

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET TESTIMONY  
MAY 17, 2016**

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DEPARTMENT MISSION/PLANS

**Mission:** Established in 1955, the Philadelphia Historical Commission is the City of Philadelphia's regulatory agency responsible for ensuring the preservation of historically significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, interiors and districts in Philadelphia.

**Plans for Fiscal Year 2017:** The Philadelphia Historical Commission is responsible for ensuring the preservation of historically significant resources in the city. It identifies and designates historic resources to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The Register currently includes more than 23,000 properties and 15 historic districts.

During calendar year 2015, the Commission designated 25 new historic sites and one historic object. The Historical Commission then regulates designated historic resources through the City's building and other permit processes. During 2015, the Commission approved 1,750 applications, 142 more than 2014 and the most ever in a single year. Under a newly revised programmatic agreement with the state and federal governments, the Historical Commission conducts reviews, commonly called Section 106 reviews, for programs funded by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. By performing this task, the Commission conserves City resources, conducting reviews quickly at the municipal, rather than the state or federal, level, and obviating the need for expensive consultants. In 2015, the Commission conducted 288 federally-mandated reviews for projects funded and/or undertaken by various public and quasi-public municipal agencies. These projects included the rehabilitation of housing for elderly, disabled, and low-income persons and the adaptive reuse of commercial properties. In addition to identifying and designating historic resources and then reviewing construction proposals for compliance with preservation standards, the Historical Commission undertakes enforcement activities to ensure that property owners comply with the City's historic preservation ordinance.

The Historical Commission undertakes numerous other important activities beyond its strictly regulatory activities. For example, in 2015, the Historical Commission advised several agencies including Planning, Streets, and the Housing Authority on preservation issues; and prepared preservation plans for the City Planning Commission's River Wards, Lower Southwest, and North Delaware planning districts as part of the Philadelphia 2035 planning process. The Historical Commission also serves as a clearinghouse for information on history and preservation, providing technical assistance to property owners, developers, and design professionals; and information on the history of Philadelphia and its built environment to cultural resource management professionals, educators and students, and the public.

With proposed funding for FY2017, the Historical Commission will maintain its current level of service.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
BUDGET SUMMARY AND OTHER BUDGET DRIVERS**

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**Staff Demographics Summary (as of January 2016)**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Minority</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Female</b>
Full-Time Staff	4	0	4	3
Executive Staff	1	0	1	0
Average Salary - Full-Time Staff	\$62,180	\$0	\$62,180	\$56,327
Average Salary - Executive Staff	\$106,088	\$0	\$106,088	\$0
Median Salary - Full-Time Staff	\$59,465	\$0	\$59,465	\$59,465
Median Salary - Executive Staff	\$106,088	\$0	\$106,088	\$0

**Employment Levels (as of January 2016)**

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Filled</b>
Full-Time Positions	5	5	4
Part-Time Positions	0	0	0
Executive Positions	1	1	1
<i>Overall Average Salary</i>	\$106,088	\$106,088	\$106,088
<i>Overall Median Salary</i>	\$106,088	\$106,088	\$106,088

**Financial Summary by Class - General Fund**

	Fiscal 2015 Actual Obligations	Fiscal 2016 Original Appropriations	Fiscal 2016 Estimated Obligations	Fiscal 2017 Proposed Appropriations	Difference FY17-FY16
Class 100 - Employee Compensation	\$383,402	\$422,771	\$422,771	\$429,943	\$7,172
Class 200 - Purchase of Services	\$150	\$980	\$980	\$980	\$0
Class 300 - Materials and Supplies	\$809	\$809	\$809	\$809	\$0
Class 400 - Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Class 500 - Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Class 700 - Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Class 800 - Payment to Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Class 900 - Advances/Misc. Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$384,361</b>	<b>\$424,560</b>	<b>\$424,560</b>	<b>\$431,732</b>	<b>\$7,172</b>

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW**

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### PROPOSED FUNDING REQUEST

The proposed Fiscal Year 2017 general fund budget totals \$431,732, an increase of \$7,172 over Fiscal Year 2016 estimated obligation levels. This increase is due to salary increases for union-represented employees.

