the existing plaques, the City should begin in 2026 by taking an inventory of all remaining plaques and create a replacement program that prioritizes the most damaged plaques.

INF-5 - Create more opportunities for the City to interact with property owners of historic resources.

It is unfortunate that often the only time the City and historic property owners interact is during the Design Review process, which can sometimes be stressful and can create an adversarial relationship that deepens misconceptions about historic designations. In engaging historic property owners during this planning process, it became clear that these property owners have so much more to offer in experience and perspective that the City would be wise to leverage. The Planning Department is well suited to create these opportunities, and will surely benefit from including the HDC and HDSC at times. The City should look to spend time developing these opportunities and explore different options to ascertain what might be most beneficial for both parties. 2028 would be a realistic timeframe to complete this *non-regulatory* objective.



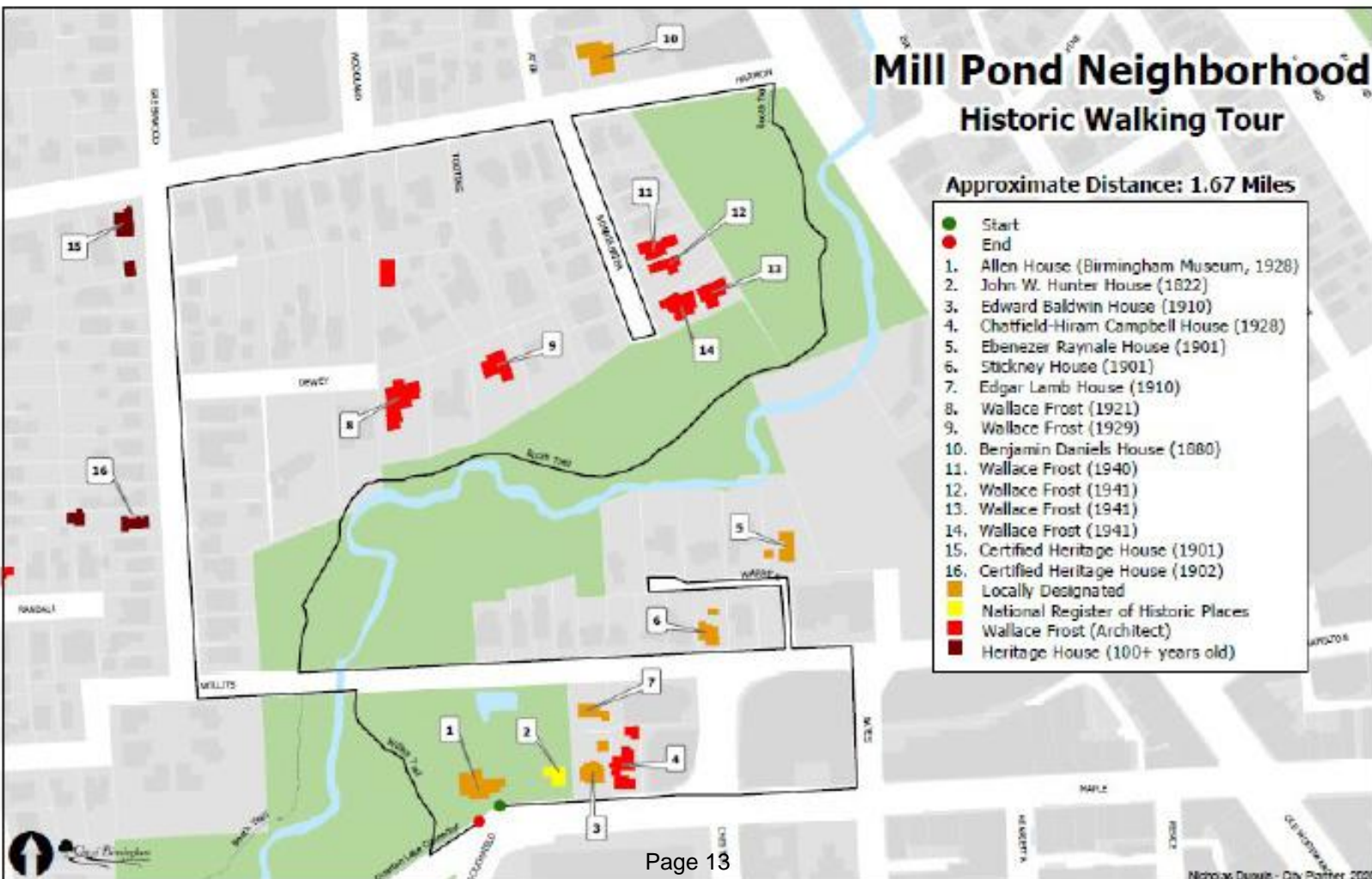
Did you know that the artist that created the Freedom of the Human Spirit (the inspiration for Birmingham's logo and branding), Marshall Fredericks, lived in a Wallace Frost designed house on Lake Park?

