

# Historic Preservation Board Retreat

Alston House  
2026



Saturday, January 10, 2026



# Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome Remarks
  - Board Chair Babos
- Mesa Historic Preservation Office
  - Matt Kriegl, Historic Preservation Officer
  - Kellie Rorex, Senior Planner
  - Meg Eaton, City Archaeologist

# Retreat Overview

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## STAFF PRESENTATION ITEMS

- 2025 HP Accomplishments
- Arizona Open Meeting Law
- Roles, Powers, and Duties of HP Board

## Break

- HP Project Updates
- 2026 HP and Archaeology Workplan

## TOUR & LUNCH

## BOARD DISCUSSION ITEM

- Specific HP Board Goals for 2026

## QUESTIONS

## ADJOURNMENT



# Staff Presentation Items

## Accomplishments

### Accomplishments:

- COAs
- Section 106 Reviews
- Arizona Antiquities Act Reviews
- Cultural Resource Assessments
- Heritage Neighborhood Story Maps
- Downtown Façade Project
- Website Update
- New Staff





### COAs and Section 106 Reviews in 2025

- **27** COAs reviewed (24 last year)
  - **23** COAs issued (21 last year)

COA Projects included: Solar Panels, Signage, Driveway Work, New Roof, Additions, ADUs, fences, and more

- **20** Section 106 Projects Reviewed (53)
  - **14** Section 106 reviews (37)
  - **6** Section 106 comments issued (16)



### Arizona Antiquities Act Reviews in 2025

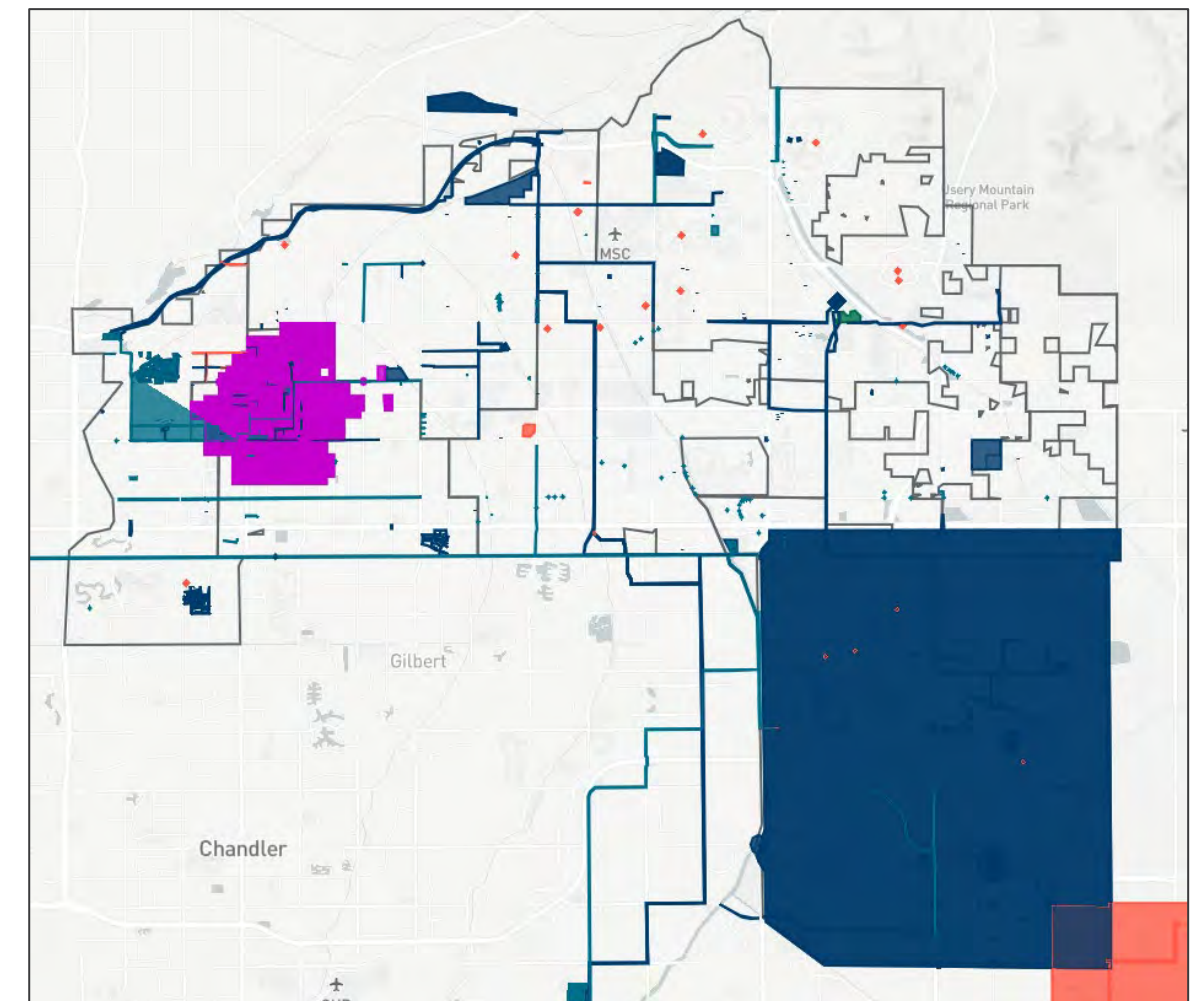
- 2 AAA Projects Reviewed
- 1 AAA comment issued

