Attachment E: Summary of Planning Commission and Board Input (Cultural Resources)

The following is a summary of previous Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors input on Cultural Resources topics:

Strengthen protections for historic, scenic, and cultural resources

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission recommended investigating additional legal tools that the County could use to protect historic resources. The Commission felt that currently there is too much reliance on individual property owners to protect resources voluntarily. The Commission was supportive of creating a local historic preservation ordinance. To better protect resources, the Commission was supportive of the County creating a more comprehensive inventory of historic and cultural resources, including County-owned resources.
- January 17, 2024 BOS work session: The Board supported stronger requirements for historic preservation, with some Board members recommending a historic preservation ordinance. The Board also supported stronger requirements for lighting to protect dark skies. The Board requested updated guidelines for Entrance Corridors (including for improved streetscapes) and enhanced management of roadway litter and signage. The Board requested that historic cemetery protection be included as an action.

Incorporate more inclusive histories and under-told narratives into local historic preservation

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission recommended uplifting under-told histories in Albemarle County and to better protect and recognize associated resources, including historic Free Town communities, historic resources built by enslaved laborers, and displaced communities such as Native American communities and former communities in what is now Shenandoah National Park. Some Commissioners also supported protections for historic resources that are not as widely recognized, such as smaller buildings and houses.
- January 17, 2024 BOS work session: The Board also supported the Commission's recommendations regarding more inclusive histories and narratives, including for historic African American communities and smaller and less recognized resources.

Encourage adaptive reuse of historic structures where feasible

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission recommended strengthening incentives and/or requirements for adaptive reuse, in part to reduce demolition of historic resources.
- January 17, 2024 BOS work session: The Board also supported adaptive reuse of some historic structures, including for community resilience hubs. The Board cited maintaining the historic integrity of historic structures as a challenge with adaptive reuse.

Add in recommendations related to current cultural resources (e.g. events, tourism)

- October 10, 2023 PC work session: The Commission asked staff to consider how to better incorporate artisans, crafters, musicians, and other artists into the recommendations for this chapter. This could include opportunities to support tourism and shopping at local businesses.
- January 17, 2024 BOS work session: The Board supported the Commission's recommendation to include a section on current arts and culture in Albemarle County, including making ties to tourism.