INF-6 - Establish an annual Preservation/Conservation Awards Program to highlight and celebrate preservation and conservation initiatives and achievements by residents and entities in Birmingham.

With the high levels of complexity and creativity required for rehabilitation projects in the City, it could be beneficial to recognize projects that rise to the top in terms of approach, execution and results. The HDC would need to develop criterion, plan an awards ceremony, and determine how these projects would be recognized. Awards programs are *non-regulatory*, and exist to build energy and draw attention to preservation in the City. Developing the program would not require funding, however the procurement of any physical award would likely require funds to be budgeted and planned for annually. Most of these responsibilities will be borne by the Planning Department, and should not be considered until the City's preservation program is a little more built out. This program could start in 2030 and used to usher in a new era of historic preservation in the City.

INF-7 - Develop historic tours as a part of the Birmingham Shopping Districts tourism initiatives.

Walking tours are a simple, low cost opportunity that provides the public with what might be considered the best way to experience a historic property - live and in living color! This *non-regulatory* objective recognizes that there have been several historic walking tours developed by both the Planning Department and the Birmingham Museum over the years, but they have not been coordinated up to this point. With the [Birmingham Shopping District's](#) (BSD) recent tourism initiatives, the environment is ripe to collaborate on walking tours that can be hosted on the BSD's updated, state of the art webpage. The Planning Department and Birmingham Museum should collaborate to create walking tours of historic districts, but also historic neighborhoods and other historic places that may not be designated at the time. This plan suggests developing basic tours by 2028, and building on success as time goes on.



INF-8 - Through city staff, provide technical support to the owners of historic properties on the Michigan State Historic Tax Credit program.

An added benefit of any communities historic preservation program would be to provide technical support to its historic property owners when seeking state historic tax credits. Having recently been resurrected in 2020, these tax credits became available to properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or be in a local historic district, and either be individually listed or contribute to a listed district in order to be eligible for the State Credit. Although the City does not currently have experience working with tax credit projects, providing the opportunity for city staff to become well-versed in the process could provide a unique and lucrative public service to Birmingham residents and property owners. Non-profits and other advocacy groups are regularly lobbying to increase the funding for these tax credits, which are often quickly exhausted. Technical support services are a *non-regulatory* approach to historic preservation, although the application process itself and the eligibility requirements for tax credits can feel like they are regulatory at times. The Planning Department would be the best fit to provide these services, but may consult with the Finance Director at times to better understand the financial side of the issue. As the City continues to monitor the status of the State tax credits, it should consider 2030 as a reasonable goal to have something in place.

INF-9 - Provide regular historic preservation related content in the City's newsletters.

The City's [Around Town E-Newsletter](#) and [Birmingham Beat](#) printed newsletter are valuable engagement tools that have a strong presence, high quality design, and high interaction rates. The Planning Department uses these newsletters to discuss historic preservation issues in a more candid, casual manner that is often a much needed respite from the technical side of historic preservation. This *non-regulatory* objective can continue in 2026 and through the lifespan of this plan. These newsletter articles are written by the Planning Department and formatted by the Communications Department.



INF-10 - Together with the Birmingham Museum, develop or expand historic context statements for each of the City's historic resources.

The context in which a property, building, or place is historic is an important part of understanding its significance and why it is worth saving. These historic context statements can also explain how each resource may fit in with others in the City, and for what reasons. Creating these statements, a *non-regulatory* objective, can help make historic preservation a little more approachable and relatable to many different people. **Developing these statements would be of no cost, and would be completed by the Planning Department and Birmingham Museum. These types of actions could be started in 2028 when the initial objectives are complete or well underway.**



Interested in signing up to receive City newsletters and other communications?

- [BIRMINGHAM COMMUNICATION RESOURCES](#)

DATE: May 5, 2026
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Museum Budget:

The budget hearing was held on April 25, 2026 with the City Commission. There were no concerns about the City Manager’s recommended budget for the museum. The majority of our focus this year will be on celebrating our local history for America’s 250th and landscape improvements (Phase 3 Barrier Free Boardwalk and Path Construction) as well as repairing the Allen House porch foundation.