Projects included: Capital Improvement Projects, private development

### City Cultural Resource Assessments

- 3 Project Areas Reviewed

Projects included: Conceptual utility design





### New Staffing

- City Archaeologist
  - Meg Eaton

### City Archaeologist Role

- compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations
- archaeological reviews for developments on City property
- communicates with community groups and government agencies



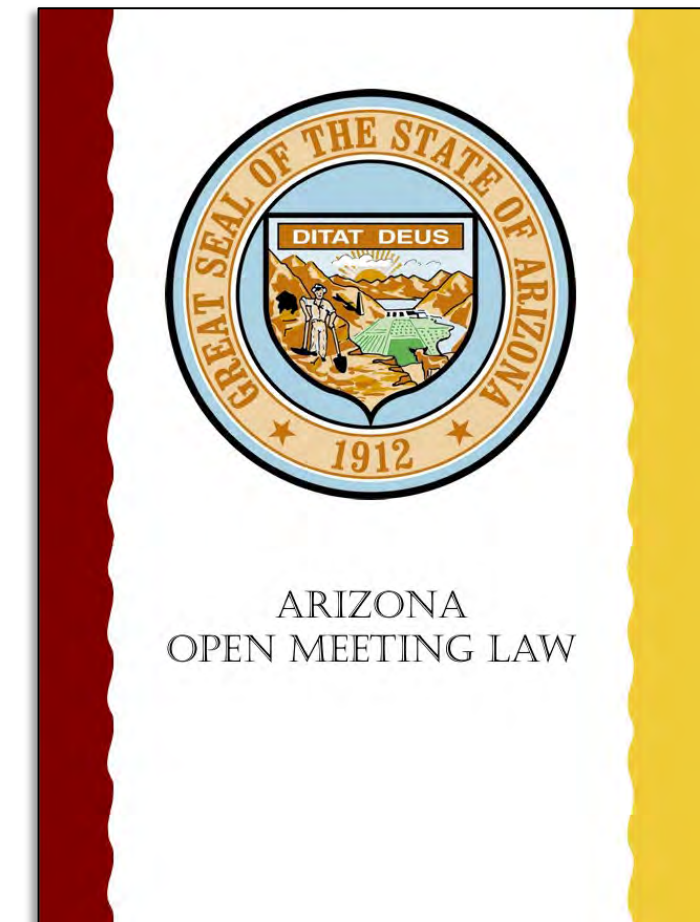
### Arizona Open Meeting Law

### Arizona Revised Statutes

### Title 38, Chapter 4, Article 3.1

#### A.R.S. § 38-431.09

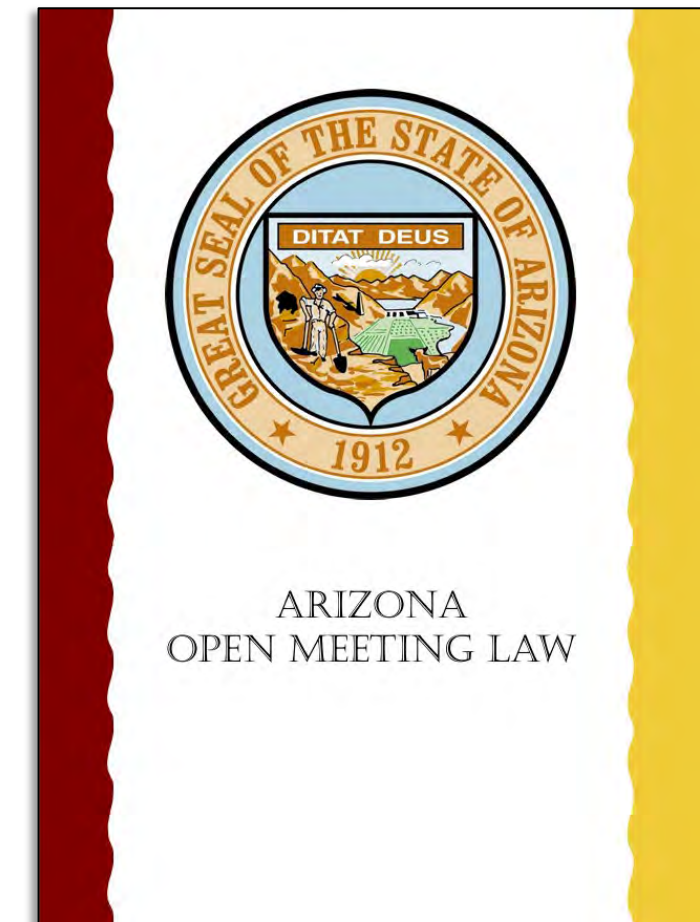
“It is the public policy of this state that meetings of public bodies be conducted openly and that notices and agendas be provided for such meetings which contain such information as is reasonably necessary to inform the public of the matters to be discussed or decided.”



