



May 17, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission to Hold Special Workshop Session with Mayor Steve Noble on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at City Hall; Public Encouraged to Attend**

The Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission (HLPC) will hold a special workshop session on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm in City Hall's Council Chambers. Mayor Steve Noble will join the commissioners to discuss historic preservation planning and policy, as well as how historic preservation can significantly support economic development. The public is encouraged to attend.

Key focus areas at the workshop will include: improving systems to protect historic properties at-risk of demolition; capitalizing on the "heritage economy"; improving preservation policy & leadership within City government; a City-wide Interpretive Plan to support branding and Heritage Tourism development; a City-wide Preservation Plan; and strengthening HLPC's outreach.

"Ulster County adopted a comprehensive countywide Open Space Plan in 2007 with the goal of supporting stewardship of cultural and historic resources," stated Ulster County Legislature Jennifer Schwartz Berky (District 7), who is also an HLPC commissioner. "As a preservation planner and the author of that plan, I advocated for the County to recognize the importance of educating the public and property owners about the value of our historic resources for economic development and tourism. The County has encouraged and pursued these goals. I am delighted that the Mayor and HLPC are proactively taking on preservation planning in Kingston to make the most of our precious resources."

Recent actions, including the adoption of the comprehensive plan and a number of high profile efforts to protect historic buildings within the City, have raised public awareness and interest in preservation. Mayor Noble has repeatedly called for expanded historic preservation efforts to be interwoven with the city's economic development and tourism efforts.

"Mayor Noble's proactive leadership for saving the Nathaniel Booth House and his interest in learning more about how the preservation toolset can benefit Kingston's economy is exciting," said HLPC Chair George Donskoj. "We look forward to working with him to realize the vast untapped potential of preserving Kingston's heritage and authentic character."

HLPC also envisions preservation efforts as laying the foundation for significant long term job creation.

"Kingston can brand itself as the best place in the Hudson Valley to buy a historic building, spiking property sales and helping us attract today's best employers, workers and homebuyers," noted Kitty McCullough, a pro bono consultant who has helped the City win and implement more than \$60,000 in preservation grants over the past four years. "Together, maximized heritage tourism, tax incentives for rehabilitation projects, and expanded construction trades that restore the authenticity of our thousands of historic buildings can help Kingston create hundreds of high quality, permanent jobs," Kitty said.

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Community members are encouraged to attend the special workshop. For additional information, please contact Kitty at [luciachat@gmail.com](mailto:luciachat@gmail.com) or visit the HLPC facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Kingston-Historic-Landmarks-Preservation-Commission-1725566857684393/>

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#### About the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission

First created by law in 1969, Kingston's Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission administers the designation and protection of historic properties and historic districts throughout the City. Consisting of seven City residents appointed by the mayor, the present commission includes a preservation architect, an urban planner trained and experienced in preservation planning, a real estate attorney, a technical preservation professional, a master preservation craftsman, an art historian, a local business owner, and a homeowner who restored Ulster County's oldest home. In addition to approving conformance to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for exterior work to properties landmarked or within historic districts as required by law, the Commission also provides guidance to property owners to help protect their property values and Kingston's historic character.

#### About Certified Local Government

Established by a 1980 amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Certified Local Government (CLG) program is a nationwide initiative directly linking community preservation goals to state and federal preservation programs. New York CLGs are designated and overseen by the National Park Service through the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Kingston has the distinction of being one of the earliest of New York's current 77 CLGs, approved by resolution of Common Council in 1985. CLG status confers special access to funding, preservation training and technical assistance for planning and preservation, and can be used to help leverage major funding for urban revitalization.