

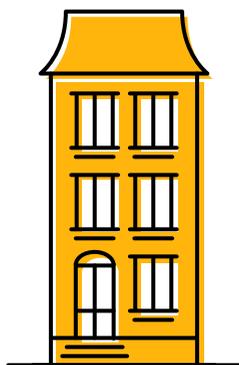


Neighborhood Preservation

T O O L K I T







Neighborhood Preservation
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— 2018 —

This toolkit is a resource for individuals and organizations throughout Philadelphia.
It recognizes the importance of sustaining the city's older buildings and sites – with a broad definition of what makes something “historic.” From grassroots to the government, community members have the power to preserve and revitalize the older places that matter in the city of neighborhoods.

Built by Philadelphians

Built for Philadelphians



What is this?

This is a free toolkit for Philadelphians who care about their neighborhoods and this city. It was designed and built by people from PennPraxis who care about their neighborhoods and this city.

This toolkit is based on the knowledge and input of community members from across Philadelphia, inspired by conversations held in 20 neighborhoods in the spring of 2018. In those conversations, community liaisons gathered 8 to 12 of their neighbors for a candid discussion about what makes their neighborhood special and significant, what legacies and histories they would like to sustain and revitalize, and how current public policies affect or harm the character of their neighborhood. Over and over again, those advocates and leaders expressed a need for a resource that would bring neighbors together to learn more about, care more about, and advocate more for the places that matter in their neighborhood.

Want your own copy of this toolkit? You can find a digital copy at phlpreservation.org.

What is “neighborhood preservation”?

Neighborhoods are made up by people *and* places. So when we use the term “neighborhood preservation,” we’re talking about keeping, maintaining, and improving our neighborhoods for the people who already live there (and those who may want to join them!).

While the content of the toolkit touches on traditional forms of building preservation, it also includes tools for neighborhood engagement, supporting small businesses, and celebrating neighborhood histories, all of which comprise “neighborhood preservation.” This toolkit aims to challenge the narrative that preservation leads to displacement, providing useful resources to make sure that it does not.

Who is this for?

This toolkit can be used by anyone in your community: homeowners, renters, business owners, developers, and neighbors of all ages and education levels.



CONTENTS

I want to...

1. Care for an older home (PAGE 10)

2. Improve and maintain the design quality and character (PAGE 26)

3. Strengthen and sustain small businesses & commercial corridors (PAGE 46)

4. Learn and share the history (PAGE 60)

5. Create change and influence policy (PAGE 74)

...in my neighborhood.

Where do I begin?

If any of these goals apply to you, then this toolkit is for you. Use the sections of this toolkit to guide you through the steps that will help you accomplish them.

Check out the "Who's Who" section (PAGE 90) & Glossary, too (PAGE 100)

Within each section, this toolkit offers...

- » Some **background** on the topic. For example, if you're not sure what we mean when we say "commercial corridor," the intro in that perspective will help you out.
- » An **ask and answer** section of frequently asked questions and/or common misconceptions
- » An activity to **try it out**, either as an individual or with a few friends or neighbors. For example, you could use a "Try It Out" activity at a community meeting to learn more from each other about what local places matter and why. The conversations inspired by these activities may inform your efforts to take action.
- » Some "**take action**" steps that you and your community can work on together
- » Resources to **learn more**, including both print and web publications related to each perspective*
- » Stories of **preservation wins** that demonstrate where these strategies have worked in Philadelphia

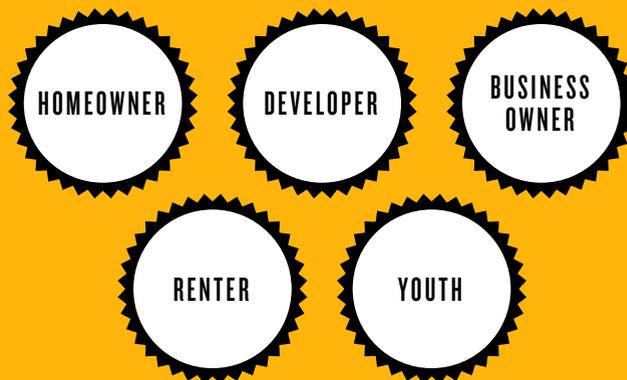
Even if you find yourself drawn to one perspective in particular, it is worth exploring all five (and the extra resources at the back of this guide) because they overlap and complement each other. After all, you may be interested in both caring for your older home and learning more about your neighborhood's history!

**Although the website links in this toolkit are up-to-date as of summer 2018, we recognize that the internet is always changing, and these links may not work down the road. In that case, we suggest a simple web search for the title and publisher of the resource.*

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Throughout the toolkit, certain areas will be highlighted as particularly useful for all neighbors that have interest in working to maintain their home, block, street, or neighborhood. Or perhaps you don't know yet! This guide will help you figure out the right path.

Look for these badges throughout this toolkit for ideas and resources that may be of particular interest to different community members.



Also included in this toolkit...

A guide to who's who, and who you can talk to.

This includes local community groups, city/state/federal agencies, and nonprofits at all scales. While we may have missed some useful names in this list, we hope it's a helpful starting point as you take action on behalf of your community.

Finally, at the back of this guide, you'll find a glossary to explain any unfamiliar words or expressions, including architectural vocabulary and historic preservation terms. This glossary was adapted from the glossary available on www.phlpreservation.org, which (incidentally) is a great place to check for any updates to relevant local policies and/or the resources mentioned in this guide.

Our hope is that this toolkit is a useful foot-in-the-door as you think about your neighborhood and care for the older places in your community. Beyond this guide, there are many people working hard to preserve and enhance Philadelphia's older buildings and landscapes, motivated by the architectural, cultural, environmental, economic, and social importance of these sites.

As you familiarize yourself with all the ways that Philadelphia's history is important, we hope that you will consider yourself a part of the community of advocates working to sustain and revitalize the places that matter.

There are many people
working hard to preserve and
enhance Philadelphia's older
buildings and landscapes.

Different materials



Different styles



Different construction methods