The proposed budget includes:

- \$429,943 in Class 100, a \$7,172 increase over FY16. This funding will support salaries for the Historical Commission's staff of six and monthly fees for Historical Commission members.
- \$980 in Class 200, no change over FY16. This funding will support basic office needs like telephones, postage, and background checks for appointees.
- \$809 in Class 300, no change over FY16. This funding will support the purchase of basic office supplies.

### STAFFING LEVELS

- The number of approved staff positions at the Historical Commission is six. Five positions are filled; the secretary/receptionist position is vacant, but will be filled as soon as the Historical Commission completes the move of its offices to 1515 Arch Street.
- The Historical Commission's staff of five is comprised of three females and two males, all of whom are Caucasian. All Historical Commission staff members speak English as a first language.
- Except for Jon, the Director, all staff are civil service and therefore hired by the rule of two. The Historic Commission has a vacant receptionist position and can likely hire a minority candidate from the list. The remainder of the positions are historic preservation planner 1, 2, and 3. The Commission has hired three planners in the last three years. All are white women. Almost every candidate on the eligible list for the last several years has been a white woman.
- US Department of Education data is telling. In 2014, US colleges and universities awarded 72.4% of all preservation degrees (graduate and undergraduate) to women. That year, degrees were awarded to 336 white students, 15 African American students, 14 Hispanic students, and 6 Asian students. When one looks at Master's degrees for 2014, which all Historical Commission positions require, the numbers are worse: 149 white females, 46 white males, 12 black females, 1 black male, 7 Hispanic females, 1 Hispanic male, 3 Asian females, and 1 Asian male for the entire country. The reality is that the few minority candidates that graduate each year are going to private sector jobs that pay significantly more than public entities.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://datausa.io/profile/cip/3012/#demographics>

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
PERFORMANCE, CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES**

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DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE (OPERATIONS)

Like many other City Departments, the Historical Commission faces challenges resulting from limited resources. Owing to the Historical Commission's legal obligation to regulate properties currently designated as historic and the resulting shift of resources to building permit review activities, the Commission has had to curtail its designations of newly identified historic sites. Although crucial to the Historical Commission's success, its designation activities are discretionary.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
OTHER BUDGETARY IMPACTS**

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FEDERAL AND STATE (WHERE APPLICABLE)

- The Historical Commission receives no state or federal funding.

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
CONTRACTING EXPERIENCE**

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N/A

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
EMPLOYEE DATA**

<b>Full-Time Staff</b>				<b>Executive Staff</b>			
		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>			<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
		<b>African-American</b>				<b>African-American</b>	
<i>Total</i>		0	0	<i>Total</i>		0	0
<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%	<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
		<b>White</b>				<b>White</b>	
<i>Total</i>		1	3	<i>Total</i>		1	0
<i>% of Total</i>		25.0%	75.0%	<i>% of Total</i>		100.0%	0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$79,739	\$56,327	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$106,088	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$79,739	\$59,465	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$106,088	\$0
		<b>Hispanic</b>				<b>Hispanic</b>	
<i>Total</i>		0	0	<i>Total</i>		0	0
<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%	<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
		<b>Asian</b>				<b>Asian</b>	
<i>Total</i>		0	0	<i>Total</i>		0	0
<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%	<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
		<b>Other</b>				<b>Other</b>	
<i>Total</i>		0	0	<i>Total</i>		0	0
<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%	<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
		<b>Bi-lingual</b>				<b>Bi-lingual</b>	
<i>Total</i>		0	0	<i>Total</i>		0	0
<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%	<i>% of Total</i>		0%	0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$0	\$0
		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>			<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<i>Total</i>		1	3	<i>Total</i>		1	0
<i>% of Total</i>		25.0%	75.0%	<i>% of Total</i>		100.0%	0.0%
<i>Average Salary</i>		\$79,739	\$56,327	<i>Average Salary</i>		\$106,088	\$0
<i>Median Salary</i>		\$79,739	\$59,465	<i>Median Salary</i>		\$106,088	\$0



**HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**APPENDIX (Other Relevant Data and Charts)**

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In the 11 years that Jon has been Director, the Commission has had one request to provide translation services. The Department arranged for a translator through a City contract. Most customers are expeditors, contractors, architects, engineers, and attorneys, who, for business reasons, have some English language ability. When the Commission encounters a property owner who is not fluent in English, they typically want to interact through a friend or relative who translates.