



City of Arts & Innovation

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City of Riverside's Continued Leadership in Historic Preservation and Community Revitalization Highlighted at 50th Annual California Preservation Conference

Conference held in Riverside for the first time since 2005 brought statewide historic preservation professionals and advocates together for sessions, tours, and awards recognizing excellence.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Riverside welcomed nearly 600 historic preservation professionals, planners, architects, historians, and community advocates from across the state as the host city for the 50th Annual California Preservation Foundation Preservation Conference.

The four-day conference May 6–9 at the Riverside Convention Center and venues throughout downtown marked a significant milestone for the organization and the City of Riverside, where the first conference was held in 1976. The last time Riverside hosted the conference was in 2005.

“From the Mission Inn to Victoria Avenue, historic preservation is baked into Riverside’s DNA,” Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson said. “It is gratifying to see the conference that started in Riverside 50 years ago return to a place that values historic preservation so much.”

“Past Meets Possible: Reimagining Place and Purpose” was this year’s theme for the conference and focused on how historic preservation can address contemporary issues including housing, sustainability, economic revitalization, and community identity. More than 40 educational sessions, mobile workshops, networking events, and site tours highlighted innovative preservation practices and historic resources throughout Riverside and the Inland Southern California region.

Conference sessions explored topics ranging from adaptive reuse and preservation planning to equity in heritage conservation and emerging technologies in historic documentation. Attendees also participated in tours and workshops showcasing Riverside’s historic neighborhoods, cultural landmarks, and ongoing revitalization projects.

Sabrina Gonzalez, Executive Director of the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California, gave the keynote address and spoke about the importance of preserving and interpreting diverse community

histories and ensuring that preservation efforts reflect the full cultural story of California's communities.

The 44th Annual California Preservation Awards were held on the last evening of the conference at the historic Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. The awards ceremony recognized exemplary preservation projects and leadership from across California.

Among the evening's honorees was the Farm House Collective, which received a prestigious Trustees' Award recognizing excellence in historic preservation and adaptive reuse. The project transformed the former Farm House Motel into a revitalized community-oriented destination while preserving the site's historic character and architectural identity. The recognition highlighted Riverside's continued leadership in preservation, adaptive reuse, and community revitalization efforts.

"The Farm House Collective receiving one of California's highest awards for exceptional work in the field of historic preservation speaks volumes to their great attention to detail and respect for our city's historic built environment," City Councilmember Philip Falcone said. "This has proven to be a blueprint for success for other projects that wish to develop, grow, and revitalize historic buildings across Riverside."

The return of the California Preservation Conference to Riverside for its 50th anniversary underscored the city's longstanding role in California's preservation movement and its continued commitment to protecting and celebrating historic resources for future generations.

For more information about the conference and awards program, visit [California Preservation Foundation Conference](#) and [California Preservation Awards](#).