Update on Landscape Master Plan Implementation:

We received two qualified bids for Phase 3 barrier free landscape improvements:

Company	Bid amount
Dave’s Contracting, Inc.	\$ 234,069
Major Contracting, Inc.	\$ 342,954

The project was awarded to Dave’s Contracting, Inc. by the commission, and a pre-construction meeting was held on 4/30 with the CDBG compliance representative from the county, since federal funds are involved in the project. Work is expected to begin sometime in May and be complete by the end of the year.

Update: Grant Proposal for Indigenous Interpretation of Rouge System Native Plants-

The museum has submitted a proposal to the Community Foundation of SE Michigan for a project that would install our native plants at the pond and include Indigenous interpretation of the plants and their traditional uses. This project would integrate with and complement the barrier free pathway areas planned for the Pond Zone.

The program would extend native plant identification and interpretation for the Rouge Trail in Birmingham. It would install wood posts with QR codes leading to online content about the Indigenous history, traditional uses of native plants and the natural environmental sustainability of Indigenous resource management. This project would involve partnerships with the Friends of the River Rouge and the Parks Department, and would work with an Indigenous consultant to develop the interpretive materials.

The project budget is \$117,680, which includes costs for project administration, tribal consultants, and environmental specialists. \$46,650 of the project involves labor of trained volunteers from Friends of the Rouge, who would remove invasives from the pond area and install Michigan native plants; the grant funding request is 60%, or \$71,030. If we are awarded the grant we will learn in June, and the project is expected to take two years to complete.

City's 2026/America's 250th Updates:

- "Our Indigenous Heritage Lecture Series/Special Events" (Baldwin Library and Southfield Library) was a great success. Approximately 70 people came to the free lecture at featuring the Keshicks. A video recording is being produced by Southfield Cable TV. The workshop at the museum was also a wonderful event. We had 13 participants from various walks of life, including a minister, a doctoral level historian, and two Indigenous members of an Anishinaabe tribal group who wanted to learn the techniques of traditional quillwork from Keshick. That program was recorded by Chelsea Hunter to be used to create a short documentary for the museum, which we will be able to host on our YouTube channel when it is completed.
- The Spring Stroll on April 11 brought a few families on a cold and blustery day. They really enjoyed the Hunter House scavenger hunt
- During March and April, about 70 employees from five departments (Fire, Planning, IT, DPS, and Clerks) received special "behind the scenes" tours of the museum and were very complimentary about the museum, exhibits, and our knowledgeable staff. After school tours are completed, we expect to host groups from other departments later in the summer.
- Also in April, 42 employee families/children (and their grownups) visited the Hunter House for a scavenger hunt during Bring Your Child to Work Day. Both the kids and their grownups enjoyed the visit (some were repeat visitors)!

Upcoming Events:

- "They Changed Birmingham" – (*Around Town* newsletter and monthly addition to City Hall display): **May features Martha Baldwin.** Charlotte Capuano wrote the newsletter article and created the panel at City Hall.
- **Farmer's Market** – beginning May 3, the museum will have an information table area about the Birmingham Family Cookbook project.
- **Star-spangled Greenwood Cemetery Tour** – hosted by the Friends on Saturday, May 9
- **Celebrate Birmingham Hometown Parade - Coming up!**
- **Memorial Day** program hosted by Daughters of the American Revolution at Shain Park will feature George Getschman speaking about Birmingham's military service, including the Peabody family's many generations of service to America, followed by the museum being open from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to honor the Peabody family and their story. The current generation of Peabodys may be visiting the museum that weekend as sort of a family reunion.
- **School Tours** – beginning May 7, the annual 2nd grade school tour program will involve all 2nd grade classes in the Birmingham school district. Students will receive small group tours of the Hunter House with a personalized experience to build on their classroom local history curriculum. Tours should be complete the first week in June.

Collections Updates:

- The Friends generously agreed to purchase two quillwork boxes from Yvonne Walker Keshick for the museum's collection. As part of our effort to acknowledge the importance of our Indigenous past, acquiring the two works of art will help us tell that unique story more effectively.
- The museum will be undertaking a major scanning project of 1900 photographic survey records of houses in Birmingham taken by the Engineering department in the 1980s. The objective is to put the material online as a "flipbook" for public research, similar to the yearbook project. A student intern will be joining us this summer and assisting with the project.



The City of Birmingham's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony
May 25, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
Shain Park, 270 W Merrill St, Birmingham

Hosted by:
Piety Hill Chapter,
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
and the City of Birmingham

Guest Speaker: George Getschman,
Friends of the Birmingham Museum

You are cordially invited to visit The Birmingham Museum
after the ceremony to view displays celebrating America 250!
556 W Maple Rd, Birmingham