



A Partnership to  
Preserve Pensacola's Past  
in Perpetuity



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Florida State Museum



Historic Preservation, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Pensacola Historical Society Inc., (PHS) offers the following conceptual framework for a partnership agreement between the PHS and West Florida Historic Preservation Inc. (WFHPI).

## **Background**

The Pensacola Historical Society was founded February 14, 1933 with twenty-one members. It was chartered as a non-profit educational organization on March 25, 1933. In 1960 the PHS opened the Pensacola Historical Museum in Old Christ Church. In 1992, the PHS expanded and moved its archives and library to the second floor of the Simons Building located at 110 East Church Street. In 1996 the PHS left Old Christ Church and opened the Pensacola Historical Museum in the historic Arbona Building located at 115 East Zaragosa Street.

For nearly seventy-five years, the Pensacola Historical Society has worked to preserve Pensacola history through maintaining publicly accessible research and exhibition facilities whose mission is to promote scholarship, exhibition, and publication. During this time, the PHS has developed a strong reputation as a publisher of historical books, magazines and maps.

The PHS preserves and protects many one-of-a-kind artifacts and manuscript materials. The PHS owns over 100,000 photographs, offering rare views of the area's history.

## **Proposal**

To accomplish this partnership, Legislative requirements mandate that the Board of Directors of the Pensacola Historical Society gift all of its assets, including buildings, collections, archives, furnishings, and funds to the University of West Florida Foundation, Inc., for management by West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.

## **Benefit**

The PHS and WFHPI offer complementary, not competing programs. WFHPI is active in the areas of museum exhibition, living history program development, and historic preservation. The PHS is active in the areas of research, publication, and membership program support. Officially linking these two organizations via a partnership will allow the development of comprehensive programs in museum studies, interpretation, archives management, and historic preservation.

The public will also benefit because the synergy created by this partnership will reduce confusion between the organizations. For example, there will be a single membership program that covers the programs of both groups. Tours and heritage education programming will be promoted via a united organization. Additionally, this partnership will ensure that the activities and resources of the PHS are maintained in perpetuity.

## **Financial Impact**

The University will assume a significant financial responsibility from this partnership. The two buildings proposed to be gifted will require the application of formula funding to cover the cost

of operation and maintenance. The two buildings represent a total of 15,930 square feet of space which will require annual support from the University of \$94,624.20.

Additionally, staff will be needed to manage the activities of the PHS. Initial estimates indicate that \$149,600 will be needed annually (including benefits) to support this activity.

The PHS will provide \$800,000 to the UWF Foundation for an endowment to offset the operational expenses of the PHS. This endowment will be matched at 70%, raising the corpus of the gift to \$1,360,000. This fund will provide 4% (currently \$54,400) for operation costs annually to fund grant matching requirements and membership program support activities. Based upon the average growth over the last three years, this fund will also return 7% (or \$95,200) back to the endowment corpus. At that rate of growth, the endowment will exceed \$2,000,000 in six years.

### **Use of Pensacola Historical Society Name**

The PHS will retain the name Pensacola Historical Society as an organizational division of WFHPI.

### **Activities**

The Pensacola Historical Society, as an organization division of WFHPI, will continue its activities related to research, publication, and membership program support.

### **Dissolution of West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc.**

If in the future WFHPI is dissolved, the collections, archives, and buildings gifted under this proposal will be assigned to a successor agency of WFHPI having the same mission in partnership with UWF.