

Santa Barbara Design Standards - Stakeholders Work Group

In March 2021, the City was awarded a Local Early Action Planning Grant from the State Housing and Community Development Department to create objective design standards for multi-unit housing projects. Soon thereafter, the Planning Department released a Request for Proposals and Opticos Design, Inc. was selected to work with city staff on this effort. The overarching goals for the project are to:

- Facilitate and streamline production of multi-unit housing;
- Provide clear guidance and design expectations to applicants, staff, and decision makers;
- Ensure new multi-unit housing is designed to be sensitive and compatible with existing adjacent emblematic architecture, historic resources, streetscapes, and neighborhoods; and
- Use an open and inclusive public process to draft design standards for the City's diverse multi-unit neighborhoods.

The project includes formation of a stakeholder Work Group to review key project materials and ideas to arrive at the draft Design Standards. The Work Group will be comprised of members from the Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission, and American Institute of Architects. Staff is requesting appointment of one primary and one alternate Historic Landmarks Commission member who can serve until at least fall 2022.

Commitment to the Work Group will include participation in at least six Work Group meetings, review of draft work products, and occasional status reports to Board and Commission members. The meetings will occur from September 2021 to Oct/Nov 2022. The first Introduction meeting is planned for Friday September 10 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. The meetings will be virtual until further notice, open to the public, and facilitated by Opticos.