## Definition of a “Public Body” Under the Open Meeting Law

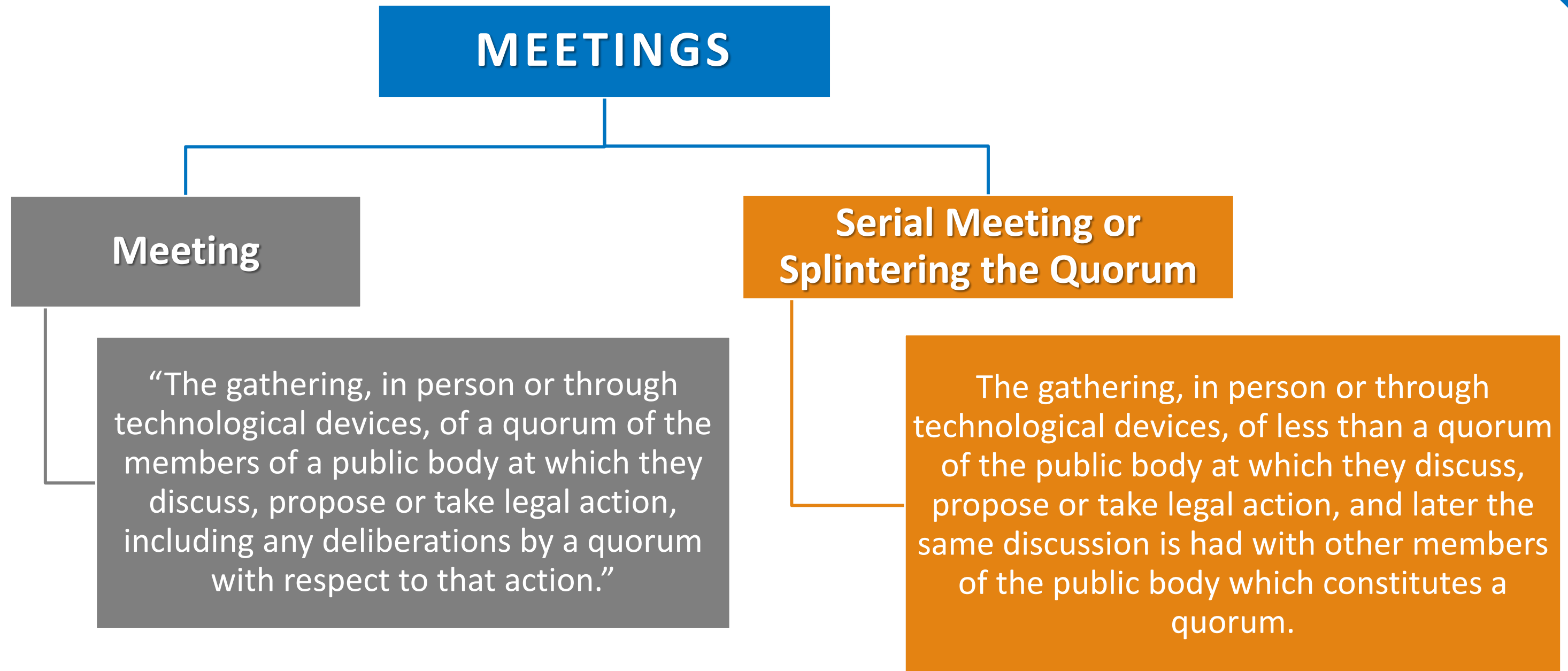
### A.R.S. § 38-431

Public body means the legislature, all boards and commissions of this state or political subdivisions, all multimember governing bodies of departments, agencies, institutions and instrumentalities of this state or political subdivisions... Public body includes all quasi-judicial bodies and all standing, special or advisory committees or subcommittees of, or appointed by, the public body.



