

Historic Design Guidelines

The City of Bristol, Tennessee is working closely with Historic Preservationist Phil Thomason of Nashville's Thomason & Associates to develop official design guidelines for the City's Downtown, Fairmount, and Holston Avenue historic districts. The process began with public sessions on Dec. 10, 2019, during which Thomason outlined the purpose of design guidelines and the ways they can benefit the City and its historic districts.

Thomason has assisted dozens of communities throughout the U.S. with similar projects since establishing his firm in 1982. Thomason is no stranger to Bristol. He prepared National Register nominations for the Bristol, TN/VA Commercial District, and consulted on the Bristol Renaissance Center/E.W. King building renovation. He also prepared multiple National Register nominations in Bristol, VA, including; the Solar Hill Historic District, the Bristol Warehouse Historic District, and the Virginia Hills Historic District.

As the process moves forward in the coming months, the City will hold additional workshops for the public to review and comment on the draft and final versions of the design guidelines. Once complete, the City may consider the establishment of a Historic Zoning Commission to oversee projects in historic districts. Many neighboring communities, including Kingsport, Johnson City, Blountville, and Elizabethton, already have historic design guidelines in place.

For additional information about the Historic Design Guidelines, please contact Planning Services Manager Cherith Young at (423) 989-5518 or email cyoung@bristoltn.org.