



Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Historic Landscapes Subcommittee
Legal Action Report

March 25, 2026

The Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission conducted a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, at 10:00 a.m. hybrid via Zoom and at Pima Community College, Downtown Campus, Advanced Manufacturing Building, M335 Conference Room, 1255 N. Queen Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85709

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Erickson at 10:03 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Helen Erickson, Chair
Blake Houghton
Tim Hagyard
Jessica Bassi
J.J. Lamb (Arrived 10:14)

Guests:

Stephen Grede, TPCHC Non-Voting Advisory Member
Jonathan Knighton-Wisor, Cultural Resources Manager, City of Tucson
(COT) Historic Preservation Office
Teresa Vasquez, HSL Properties
Tim Smith, Swaim Associates
Eric Barrett, Arc Studios
Anne Lopez, Public Art and Community Design Committee
Yu Yu Shiratori, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
Caleb Ortega, Storm to Shade
Eliot Welch, Project Manager, City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
Sadie Shaw, Public Art and Community Design Administrator
Kelly Wiehe, Cultural Affairs Officer, City of Tucson
Demion Clinco, CEO, Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation
Enya Cid, Student, University of Arizona

2. Approval of Historic Landscapes Subcommittee LAR/Minutes from Meeting of: 2-25-2026 (Discussion/Action)

Commissioner Hagyard moved to approve the minutes of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee meeting of 12-18-2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bassi and passed by a roll call vote of 4-0. (Commissioner Lamb was not yet

present)

3. Review Cases(Discussion/Action)

- a. SD-0326-00035/TD-DEV-0126-00003
181 W Broadway Blvd (Parcel #11720019C, 11720019B)
Hotel Arizona

Eric Barrett and Tim Smith presented a proposal for the rehabilitation of the Hotel Arizona. The project involves renovating the existing hotel, improving accessibility, and adding an exterior dining patio. Key features included a new accessible route with ramps leading to the Historic Plaza, plantings along the west side, and a pedestrian bridge connecting to the plaza. The design plans highlighted the preservation of historical elements while incorporating modern updates. The discussion also covered landscape considerations, including tree species selection and fire access requirements due to nearby light rail and power lines. Commissioners suggested that the project might incorporate a mural on the west side of the hotel to memorialize the immediate adjacency of Main Avenue/Calle Real/Butterfield National Historic Trail to that side of the building. Ms. Vasquez noted that black and white images had been approved by Hyatt, but that a mural would require further discussion.

Commissioner Hagyard moved and Commissioner Lamb seconded that the Subcommittee recognizes and appreciates the sensitive rehabilitation of the hotel and surrounding landscape within the historic context of the Eckbo-designed Tucson Community Center Landscape and recommended that the plan be passed as presented. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- b. *Turnkey* sculptures by Charles Alfred Clement
949 E 35th St (Parcel #129133250)

The evaluation of this sculptural group by the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee was requested by Mr. James Glock of the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona, who serves on Public Art and Community Design Committee.

Mr. Clinco presented an overview of the Charles Clement Turnkey project, discussing the artist's background and the history of the 16 sculptures originally created for a federal housing development in the 1960s and 1970s. He explained that the sculptures were removed and relocated without consultation with the Charles Clement estate or family, resulting in poor maintenance and the complete loss of at least two of them. Demion requested that the surviving sculptures be entrusted to the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation for proper conservation, interpretation, and long-term stewardship at the Bondante house, which was designed by Clement and recently renovated by TPCHC. In this context the sculptures as a group would be open to view by the public.

Discussion focused on the significance and integrity of the group of sculptures. Commissioners quickly agreed that the group was significant in their relationship with the sculptor, but that the Integrity of the group was greatly diminished due to the loss of location, design, setting, and feeling.

Commissioner Bassi moved and Commissioner Hagyard seconded that given the significance of the group as the work of Charles Clement and the diminished integrity of the ensemble as a whole, the remaining sculptures would be best served by relocation to the Bondante House, where they could be appropriately maintained and be viewed by the public. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

c. El Pueblo Complex (El Pueblo Park)

Eliot Welch and Caleb Ortega presented an overview of plans for improvements to the Richard Ortiz Barker Regional Complex. Given lack of time to review all aspects of the projects, this review focused on Storm to Shade's green stormwater infrastructure project, which received a \$720,000 grant from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona. The plan will remove 18,000 square feet of ornamental turf and replace it with GSI features, along with renovating an additional 50,000 square feet throughout the center. The first phase is set to break ground in April, addressing the turf removal area and preserving mature honey mesquite trees. Additional projects will be reviewed at future meetings.

Commissioner Hagyard moved and Commissioner Bassi seconded that the Storm to Shade plan for El Pueblo Park be approved as presented; other projects for El Pueblo Park will be reviewed in subsequent meetings. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

d. Armory Park Informational Signage

Due to lack of time, this item will be reviewed at the April meeting of the subcommittee.

4. Potential Options for the Interpretation of the Butterfield Trail in Tucson and Pima County (Discussion/Action)

Due to lack of time, this item will be reviewed at the April meeting of the subcommittee.

5. Next Meeting: April 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

This subcommittee will hold a hybrid meeting at 10:00 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

6. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

Future agenda items must be communicated to Chair Erickson no later than the third Wednesday of the month preceding the meeting.

Agenda items for the April meeting will include Armory Park Informational Signage and the protection and interpretation of the Butterfield National Historic Trail in Pima County will be on this agenda.

7. Call to the Audience (Information Only)

No public comments were received by the posted deadline.

University of Arizona student Enya Cid introduced herself and explained that she was

working on a preservation plan for the Bondante House as part of her coursework.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.