# Staff Presentation Items

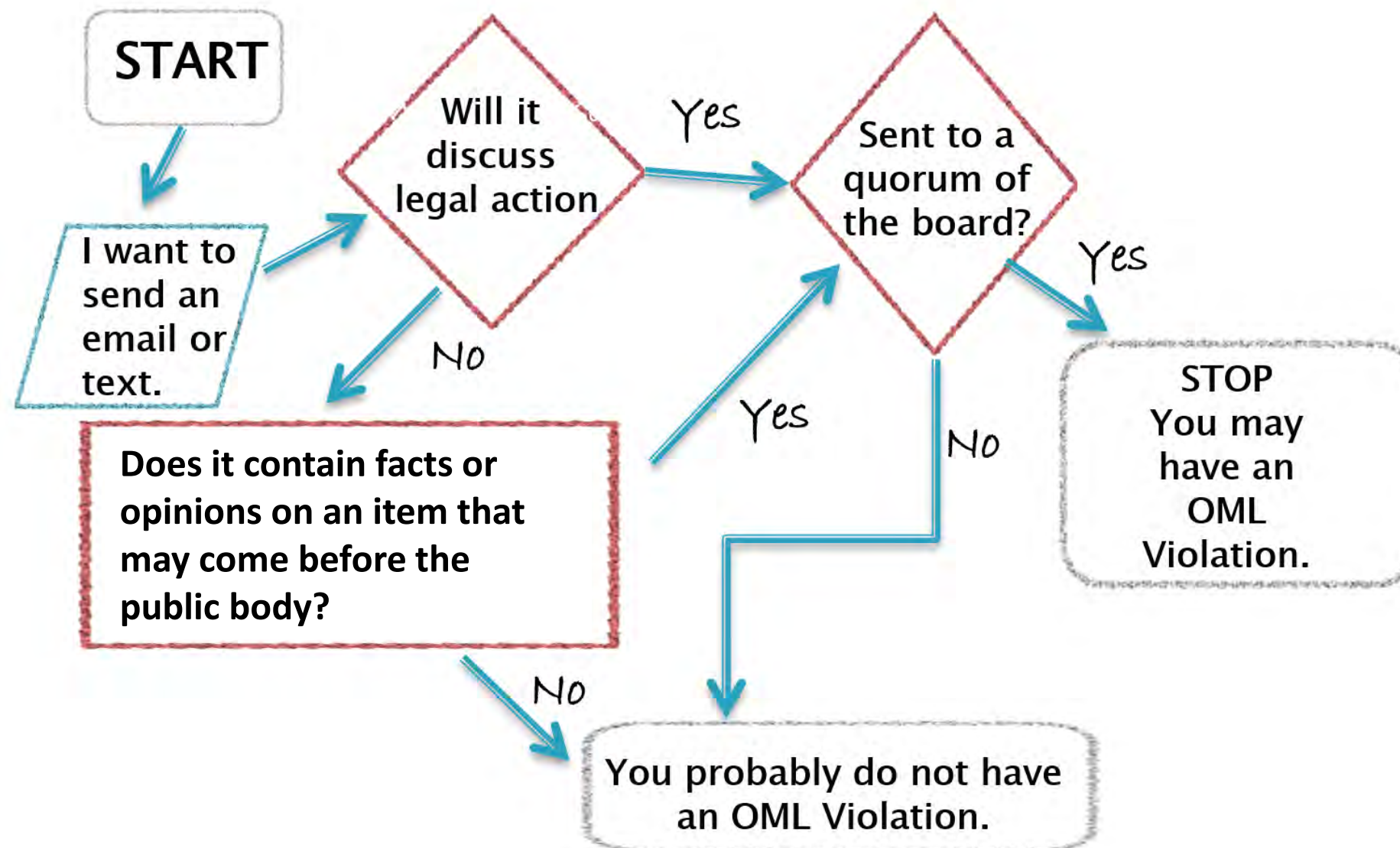
## AZ Open Meeting Law



**Best Practice:** “assume the Open Meeting Law applies whenever a majority of the body discusses the business of the public body.”



### Sending Emails or Texts



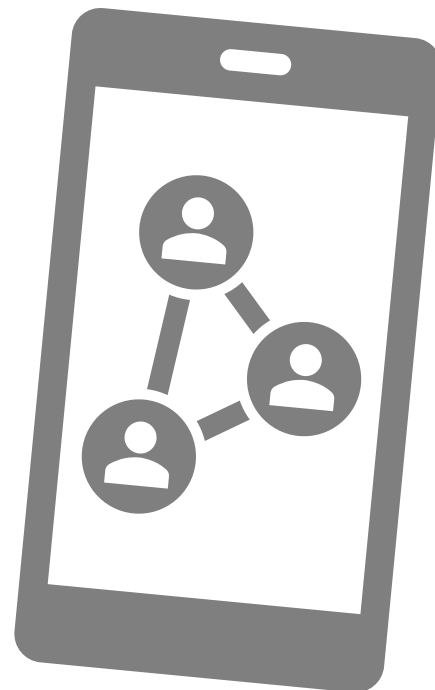
### What About Social Events?

- If a quorum of the Historic Preservation Board is present at a social event, the board members cannot discuss any topic that may foreseeably come before the Historic Preservation Board.
- Best Practice: Do not discuss historic preservation business or items that may come before the Historic Preservation Board with other board members outside of a formal, noticed, and agendized meeting.

# Staff Presentation Items

## AZ Open Meeting Law

### Social Media



A board member can express an opinion or discuss an issue with the public at a venue other than a meeting, through the media, other public broadcast communications or technological means if:

The opinion or discussion is not principally directed at or directly given to another member of the public body.

There is no concerted plan to engage in collective deliberation to take legal action.



### Meeting Notice, Agenda & Minutes

- Notice of the meeting must be posted and an agenda must be available 24 hours in advance or NO meeting can be held
- Notice must include:
  - Date, Time, and Place
  - An agenda of the matters to be discussed or decided or information on how the public may obtain a copy
    - ✓ Agenda must list the specific matters to be discussed, decided, or considered.
- Minutes must be taken and made available



# Staff Presentation Items

## AZ Open Meeting Law

### Can the Board Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda?

No, can only discuss or take action on items adequately described on the agenda and all discussions on the agenda item must be “reasonably” related to it.

### Can the Board Respond to Questions or Comments from Citizens Present?

No. Open meeting law does not permit members to discuss matters raised during “Items from Citizens Present” unless the specific matter is properly noticed on the agenda.

# Staff Presentation Items

## AZ Open Meeting Law

### Violations

Actions taken by the Board may be null and void

Attorney General or County Attorney may investigate

### Potential Penalties

Civil penalty each violation

Removal of a board member if court determines intent to deprive and knowingly violates

Assess the board member with all costs awarded to the plaintiff.

