



X - CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES ELEMENT

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VISION STATEMENT

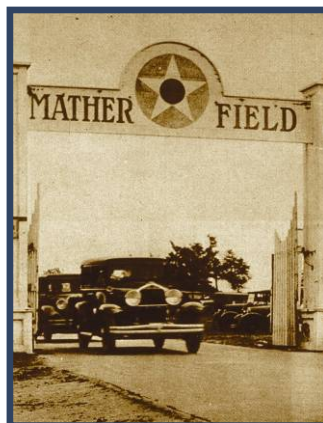
Rancho Cordova is a culturally diverse place, made up of people from all walks of life, each with their own culture and ethnic history. This diversity is celebrated and expressed through cultural art all around the community in a variety of places and venues that enhance the overall quality of life in the community. The local history is also preserved and available for enjoyment by the community through the identification and preservation of locally significant sites, buildings, memorabilia, and oral history.

INTRODUCTION

Cultural and Historic Resources refers to celebration of the people and history of the community. Rancho Cordova is made up of a wide mix of people, cultures, and ethnic groups which all contribute to the unique diversity of the City. Preserving the history of the community and recognizing and celebrating cultural diversity contributes to the City's sense of place. Rancho Cordova will protect its historic resources, make them accessible to all members of the community, and celebrate the community's cultural diversity.

PURPOSE

The Cultural and Historic Resources Element seeks to identify and protect locally important sites, buildings, and memorabilia that reflect the history of the community. It also seeks to honor the people of Rancho Cordova by promoting the inclusion of cultural arts into the fabric of the community as a component that contributes to the overall quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors. The Element provides goals, policies, and actions designed recognize and preserve the history of the area and celebrate the diversity of the City's population.





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RELATED PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The Cultural and Historic Resources Element relates to several other plans and programs, including the following:

- **Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California (2000-2005).** The Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California provides guidance to the Office of Historic Preservation and the preservation community for the identification, registration, protection, and preservation of important historic resources. It encourages both the consideration of historic preservation during planning activities at the local level and public and professional support for historic preservation.
- **State Historic Building Code.** The State Historic Building Code provides regulations for the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, relocation or reconstruction of buildings or structures designated as qualified historic buildings or properties.
- **The Sacramento County General Plan, Conservation Element.** The Sacramento County General includes a Conservation Element that includes a goal to promote the inventory, protection and interpretation of the cultural heritage of the County, including archaeological sites, buildings, features, artifacts, and/or areas of historical, religious or socioeconomic importance.
- **Citywide Design Guidelines.** The Design Guidelines supplement the Zoning Code development standards with more detailed provisions that direct the look and feel of development. The Guidelines include provisions for the inclusion of meaningful public art in development projects that contributes to the overall character of the site and enhances the quality of life in the City.
- **Rancho Cordova Neighborhood Center and Family Resource Center.** The Rancho Cordova Neighborhood Center provides an outlet for social service providers, local residents, civic groups, faith-based organizations, and the business community to meet and interact at the local level. The Center also hosts the Sacramento Works One Stop Career Center, continued education classes, and a variety of other social services.
- **Cordova High School English Learners Program.** Cordova High School offers an English Learners Program for students who are new to the English language.

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Over 300 students participate in the program each year from a wide variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The Cultural and Historic Resources Element is an optional element in the General Plan. It relates most closely to the Land Use Element regarding land uses for performing arts centers and other cultural or civic uses. This Element is also related to the Urban Design Element in terms of design of public spaces and redefining community identity. Finally, this Element is related to the Economic Development Element in terms of provisions for fine arts, cultural, and performance venues in the City. Where the overlap can be identified, cross-references are provided to alert the reader to specific sections of the related elements.

ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

CULTURAL RESOURCES SETTING

Rancho Cordova is comprised of a diverse mix of people from all walks of life. Rancho Cordova is one of the most diverse communities in the region. Significant populations of Russian, Spanish, Ukrainians, Armenians, and other ethnic groups are located within the City. At least 20 different languages are participating in the English learners program at Cordova High School. These diverse populations enhance the City by sharing their traditions and customs with the rest of the community. Their diversity helps to make Rancho Cordova a true “melting pot” of culture.

There are many existing businesses within the General Plan Planning Area that serve unique ethnic populations with goods, services, foods, etc. One example of this is that 60 percent of Korean-owned business in Sacramento County are located in Rancho Cordova. These businesses contribute to the continued success of the different cultural and ethnic groups in the community.

Adequately serving a diverse population is a key goal of the General Plan. It includes providing the services and information necessary to having an informed and engaged public, including reaching out to different segments of the population. The City is actively engaged in providing information in a variety of languages that facilitate continued public involvement in civic activities.



