

**GOVERNOR'S ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION
THREE-YEAR PLAN
2016-2018**

The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission is a statutory body charged with advising the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on archaeological issues and related activities in Arizona. The Commission is composed of 11 members with expertise in prehistoric or historical archaeology, anthropology, heritage tourism, Native American cultural heritage, public education, and economic development.

Established by the State Legislature in 1985, the Commission's enabling legislation also directed it to promote archaeology and the development of a broad base of public support for historic preservation. The Commission has assisted the SHPO in developing and sustaining highly successful efforts including the nationally recognized Arizona Site Steward Program and the popular Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month activities, such as the annual Archaeology Exposition. The Commission has also advised the SHPO on developing public education guidelines, a statement of principles regarding cooperation between archaeologists and American Indian tribes, guidelines for archaeological excavations on private property, a report on the archaeological curation crisis in Arizona, and protection and management of archaeological resources along the international border.

Arizona is recognized as a national leader in archaeological education and preservation programs. To help ensure that Arizona retains this position, the State Legislature overwhelmingly passed bills in 1994, 2004, and 2014 authorizing the continuance of the Commission.

The Commission is charged with advising the SHPO on:

- Developing and sustaining public education programs to promote archaeology and to enhance public understanding of the scientific, heritage, and educational values of archaeological resources and the need to protect these values;
- Fostering law enforcement activities to stop vandalism, artifact theft, and other activities that damage archaeological sites;
- Developing and maintaining a state plan to protect archaeological sites, including the acquisition of sites and the development of archaeological preserves;
- Developing mechanisms to assist private owners of archaeological sites in protecting and managing their sites;
- Fostering continued study of Arizona's archaeology to contribute to a better understanding of our cultural history; and
- Archaeological activities and related issues, including the protection and management of collections, information, and databases.

In consultation with the SHPO, the Commission has identified a series of advisory tasks tied to these six topical areas. These tasks will form the basis for Commission activities over the following three years (2016-2018). Until 2012, GAAC was reauthorized for ten years. At its 2016 sunset review, GAAC will seek reauthorization for ten years.

I. GENERAL PROGRAM DIRECTION

- A. The Commission will inform and advise policy-makers in the state regarding archaeological heritage preservation issues and will share relevant information with the archaeological community and the public.
- B. The Commission will support on-going public education programs carried out by SHPO and encourage programs that educate the public about the significance and stewardship of archaeological resources.
- C. The Commission will promote professional competency in the practice of archaeology by encouraging archaeologists to maintain current knowledge of Arizona archaeology, uphold professional standards, and become trained in historic preservation law and regulation on the national, state, and local levels.
- D. The Commission will encourage and promote partnerships that support archaeological resource protection and heritage education.
- E. The Commission will support the goals and objectives established in the current *State Historic Preservation Plan Update*. These goals define objectives to achieve better resource management, effective information management, integrated preservation planning, proactive partnerships, public education and stewardship, professional standards and training, and policy-maker support.
- F. The Commission will work with Arizona's tribal communities on issues of mutual interest.

III. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

To more effectively achieve these goals, the Commission completed its initial Three-Year Plan for 2007-2009. At that time, it established a series of subcommittees tied to the general program direction. These three subcommittees, carried forward into subsequent Plans including this Three-Year Plan, are the Public Policy Subcommittee, the Public Education Subcommittee, and the Professional Competency Subcommittee. Their responsibilities are to identify emerging issues, to track continuing situations, to gather relevant information, to set priorities for action, and, where appropriate, to work with the SHPO in developing solutions and actions to address issues while sustaining the success of existing programs. The subcommittee objectives for this planning period are identified below.

The Public Policy Committee will:

- Encourage governments and tribes to undertake and involve the public in policy development and long-term planning efforts that identify and preserve the full range of archaeological sites in their communities;
- Inform the Governor and Legislature of important issues regarding historic preservation and archaeology at both the State and National levels;

- Continue to support state funding, partnerships, volunteer programs, and other efforts to protect archaeological resources and to offer educational programs within units of the State Parks system;
- Continue to promote better management and preservation of archaeological resources, particularly focusing on the long-term management of artifacts, data, reports, and photographs generated by archaeological research and mitigation projects. Importantly, this focus includes both the physical artifacts and digital information, and the subcommittee will promote policies to address the unique challenges of managing these very different types of resources;
- Promote partnership efforts by highlighting successful existing partnerships as examples of effective strategies in accomplishing historic preservation goals; and
- Interface with the Arizona Archaeological Council, Arizona Archaeological Society, and other professional and avocational organizations to enhance public awareness of the Commission's mission and structure. Share policy statements or related correspondence to the Governor, Legislature, and state agencies with such organizations to promote effective public communication of the Commission's current activities.

The Public Education Committee will:

- Coordinate with the SHPO to promote the effectiveness, public awareness, and higher attendance at annual Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month events, including the Archaeology Exposition;
- Raise awareness of the Governor's Awards in Public Archaeology by encouraging nominations from the public, improving the award ceremony, and better publicizing the winners' accomplishments;
- Continue to work with the Arizona State Parks volunteer program to improve and expand the nationally recognized Arizona Site Steward Program;
- Maintain communication with avocational organizations to offer advice and support for their efforts in public outreach and research projects conducted in partnership with professional archaeologists and historians;
- Support the SHPO in developing and implementing educational workshops on archaeological issues for the public, tribes, and professional community, including a workshop on traditional cultural properties;
- Collect and share information on youth education programs conducted by agencies, tribes, and communities; and
- Strive to improve educational outreach to the general public.

The Professional Competency Committee will:

- Participate in the annual Arizona Historic Preservation Conference to highlight issues and sessions relevant to the management and protection of archaeological resources. Promote workshops developed to train archaeologists who are new to Arizona on Native American and Euroamerican cultural traditions, and associated material culture;
- Seek input from the archaeological community to examine issues related to the effectiveness and efficiency of fieldwork and analytical methods;
- Monitor the continued development and maintenance needs of the multi-institutional AZSITE statewide cultural resource inventory. Support the incorporation into the database of general information and database layers that will be beneficial for professional archaeologists. Assist the AZSITE Consortium in building AZSITE into a primary tool for preservation planning;
- Support and advise the Historical Archaeology Advisory Committee, which offers advice to the SHPO on issues relating to historical archaeology;
- Assist the SHPO in training programs for state agencies, law enforcement agencies, and others in historic preservation laws and regulations; and
- Promote and encourage the development of cultural sensitivity training programs for contractors, agencies, and professional archaeologists who regularly conduct business on lands of cultural and spiritual significance to Native American communities.

The Commission's mandate is to serve in an advisory capacity to the SHPO. The organizational structure described in this plan enables the Commission to be more proactive and accountable in effectively carrying out its responsibilities. The activities of the Commission are published in an annual report, made available to the Governor, State Legislature, and the public, at the conclusion of each State fiscal year.