May not spend public monies for legal counsel.

# Staff Presentation Items

## Roles, Powers, and Duties

### Role of the Historic Preservation Board

#### Design Review

- Appeal body
- Updates to design guidelines

#### Historic Designations

- Designate properties for listing on the MHPR
- Ideas for future areas for designation

#### Help Maintain MHPR

- Educational outreach to historic property owners
- Resources for property owners – funding resources, handbook, website
- Demolition policy



# Staff Presentation Items

## Roles, Powers, and Duties

### ○ Powers and Duties

(A) **Review and make recommendations** on any matter or request or appeal that will appear on an agenda before the Downtown Development Committee or Planning and Zoning Board or City Council **involving sites nominated or approved for Historic Landmark (HL) or Historic Preservation (HP) overlay district, or other matters involving general historic preservation** issues as they pertain to Mesa.

(B) **Hold public hearings and make recommendations** to the Downtown Development Committee or Planning and Zoning Board on **requests for amendments to the zoning map and Zoning Ordinance regarding Historic Preservation (HP) overlay districts and designation of Historic Landmarks (HL)** within the corporate City limits.

### ○ Powers and Duties

**(C) Hear and decide appeals from the decisions of the Historic Preservation Officer regarding proposed development, renovation, additions, alterations, or demolition of buildings and structures or sites designated or nominated Historic Landmark (HL) or within Historic Preservation (HP) overlay districts** for the purpose of deciding whether clearance for a building permit should be issued. The review shall be limited to building size, scale, exterior elevation, design, color, and appearance to assure compatibility with the historic character of the property, neighborhood, and environment.

**(D) Establish and maintain the Mesa Historic Property Register and periodically conduct studies** for the purpose of assessing the potential of buildings, structures, or areas for designation as historic sites or districts.

### ○ Powers and Duties

**(E) Hear and/or make recommendations to the City Council and periodically review guidelines to evaluate requests for development, renovation, alteration to historic districts, landmarks, and historic properties, or demolition of buildings and structures on sites designated as historic districts or historic landmarks.** Such guidelines may include building location, minimum yard sizes, average heights, materials, color, architectural features, and other characteristics and cultural features found in the approved district.

**(F) Hear and/or make recommendations to the City Council regarding acquisition by the City** of structures or easements for maintenance or repair of structures **for their preservation**, where private preservation is not feasible.

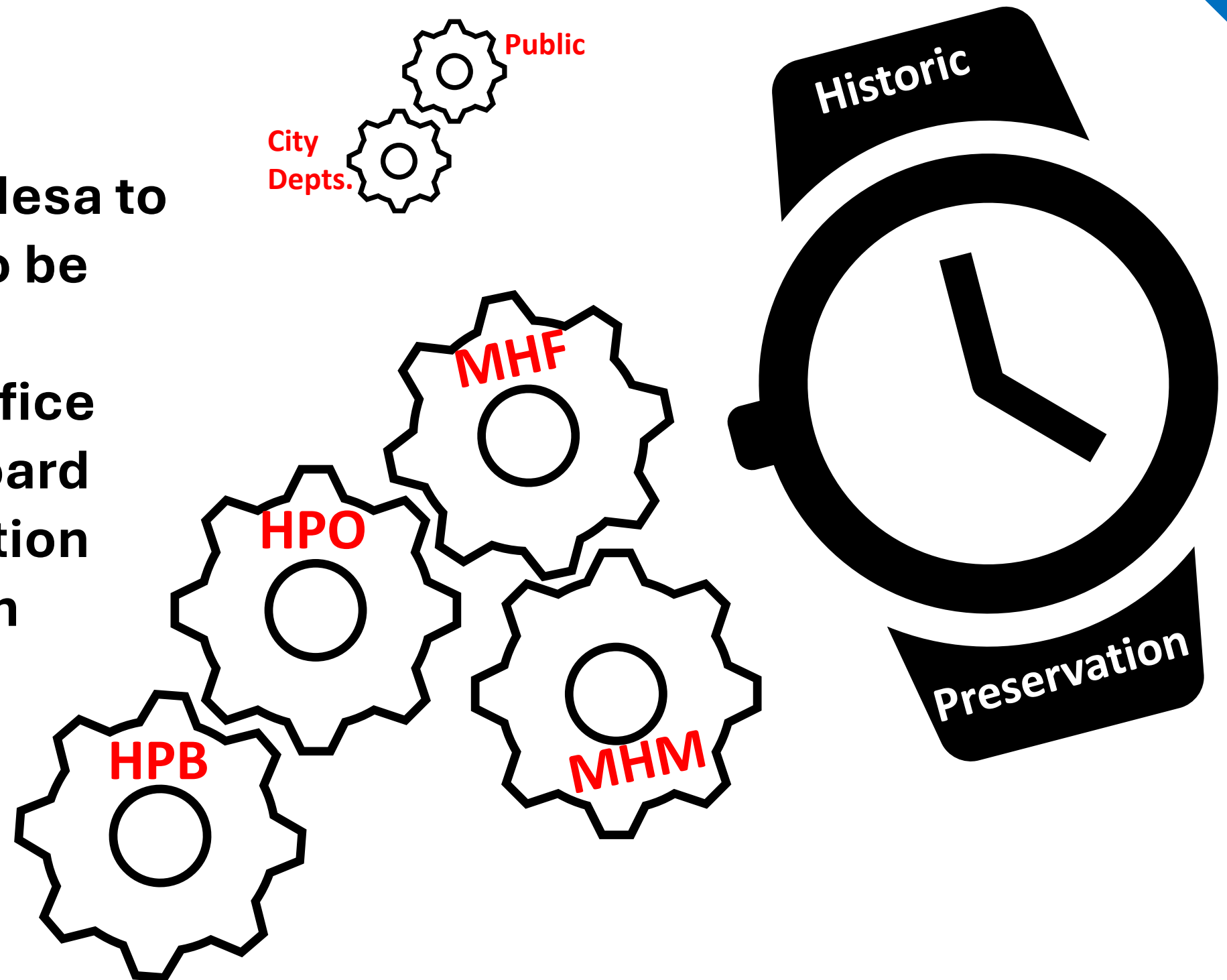
**(G) Hear and/or make recommendations on other matters as directed by the City Council.**