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The culture of the community is also established in the visual and performing arts. There are no theatres or playhouses in the City; however there has been movement towards create a performing arts center. Providing opportunities for the enjoyment of the visual and performing arts is a vital component of building a city and helps to establish the quality of life in the community.

HISTORIC RESOURCES SETTING

The City of Rancho Cordova has a wealth of historic resources, including sites and buildings, artifacts, and memorabilia associated with Native Americans, gold mining, historic railroad operations, the Pony Express, Mather Field, rocket testing at Aerojet, and other locally historic events like incorporation. While there are only a few sites and buildings around the Planning Area that meet the basic criteria for designation as a State Historic Resource or State Historic Landmark, there are many other buildings that are of a significant historic value to the community. The following list includes some of the structures that are important to the community. It is intended that this list will be updated with additional sites as they are identified by the community.

- A segment of the Sacramento Valley Railroad alignment that extended from Sacramento to Folsom near Folsom Boulevard, which highlights the development of communication and transportation facilities in the Rancho Cordova area and the region.
- The former location of Fifteen-Mile House, a station of the Central Overland Pony Express, which is near the intersection of White Rock Road and Sunrise Boulevard. This site also highlights the development of communication and transportation facilities in the Rancho Cordova area and the region.
- Pfingst Realty Company Building at 9878 Folsom Boulevard, which highlights the economic (commercial and agricultural) development of Rancho Cordova. It was built in 1860 and served as a train station for the area, being called Routier Station.
- The American River Grange Hall at 2720 Kilgore Road, which also highlights the economic (commercial and agricultural) development of Rancho Cordova. This site has been listed on the California Historic Landmarks list.
- The Horn Road house
- Hagan Park railroad

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- Mills Community
- Kilgore Cemetery

ISSUES THIS ELEMENT ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE

This Element provides policy recommendations that address the following issues related to cultural and historic resources, which were identified during the preparation of this General Plan:

- Recognition of the cultural diversity of the community.
- Establishment of a performing arts center in the City.
- Encourage location of performing and visual arts venues in the Downtown and Convention Overlay.
- Development of a public art program that contributes to the quality of life in the community and enhances the built environment.
- Identifying preservation options for historic buildings and sites, such as the Pfingst Realty Company Building, the American River Grange Hall, the Kilgore Cemetery, and other structures and sites important to the history of the City.
- Formulating ways in which the public can be involved in the identification, preservation, and celebration of cultural and historic resources in and around the City.
- Establishing a place to display and appreciate historical memorabilia of the City, with an emphasis on educating the public about Rancho Cordova's rich history.

GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

The goals of this element are as follows and are listed subsequently with corresponding policies and actions.

- **Goal CHR.1: Identify and preserve the history of Rancho Cordova for future generations.**



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- **Goal CHR.2:** Highlight, preserve, and acknowledge the cultural diversity of the community.
- **Goal CHR.3:** Enhance the quality of life in Rancho Cordova by promoting, preserving, and sustaining the cultural and performing arts.

GOAL CHR.1 - IDENTIFY AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF RANCHO CORDOVA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

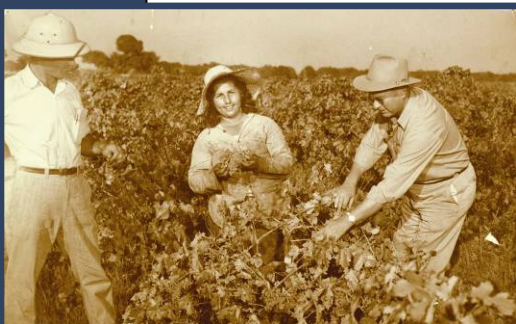
Policy CHR.1.1 - Establish, support, and fund programs that enhance Rancho Cordova's sense of community and identity, such as the collection of oral histories; genealogical research; and the acquisition of collections of historic artifacts, photographs, memorabilia, or other information relevant to the history of the City.

- **Action CHR.1.1.1** - Establish a permanent museum or cultural center to be used to display artifacts, documents, and public art relevant to the City's history and cultural diversity.



- **Action CHR.1.1.2** – Establish a Historic Resources Commission that is responsible for facilitating the collection, preservation, and display of the City's history.
- **Action CHR.1.1.3** - Commence and continue collection of the artifacts, photographs, memorabilia, and oral history of the community.

- **Action CHR.1.1.4** - Locate an interim facility to show and/or exhibit items of historic or cultural value. Establish exhibits for historic and cultural items at City Hall.



- **Action CHR.1.1.5** – Compile a thorough record of the City's incorporation, including records, documents, photos, and artifacts.

Policy CHR.1.2 - Establish and promote programs that identify, maintain, and protect buildings, sites, or other features of the landscape possessing historic or cultural significance.

