



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Planning & Development Department Media Release
For Immediate Release
February 27, 2017

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DESIGN GUIDELINES RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED MARCH 30

(Houston, Texas) — The City of Houston Planning & Development Department will present findings and recommendations for the Historic Districts Design Guidelines Project on Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Heights Theater, 339 West 19th Street, Houston, Texas. Consultants from Winter & Company, who are developing the design guidelines, will present a “Strategy Paper,” which contains the results of the consultants’ extensive data analysis and the community input that has shaped their recommendations.

Copies of the Strategy Paper will be available for review beginning March 16. The Strategy Paper will be online at <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/Design-Guidelines-Heights.html> and at the Heights Library reference desk for two weeks prior to and one week following the meeting. Property owners are encouraged to review the Strategy Paper before the meeting. Those who are unable to attend may submit their comments or questions through Sunday, April 9, to project manager Steph McDougal at steph.mcdougal@houstontx.gov or Steph McDougal, Planning & Development Department, P.O. Box 1562, Houston TX 77251-1562.

The City received 871 responses to its recent Compatible Design Survey, which was mailed to the owners of 3,486 properties in the Freeland, Houston Heights East, Houston Heights West, Houston Heights South, Norhill, and Woodland Heights Historic Districts. The City achieved its 25% target response rate by building awareness before and during the survey period, with help from neighborhood associations and individuals. The Old Sixth Ward Protected Historic District Neighborhood Association, which elected to not participate in the survey, is working directly with the consultants to update its existing design guidelines.

The City of Houston currently has 22 historic districts, and its Historic Preservation Ordinance is written broadly to apply to all of them. Design guidelines will be district-specific and illustrate how the ordinance applies to a single historic district (or, in the case of Houston Heights, the three historic districts within that former independent city). Since 2010, the City ordinance has required the Planning & Development Department to create design guidelines for new historic districts. This project is the first to create design guidelines for existing historic districts.

More information can be found on the project website at
<http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/Design-Guidelines-Heights.html>.

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