### Collaborative Efforts

For Historic Preservation in Mesa to be successful, there needs to be collaboration

- Historic Preservation Office
- Historic Preservation Board
- Mesa Historical Foundation
- Mesa Historical Museum

Additional support from  
the public and other City  
departments





### HPO acts as a Facilitator.

**Successful Historic Preservation in Mesa means that the Staff and the Board must work together with the understanding that:**

- **Staff can support the goals of the Board**
- **Staff can provide a forum for Historic Preservation activities**
- **Staff responsibility and process outlined in Mesa City Code**



# HP Board Retreat – 2026

## Break!

**BREAK  
Time!**

### 2025-2026 HP Update:

- Alston House Project
- Sirrine House Project
- Archaeology Recap
- Lehi Story Map
- Washington-Escobedo Story Map
- HP GIS Map Updates
- LM Discrepancy Issue with SHPO





### 2025-2026 HP Update:

- Downtown Façade Project
- Historic LM Designation Discrepancy
- Mesa Architectural History Story Map
- PIRATE MOA
- Text Amendments
- Design Guidelines





### Zoning Code Text Amendments

- Centralizes Historic Preservation within the Zoning Code
  - Streamlines this portion of the code
  - Combines HD and HL overlays into single HP overlay
  - Adds archaeology section
- Adds additional definitions pertaining to Historic Preservation



### Design Guidelines

- Provide a framework for evaluating projects (COA).
- Decision-making tool for the Historic Preservation Office, the Historic Preservation Board, the Planning and Zoning Board, the Mesa City Council, and property owners.
- Support property owners, local professionals, architects, contractors, and City officials, in understanding how to preserve and enhance the unique qualities of these historic areas.

### 2026-2027 HP Workplan:

- Landmarking City Buildings
- Code Amendment Updates
- Design Guidelines
- Buckhorn Baths
- Alston House
- Student Art & Essay Contest
- Urban Transformation Grant
- Sirrine House Project
- SHPO Reginal Meeting
- Main Street Clock
- Story Maps