- **Action CHR.1.2.1** - Develop and regularly update a comprehensive historic resources inventory, coordinating with other agencies as necessary. The inventory will contain a list of all locally historically significant properties, as well as historic

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archaeological and paleontological resources in the Planning Area and a map depicting their locations.

- **Action CHR.1.2.2** - Pursue recognition of all eligible historic properties by the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources.
- **Action CHR.1.2.3** - Improve and interpret Kilgore Cemetery. Interpreting the cemetery will include determining who is buried in the older portion of the site and increasing public awareness of the cemetery's significance.
- **Action CHR.1.2.4** - Consider establishing review procedures for remodeling and reconstruction of buildings and other structures.

Policy CHR.1.3 - Establish review procedures for development projects that recognize the history of the area in conjunction with State and federal laws.

- **Action CHR.1.3.1**- Require historic resources and paleontological studies (e.g., archaeological and historical investigations) for all applicable discretionary projects, in accordance with CEQA regulations. The studies should identify paleontological, historic, or cultural resources in the project area, determine their eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, and provide mitigation measures for any resources in the project area that cannot be avoided.
- **Action CHR.1.3.2** - Incorporate the following two conditions in applicable permits for all discretionary projects.

Cross reference:
OSPT.2.4

The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any cultural resources (e.g., prehistoric or historic artifacts) or paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are uncovered during construction. All construction must stop in vicinity of the find and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology or a paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.

The Planning Department shall be notified immediately if any human remains are uncovered and all construction must stop in vicinity of the find. The Planning Division shall notify the County Coroner according to Section 7050.5 of California's Health and Safety Code. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the procedures outlined in CEQA Section 15064.5 (d) and (e) shall be followed.



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GOAL CHR.2 – HIGHLIGHT, PRESERVE, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE COMMUNITY.



Cross reference:
UD.2.4

Policy CHR.2.1 – Celebrate the City’s cultural diversity through public art, cultural centers, and community events for the benefit and enjoyment of all residents.

- **Action CHR.2.1.1** – Establish a Cultural Arts Commission that will be responsible for coordinating cultural events, parades, festivals, coordinate and communicate with cultural and ethnic communities (with the City’s Public Information Officer), and other activities as determined by the City Council..

- **Action CHR.2.1.2** – Encourage development projects to include design features that identify and celebrate the different cultures that make up Rancho Cordova by updating, as necessary, the Design Guidelines to include provisions for cultural identity in development projects.
- **Action CHR.2.1.3** – Encourage and invite cultural groups and organizations to participate/plan/operate citywide events and to showcase the City’s cultural diversity at these events.

Policy CHR.2.2 - Support the inclusion and participation of all cultural and ethnic groups in City government.

- **Action CHR.2.2.1** – Provide City information (news, bulletins, application forms, etc) pursuant to programs designed to best capture the ethnic diversity of the community (e.g. in the four major languages used in the community and other languages on demand).
- **Action CHR.2.2.2** – Reach out to all ethnic groups in the City and invite and encourage their participation in City government.

GOAL CHR.3 - ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RANCHO CORDOVA BY PROMOTING, PRESERVING, AND SUSTAINING THE CULTURAL AND PERFORMING ARTS.

Policy CHR.3.1 – Develop programs and facilities that promote the cultural and performing arts in the community.

Cross reference:
LU.6.3,
ED.4.1.6

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- **Action CHR.3.1.1** – Work with community groups to establish a performing arts center in Rancho Cordova, ideally within the Downtown or Convention Overlay.
- **Action CHR.3.1.2** - Work with local schools and other educational and youth outlets to promote artistic performances by children and artistic education programs for children. Work with school districts to establish performing arts facilities in high school and junior high school campuses.
- **Action CHR.3.1.3** – Showcase youth artwork in public venues such as City Hall, public libraries, and other places throughout the community.
- **Action CHR.3.1.4** – As necessary, revise City ordinances to allow and promote on street visual art, dance, and theatrical performances in the Downtown. Include such provisions in the Downtown Specific Plan.
- **Action CHR.3.1.5** - Work with existing theatre, music, arts, and other performing arts groups to help them find locations in Rancho Cordova



Policy CHR.3.2 – Require the provision of art in public places as a way to increase the quality of life in Rancho Cordova.

Cross reference:
UD.3.4

- **Action CHR.3.2.1** – Establish a Cultural Arts Commission that is responsible for establishing a public art program, directing the use of public funds for art in public places, encouraging the use of art in private development projects, and administering other cultural and artistic programs for the City as deemed appropriate by the City Council.
- **Action CHR.3.2.2** - Promote the incorporation of monuments, plaques, signs, or artwork identifying Rancho Cordova’s diverse history into development projects and on pedestrian and bicycle trails. Possible highlights include the area’s agricultural, mining, Pony Express, and aerospace and aviation activities.



