

**ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL
COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN**

2007 – 2015

Adopted by the AAC January 17, 2007



Alexandria Archaeological Commission Enabling Legislation and Responsibilities

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission was established by the Alexandria City Council as a citizen advisory board to Alexandria's Mayor and City Council on matters dealing with archaeological and historical resources located in the City of Alexandria. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission was the first such commission established in the United States. It is charged with advising on and setting policy and direction for archaeology in the City. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission's key responsibilities, as established by the City Council Resolution #371 in 1975 and updated by Resolution #3773 in 1995, are to:

- Establish goals and priorities related to Alexandria's history and heritage
- Analyze and make recommendations to the City Council concerning Alexandria's archaeology
- Promote public awareness and participation in archaeological preservation through a series of free pamphlets
- Preserve, promote and display the archaeological artifacts that have been and will be recovered in the future
- Propose local ordinances and state statutes
- Encourage integration of archaeological and historical information
- Provide archaeological recommendations to individuals and communities
- Provide an information flyer/booklet for developers/landowners

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission promotes education, protection, preservation, and study of the archaeological heritage of Alexandria through short- and long-term goals. Its members strive to meet these goals keeping in mind as their guiding principles the goals established by the Mayor and City Council in the City of Alexandria's Strategic Plan 2004 – 2015.

Guiding Principles for Alexandria Archaeological Commission Strategic Plan

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission developed its strategic plan based upon the City Goals from the City of Alexandria 2004-2015 Strategic Plan: A Guide to the Future:

1. Quality Development And Redevelopment That Is Well Planned And Consistent With Alexandria's Vision
2. Respect, Protect, Preserve And Enhance The Natural Environment And Historic Resources
3. Integrated, Multimodal Transportation System That Efficiently And Effectively Gets People From Point "A" To Point "B"
4. A Strong Local Economy That Is Growing In Varied Small Business And Job Opportunities
5. A Caring Community That Is Diverse And Affordable
6. A City Government That Is Financially Sustainable, Efficient And Community Oriented.
7. Public Schools That Are Among The Best In Northern Virginia

Alexandria Archaeological Commission

Mission

Through community-based archaeology to discover, preserve, and tell the story of Alexandria's diverse past so that it will be an integral and visible part of visiting, living, and working in Alexandria.

Vision

The AAC will support historical awareness and citizen activism as well as promote Alexandria's leadership role in archaeology. The AAC will recognize that archaeology in Alexandria is an integral part of the planning process for development, preservation, and interpretation of the City's diverse past for the enjoyment and education of residents and visitors. The AAC will ensure that archaeology continues to be part of a community-city partnership that also values the sustainability of the historical collections in a dynamic living environment.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Strategic Goals 2007 – 2015

1. Participate in the Preservation Summit and advocate role for archaeology. (Reference City Goals 1 and 2)
2. Participate in the City's Waterfront planning process. (Reference City Goals 1 and 2)
 - a. Advocate for making history, preservation, and archaeology integral elements of the plan.
 - b. Meet with other history related organizations to develop mutually beneficial relationships to develop a multifaceted team approach to the planning process in relationship to the history of the waterfront.
3. Actively sponsor, participate, and promote all phases of the development of the Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Park Project. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, and 5)
 - a. Sponsor and actively participate in the opening events for the Freedmen's Cemetery project.
4. Actively promote and participate in the planning of all Small Area Plans, Parks, and Open Spaces within the City. Ensure adequate study of sites and excavation of potentially significant archaeological finds within these spaces. Advocate development and placement of interpretive signs relating to history and archaeology throughout the City. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
 - a. Engage the Yates Garden Community and the National Park Service in the planning and rehabilitation of Jones Point Park. Monitor development and placement of interpretive signs.
 - b. Continue to provide representation at Potomac Yard Park planning meetings. Promote development and placement of interpretive signs.
 - c. Comment on the City's Coordinated Wayfaring Sign Program. Monitor Heritage Trail signs within this process.
 - d. Monitor Braddock Metro development.
 - e. Advocate placement of Alexandria Heritage Trail directional signs.
 - f. Develop and ensure distribution of Alexandria Archaeology Digital Atlas.
5. Sponsor, promote, and participate in the February, May, and October Jamestown lectures. Coordinate with the Alexandria Historical Society. (Reference City Goal 2)
6. Finalize awarding criteria and nomination process for the Ben Brenman Award. (Reference City Goal 2)
 - a. Solicit nominations, review candidates, and select awardees by 30 September 2007.
 - b. Present first award in October 2007 during Archaeology Month Celebration.

7. Actively participate in the development of a new slogan for the City of Alexandria keeping in mind the City's rich history, cultural diversity, and goals for the future. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, and 5)
8. Engage (as stakeholders) in the evaluation of candidates and the selection of the next Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. (Reference City Goal 2)
9. Plan and hold annual joint meeting with the Friends of Alexandria Archaeology. (Reference City Goal 2)
10. Enhance the visibility of the City of Alexandria as a leader in archaeology throughout Virginia, the United States, and the world. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 4, 6)
 - a. Engage the city of Manchester, England, in developing a Sister Archaeological City relationship.
 - b. Publish newspaper articles relating to archaeology in Alexandria.
 - c. Maintain updated website to include an annual calendar of events relating to the history and archaeology of Alexandria.
 - d. Educate developers in the role they play in the preservation and interpretation of Alexandria's history and archaeology. Recognize their efforts.
 - e. Develop concise, readily accessible, and understandable reference guide on archaeological preservation for citizens and developers
11. Enhance the public awareness of and access to the rich archaeological history of the City through the development of an enlarged and enhanced museum and artifact storage facility. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 4, 6, 7)
 - a. Explore mutually beneficial relationships with other historical organizations within the City of Alexandria (HARC, OHA, FOAA, etc) to develop a team approach to display and storage.
 - b. Develop long-term plan for display and storage of collections.
 - c. Research and pursue funding possibilities to include public funding and private donations (Fundraising).
12. Actively promote and enhance public awareness of the educational benefits of the archaeological history within Alexandria. (Reference City Goals 1, 2, 7)
 - a. Enhance educational programs available to schools to include lesson plans and meaningful museum visits.
 - b. Educate Alexandria's teachers on the archaeological history of the city.
 - c. Schedule and promote walkabouts highlighting Alexandria's archaeological history.
 - d. Promote use of the Alexandria Heritage Trail.
 - e. Plan and execute Annual Archaeology Month Celebration.