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Annual Historic Preservation Commissioners Forum on April 29 in Sylacauga

The Sylacauga Historic Preservation Commission is hosting the annual Historic Preservation Commissioners Forum on April 29 from 9:00 to 4:00 at the BB Comer Memorial Library located at 314 N Broadway Street. Registration begins at 8:30.

This workshop provides training for local historic preservation commission members and staff participating in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. Communities interested in becoming a CLG are also encouraged to send representatives.

The featured Speaker is Thompson M. Mayes, deputy general counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has special expertise in architectural and technical preservation issues, preservation easements, and local land use issues. Chloe Mercer of the Alabama Historical Commission will discuss the federal rehabilitation tax credit and the state property tax reduction programs available for income-producing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Participants will also enjoy lunch at the Marble City Grill, tour of the Blue Bell Creameries facilities, and tour the Marble Festival Sculpting Exhibit.

The Certified Local Government Program is a preservation partnership between local, state and national governments focused on promoting historic preservation at the grass roots level. The program is jointly administered by the National Park Service and Alabama Historical Commission. Cities participating in the Certified Local Government program have established local historic preservation commissions by city ordinance. These commissions provide oversight to local historic preservation projects and can recommend designation of local historic districts and landmarks to the city council. New development and major changes to historic properties in the local districts must be reviewed and approved by the historic preservation commission to protect the historic character of the community.

The city of Sylacauga joined the CLG program in 2006 and received funding from the National Park Service through the CLG grant program to fund this workshop.

The mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission** is to protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places. It is the state's historic preservation agency and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office.