# Staff Presentation Items

## HP Workplan



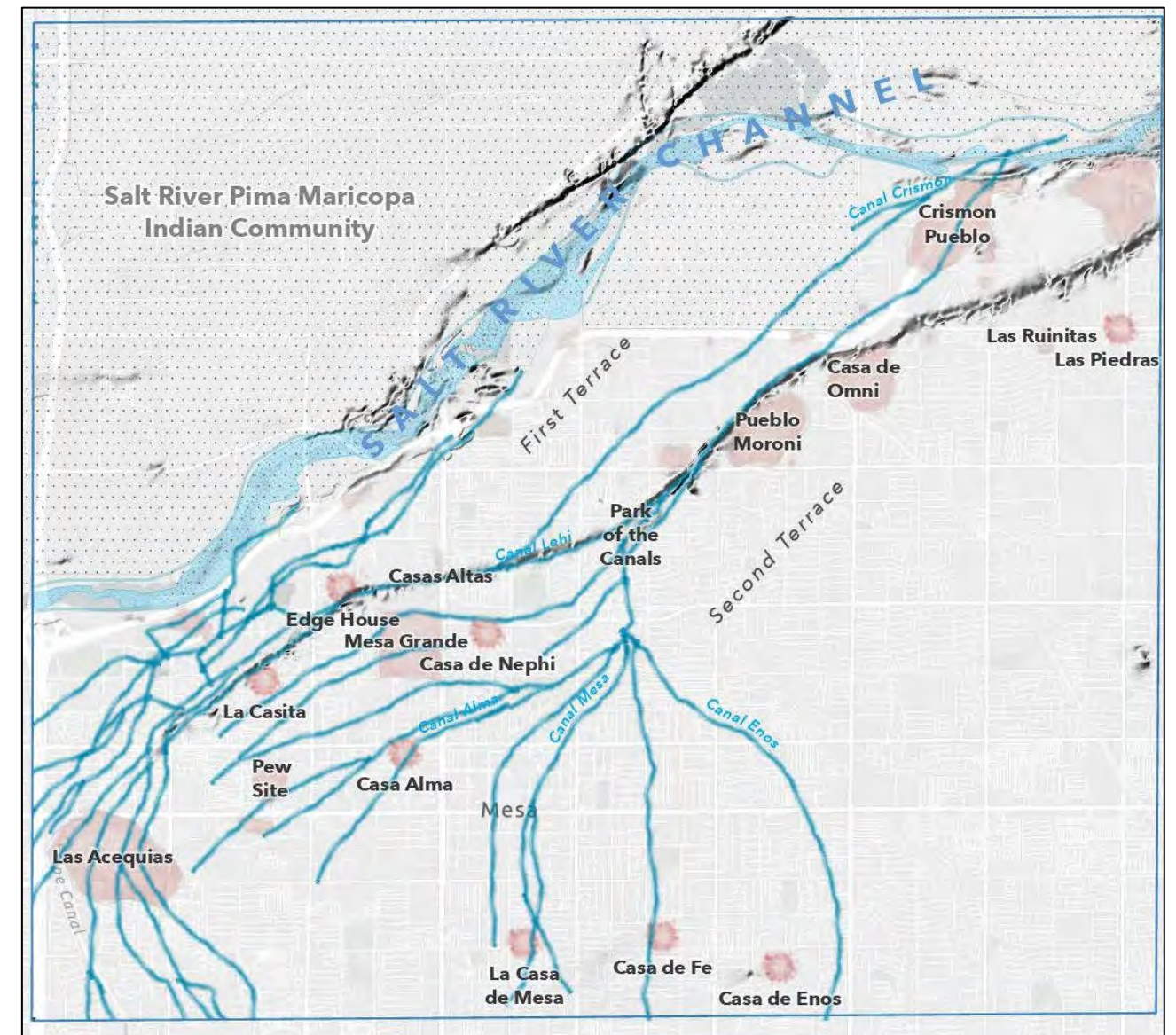


# Staff Presentation Items

## Archaeology Workplan

### 2026-2027 Archaeology Workplan:

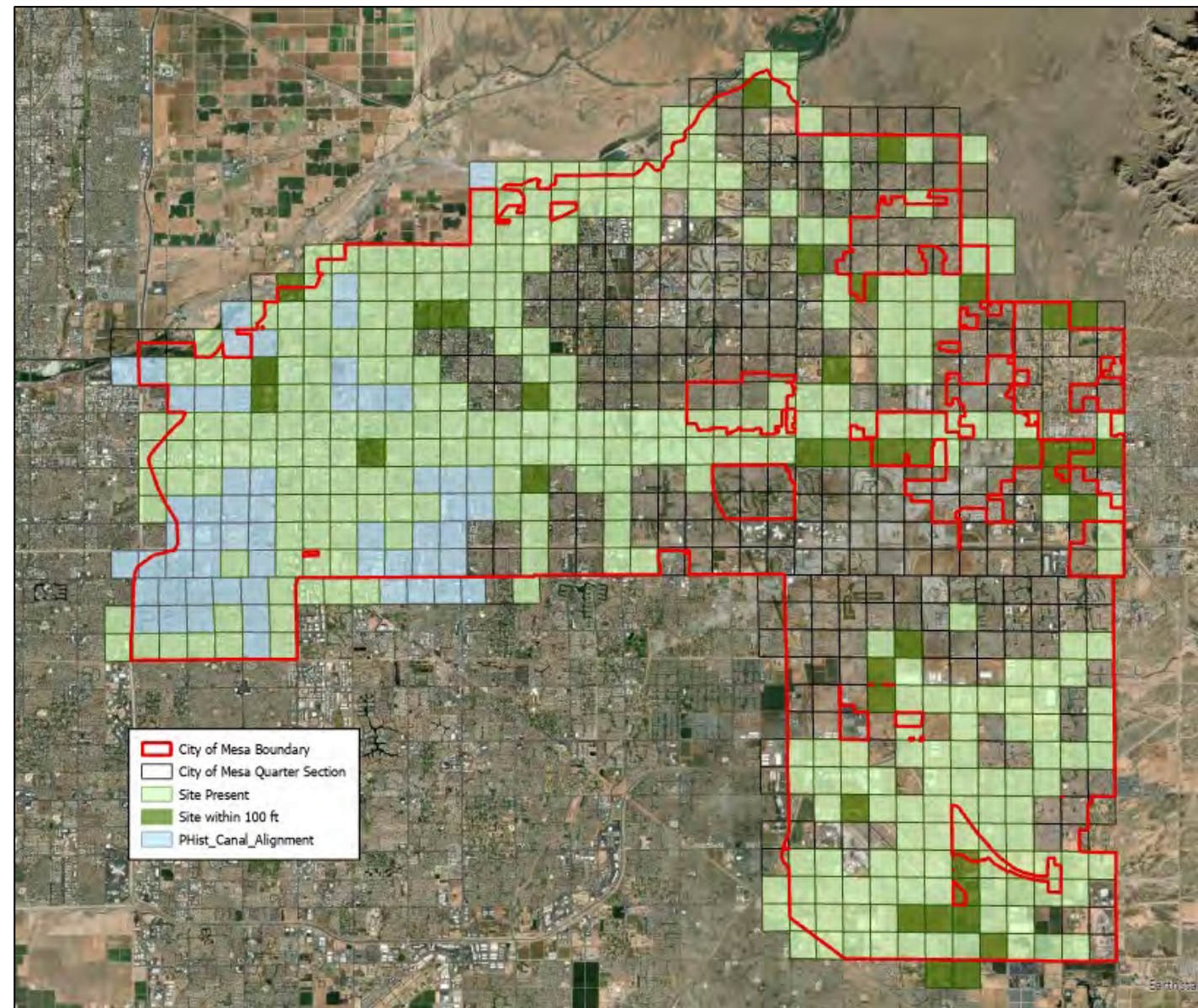
- Cultural Resources Review
- Stakeholder Communication
- Strategic Planning





