



101 East Kansas St. • Liberty, MO 64068 • P: 816.439.4415 • F: 816.439.4419 • W: [www.libertymo.gov](http://www.libertymo.gov)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: January 30, 2020

CONTACT: Jeanine Thill, Community Development Manager, 816.439.4537 or [jthill@libertymo.gov](mailto:jthill@libertymo.gov)

### **City of Liberty to develop a historic preservation plan with help of federal grant, consultant and community input**

**LIBERTY, Mo.** – The Liberty City Council approved a contract with Heritage Strategies, LLC, on January 27 to undertake a historic preservation plan that will ultimately become a part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

The plan, which is made possible with a \$25,000 federal grant, is intended to provide an assessment of the overall preservation needs of the community and clearly identify areas of interest, including neighborhoods that are, and will become, 45 years old in the next decade. When completed, the plan will provide the City with historic preservation goals and objectives and a path for implementation.

Elizabeth Watson, a principal of Heritage Strategies, will meet with the Historic District Review Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30 pm at City Hall to discuss the project and intended results. This meeting is open to the public.

Watson is a regional planner who focuses on historic preservation, heritage areas, and cultural landscapes. She is a co-author of *Saving America’s Countryside*, an award-winning book published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1997. With her

*(more)*

business partner, preservation architect Peter Benton, Watson has previously worked on preservation plans for Joplin and Jefferson City.

“I’m pleased to be able to return to Missouri once again to work on another community so interested in investing in the planning needed for long-term success in preservation,” says Watson. “Preservation is about much more than saving one building at a time – it’s an economic development approach perfectly suited to a city like Liberty with so many fine historic districts and buildings.”

Steeped in history that dates back to the early 1800s, Liberty is already home to five local historic districts that contain buildings and neighborhoods with unique and architectural significance and six districts and eight individual properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Based in Birchrunville, PA, and Chestertown, MD, Heritage Strategies focuses on working with teams and communities to enhance great places and pursue great missions, from sites to landscapes. In their 10 years together at Heritage Strategies, Watson and Benton have led or participated in plans for greenways, scenic byways, and National Heritage Areas, as well as historic preservation plans for historic communities.

As part of the process, the City of Liberty and Heritage Strategies will host several public meetings to gain input from Liberty stakeholders in the coming months.

For more information, call Jeanine Thill at 439.4537.

###