

# Salt Lake City Historical Markers Pilot Program FAQs

## Historical Markers: Pilot Program Goal & Lifespan

What is the goal of the Salt Lake City Historical Markers Pilot Program?

The goal of the Salt Lake City Historical Markers Pilot Program is to commemorate and preserve significant historical events, people, places, or structures within Salt Lake City. Additionally, the program aims to raise public awareness about local history, promote appreciation for cultural heritage, and foster a sense of community pride.

Will this be a program be repeated?

We'll evaluate the pilot program and determine its future administration based on continued funding and the success of the pilot program.

Will applications be kept on a rolling basis or will requestors need to reapply each cycle?

If the program continues, requesters will need to reapply during the applicable cycle. This is to encourage ongoing participation from local stakeholders and ensure that the markers reflect the evolving interests and perspectives of the community.

## Historical Markers: General Information

What is a historical marker? How does that differ from monuments and memorials?

A historical marker is a physical sign or plaque erected at a specific location to commemorate a significant historical event, person, or place. It is primarily informative, providing brief information about the historical significance of the site.

A historical landmark or monument is a physical structure or area that holds cultural, historical, architectural, or archaeological significance. A landmark or monument often serves as a tangible symbol or memorial of historical importance. While they each preserve and celebrate history, they serve different functions and levels of recognition within the cultural landscape.

## Where can I access a list of current Salt Lake City historical markers?

Currently, there is no citywide, statewide, or national repository system for historical markers. Further, each organization with existing historical marker programs track markers using different methods and systems.

- [Click here to learn about Salt Lake City's current historic preservation efforts, processes and Historic Landmark Commission.](#)
- [Click here to learn about the Utah Historical Society's database for historical markers and monuments.](#)
- [Click here to see the Utah State Historic Preservation Office's Historic Utah Buildings Web Viewer.](#)
- [Click here to see the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Markers repository.](#)

## Historical Markers: Request & Approval Process

### Who can request a historical marker?

Sponsoring organizations that operate within Salt Lake City boundaries can submit a request. This includes:

- Businesses
- Nonprofits
- Chambers of Commerce
- Community Centers
- Community Councils

### What information do I need to provide in the Historical Marker Request Form?

The Salt Lake City Historical Marker Request Form will prompt requesters to provide:

- Supporting documentation
- Contact information
- Details about the historical markers
- Type of marker: event, person, structure or site
- Location
- Historical relevance
- Represented community

### Are there guidelines for the wording or content of historical markers?

Sponsoring organizations may include their preferred wording and content for the desired historical marker. In this case, the wording or content should:

- Accurately represent the historical event, person, structure or site being commemorated;
- Be clear, concise and understandable to a general audience;
- Avoid complex language, jargon, or tangential information; and

- Strive to present information in an impartial manner, avoiding biased or controversial language.

NOTE: The final historical marker plaque wording/content will be determined by the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Access & Belonging, in collaboration with the internal review committee – composed of local expert historians and program stakeholders.

### Who decides if my historical marker is approved?

The Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Access & Belonging, with support from the Human Rights Commission, will determine what historical markers are approved.

### Is there any criteria the Mayor's Office of Access & Belonging and Human Rights Commission will use to determine awardees?

To determine final awardees, submissions will be assessed on the following criterion:

1. Complete Form Submission: The requestor must be a Salt Lake City sponsoring organization and the form must be complete upon submission.
2. Historical Significance: The event, person, or place being commemorated should have significant historical importance to Salt Lake City and should represent a meaningful aspect of our city's local history, culture, or heritage.
3. Accuracy and Authenticity: The information provided in the application should be well-researched and accurate with appropriate supporting documentation and credible sources.
4. Documentation and Evidence: The supporting documentation and evidence should bolster the application's credibility. This may include historical documents, photographs, maps, newspaper articles, oral histories, and other primary sources that help to substantiate the significance of the subject being commemorated.
5. Relevance: The historical marker should resonate with Salt Lake City residents and communities and should make a clear connection to current issues and/or themes that are important to the local community.
6. Accessibility: The submission demonstrates physical (location, pathways, surface, elevation, and reach), cognitive (simple and clear language), and technology (web compatibility, if applicable) accessibility considerations. [Click here for a detailed explanation of these accessibility considerations.](#)
7. Community Support: There should be clear support from local community and stakeholders, such as historical societies, local government officials, community organizations, businesses, and residents for the proposed marker.
8. Long-Term Maintenance: The requestor demonstrates consideration for long-term maintenance of the marker.
9. Access & Belonging: The submission exhibits a strong commitment to promoting access and belonging within the community.

10. Preservation of Salt Lake City History: The submission demonstrates a strong commitment to preserving and protecting the historical integrity of the city's people, landmarks, buildings, sites, and cultural heritage.
11. Commemorates Under-Told Salt Lake City History: The submission commemorates Salt Lake City under-told history. [NOTE: "Under-told history" refers to historical narratives, events, experiences, and perspectives that have been overlooked, marginalized, or neglected in mainstream historical accounts. These are often stories of groups or individuals whose contributions, struggles, achievements, or perspectives have been underrepresented or ignored in traditional historical discourse.]

### What happens after a marker is approved?

After the historical marker is approved, the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Access & Belonging will work to review and vet the historical event, person, structure or site; finalize information to be included on the historical marker plaque; purchase the plaque; and coordinate placement of the plaque. The timeline of these events is undetermined, but we will update the awardee on anticipated timeframes throughout the process.

### How are designs chosen?

The design of the Salt Lake City historical marker will be determined by the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Access & Belonging.

### Will there be an opportunity for public comment before a marker is placed?

Yes, there will be an opportunity for public comment at the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission meeting(s) on March 4th and/or May 6th, 2025. If you have additional questions, email [BelongingSLC@slc.gov](mailto:BelongingSLC@slc.gov).

### Who pays for the historical markers?

Salt Lake City Corporation will pay for and install the historical marker plaque.

## Historical Markers: Boundaries & Locations

### Are there restrictions on where historical markers can be placed?

A historical marker must be located within Salt Lake City boundaries.

Salt Lake City aims for all markers to be appropriately located, visible, and respectful of the historical significance of the commemorated site or event. We will determine the placement on a case-by-case basis, guided by factors such as:

- Historical significance,

- Community input,
- Regulatory requirements, and
- Practical considerations (e.g., respecting the surrounding environment and cultural context).

Can I propose multiple historical markers for different sites or events?

Yes. To ensure that a diverse range of historical events, people, and places are considered for commemoration, requesters can propose multiple historical markers for different sites or events.

What happens if my historical marker is in a public right of way?

If the historical marker is in a public right of way, more steps may be involved in the approval process. Considerations may include:

- Compliance with accessibility standards,
- Regulatory approval,
- Coordination with public works,
- Safety,
- Maintenance responsibility,
- Liability issues,
- Community input and engagement, and
- Compliance with accessibility standards.

Can I request a historical marker for a site that's privately owned?

No, we will not allow for submissions on privately owned property. However, submissions that fall within a public right of way near or next to privately owned property will be considered.

Can I request a temporary historic marker for a special event or occasion?

At this time, we will not be accepting requests for temporary historic markers recognizing special events or occasions. The historical markers are intended to be permanent installations that commemorate Salt Lake City history.

## Historical Markers: Maintenance

Who is responsible for maintaining installed historic markers?

The sponsoring organization is responsible for maintenance of the historical marker, including overseeing plaque repairs.

Questions? Email [BelongingSLC@slc.gov](mailto:BelongingSLC@slc.gov).