## Strengthen Cultural Resources Compliance and Review

- Create cultural resource geodatabase and sensitivity mapping tool





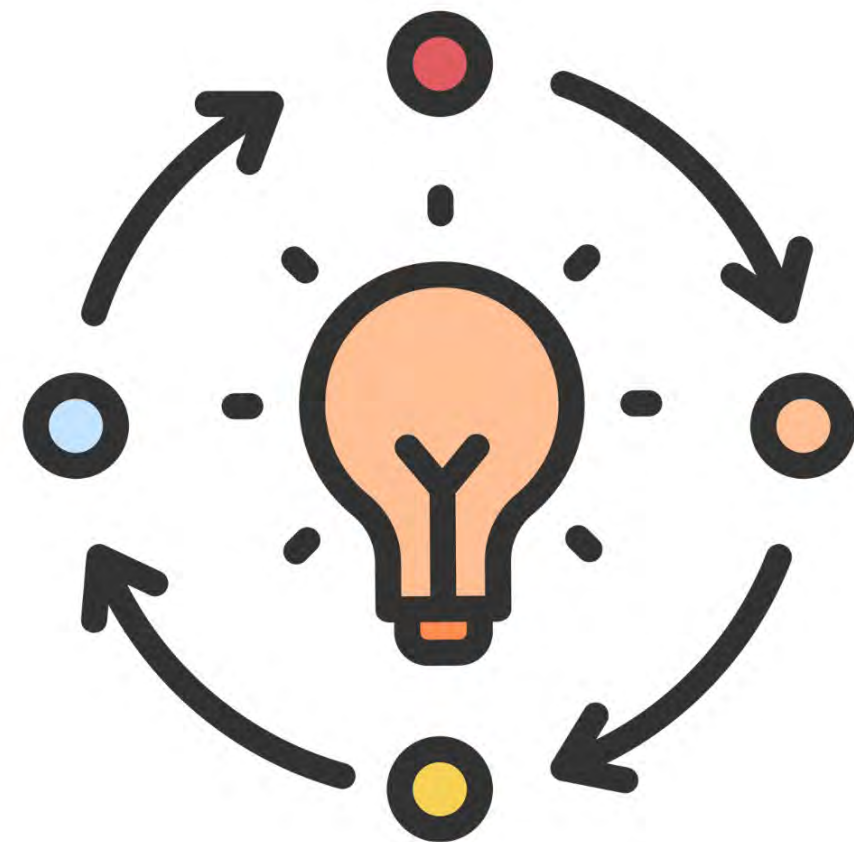
### Foster Relationships with Stakeholders

- Line of communication with partner agencies
- Outreach protocol
- Text amendments to include Archaeological Resources



### Strategic Planning for Long-Range Goals

- Municipal best practices & tools
- Compliance training
- Building internal partnerships
- Public education / outreach





# 2026 Historic Preservation Mesa Student Art & Essay Contest

*Celebrating National  
Historic Preservation Month*

— PRESENTED BY —

**The Mesa Historic Preservation Board**

and

**The Mesa Historic Preservation Office**

All School-Age Residents Are Eligible To Apply!

Mesa students in Kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible for the arts contest. Mesa students in 4th through 12th grade are eligible for the essay and arts contest.

**Entries Are Due By March 24, 2026**

Awards will be given to students and teachers in each category for grades K-3, 4-6, and 7-12. To see full contest information, please scan the QR Code below.



## 2026 Historic Preservation Month Student Essay & Art ★ Contest ★

- Celebrating Mesa's history
- All Mesa students – Grades K-12 eligible
- Submission deadline: **March 24**
- New Group Project this Year!
- Prizes for all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and group project



# Staff Presentation Items

## CLG & Community Outreach

**In 1776, the United States declared independence!**

- Much has been accomplished over these 250 years in the United States of America
- Highlights provided through the year
  - HPB meetings
  - 2026 Art and Essay Contest



### Community Outreach

- Continue with Community Meetings
- Update existing HP materials (maps/guides)



# HP Board Retreat – 2026

## Auditorium Tour

**Field  
Trip!**

# HP Board Retreat – 2026

## Lunch Time

**Time for  
LUNCH!**



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2026



Saturday, January 11, 2025

# HP Board Discussion



# Final Thoughts

## HP Board Retreat – 2026





# Historic Preservation Office

## HP Board Retreat – 2026

### Contact Info:

**HistoricPreservation@mesaaz.gov**

**55 N Center St  
Mesa, AZ**



# Adjournment

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