



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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**24-0127**

**Agenda Date: 2/15/2024**

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### **2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE**

#### **NUMBER**

CDD 18-02

**TITLE** Update and Review of the Heritage Resource Inventory

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Community Development

**Support Departments:** Office of the City Manager  
Office of the City Attorney

**Sponsor(s):** Heritage Preservation Commission

**History:** 1 year ago: Deferred by Council  
2 years ago: Deferred by Council

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

##### **What precipitated this Study?**

The Heritage Preservation Commission identified a need to examine the City's current Heritage Resource Inventory ("Inventory") and explore whether additional properties, including non-residential development, should qualify based on adopted criteria for nomination.

The Inventory was created in 1979 and has been updated periodically. The most recent comprehensive study in 2007 included a citywide survey for consideration of new neighborhood districts and individual heritage resources. Two neighborhoods and five properties were identified and further evaluated in 2009. However, none of these properties and neighborhoods were ultimately added to the Inventory. Over the years, through requests by individual property owners, several properties have been approved for removal from the list once further study determined that they did not meet or were determined to no longer meet the City's standards for heritage designation.

##### **What are the key elements of the Study?**

Similar to previous Inventory updates, the Study would identify potential properties for nomination both by visually surveying the City, and by conducting research to identify locations where prominent members of Sunnyvale's history lived or where significant local historic events may have taken place. Outreach meetings would be conducted with affected and/or interested property owners and business owners, as well as the broader community. The Study would also examine the current list and the appropriateness of the specific designations.

**Estimated years to complete study:** 1-2 years

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

##### **Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):      Moderate

Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$400,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement - General Fund

A consultant would conduct a survey of residential and non-residential developments as well as significant people and events and help evaluate individual properties for nomination to the City's Heritage Resource Inventory.

**Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown. The Study would include assessment of potential costs.

**EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION**

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Heritage Preservation Commission

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Support. This policy issue merits discussion at the 2024 Study Issues Workshop.

The last citywide survey was conducted over 15 years ago. An updated comprehensive study would be needed to further examine the condition of properties within the existing Inventory as well as identify new residential and non-residential properties that could be nominated. In 2021, 2022, and 2023, the Study Issue was deferred by Council. With the continual increase of redevelopment and evolving architectural design within the City, staff recognizes that an updated comprehensive survey of the existing building inventory is needed to help determine whether adequate preservation measures are in place and to identify new residential and non-residential properties that could be nominated. This Study is supported by the General Plan Community Character Chapter and its goals and policies to enhance, preserve, and protect Sunnyvale's heritage.

Prepared by: Momoko Ishijima, Senior Planner

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Reviewed by: Trudi Ryan, Director, Community Development Department

Reviewed by: Connie Verceles, Deputy City Manager

Approved by: Kent Steffens, City Manager