

COB - BOSAIR FORM

09/29/2025 2:53 PM (MST)

Submitted by Kris.Gade@pima.gov



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT (BOSAIR)

All fields are required. Enter N/A if not applicable. For number fields, enter 0 if not applicable.

Award Type: Agenda Item

Is a Board Meeting Date Requested? Yes

Requested Board Meeting Date: 10/21/2025

Agenda Item Report

Title: Appointments to the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Introduction / Background: Pursuant to Chapter 18, Zoning (as amended March 4, 2025), the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission is composed of ten members: five appointed by the Board of Supervisors (one by each Supervisor), and five appointed by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors as qualified professionals. These professional members include: one architect, one archaeologist, one landscape architect or historic preservation planner, one architectural historian, and one individual experienced in historic residential and commercial property development.

Discussion: Staff of the Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation Office have identified five candidates for appointment to the new qualified professional positions for the Board's consideration:
Ms. Savannah McDonald – Architect
Dr. Teresita Majewski – Archaeologist
Mr. Kenneth Scoville – Architectural Historian
Mr. Joel Ireland – Historic Residential and Commercial Property Development
Ms. Jessica Bassi – Landscape Architect

Conclusion: This agenda item will approve the five qualified professional members that are required to be appointed by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation: The Conservation Lands and Resources Department recommends approval of the proposed qualified professionals for the historical commission.

Fiscal Impact: None

Support of Prosperity Initiative: N/A

Provide information that explains how this activity supports the selected Prosperity Initiative N/A

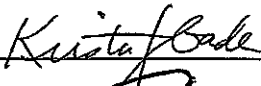
Board of Supervisor District:

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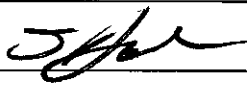
Department: Conservation Lands and Resources

Name: Kris Gade

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Department Director Signature:  Date: 9/29/2025

Deputy County Administrator Signature:  Date: 9/30/2025

County Administrator Signature:  Date: 10-1-2025

MEMORANDUM

September 29, 2025

TO: Jan Leshner
County Administrator

FROM: Kris Gade, PhD *KG*
Director, Conservation Lands and Resources

Re: Appointment of Qualified Professionals to the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission

Purpose

Per Pima County Code Chapter 18, Zoning (as amended on March 4, 2025) governing the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission (TPCHC), five professional members must be appointed by majority vote of the Board of Supervisors, in addition to five members who shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors (one by each Supervisor). The professional members must represent the fields of architecture, archaeology, landscape architecture or historic preservation planning, architectural history, and historic residential and commercial property development.

Following staff review, four of the recommended candidates have previously served on the Commission as direct appointees of individual Supervisors, and one would be new to the Commission. However, because the qualified professional positions are newly established under the amended code, all five candidates are considered new appointments. Staff recommends the appointment of the following candidates:

Recommended Appointments

1. Architect – Savannah McDonald (formerly District 2 appointee)

Ms. McDonald is a Tucson native and a registered architect (Arizona #51665). She is a partner at Poster Mirto McDonald (PMM), where she has practiced since 2007, becoming partner in 2017. She has extensive experience on adaptive reuse and historic projects, including the Benedictine Monastery Apartments, La Rosa, Marist at Cathedral Square, Tucson High Magnet School Gymnasiums, and Old Bisbee High School Lofts.

She currently fills an essential role on the TPCHC Plans Review Subcommittee, providing critical architectural expertise in reviewing development projects. She also represents TPCHC at the City of Tucson Commission on Equitable Housing & Development, ensuring cross-agency coordination. Her leadership experience includes service on the City of Tucson Design Review Board (2016–2019), as well as nonprofit boards (Primavera Foundation, Tucson Girls Chorus). Additionally, she mentors students as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Arizona College of Architecture. Her combination of professional credentials, civic engagement, and ongoing service makes her highly qualified for appointment in the professional architect seat.

2. Archaeologist – Dr. Teresita (Terry) Majewski (formerly District 1 appointee)

Dr. Majewski is Executive Vice President of Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI), a Tucson-based cultural resource management and preservation firm, where she has worked since 1993. She has served as principal investigator or project manager for hundreds of archaeological and historic preservation projects throughout Arizona and the western United States. She holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology with specialization in Archaeology (University of Missouri, 1987).

She has chaired the TPDHC for over a decade and also chairs the Plans Review Subcommittee, demonstrating her leadership and ability to guide complex deliberations. She played a key role in developing the Tucson 250+ celebration in collaboration with the Presidio Museum and Tucson Museum of Art. Dr. Majewski's academic contributions include adjunct teaching in the University of Arizona's School of Anthropology, where she has chaired or served on more than 30 graduate committees. Her scholarship is nationally recognized, including publications on Tucson's Alameda-Stone Cemetery and the archaeology of Arizona's Territorial and Statehood periods. In addition, she serves on the Arizona Historic Sites Review Committee and the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission, strengthening connections between local, county, and state preservation efforts. Her expertise and continued leadership make her an indispensable choice for appointment.

3. Landscape Architect / Historic Preservation Planner – Jessica Bassi (no previous service)

Ms. Bassi is the Historic Preservation Coordinator at the University of Arizona, where she manages the preservation and rehabilitation of historic campus buildings and landmarks. In this role, she also supports public-private development planning and research, ensuring projects protect and enhance historic resources while meeting institutional needs. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees and a Graduate Certificate in Heritage Conservation from the University of Arizona.

Her professional responsibilities extend beyond the campus, as she serves on the University's Historic Preservation Advisory Committee and coordinates preservation planning across Arizona's three major universities. She brings a forward-looking perspective, balancing preservation with accessibility and functionality. Her expertise in heritage conservation planning, and her ability to represent institutional perspectives on preservation, make her a strong addition to TPDHC as a first-time appointee.

4. Architectural Historian – Kenneth Scoville (formerly District 2 appointee)

Mr. Scoville has devoted his career to researching and interpreting Tucson and Arizona's architectural and cultural traditions. Since 1985, he has worked as an independent researcher, lecturer, and public historian, with extensive contributions to community education and preservation advocacy. He has provided guided walking tours of Tucson's historic districts, delivered lectures at local institutions, published articles and guest editorials on preservation issues, and contributed to local radio programming.

His academic background includes a B.A. in History (University of Arizona, 1973) and M.A. in Education specializing in community and continuing education (Arizona State University, 1978). From 2013 to 2019, he also worked for the Amphitheater School District and Prescott College. His commitment to linking Tucson's built environment to its environmental and cultural history is reflected in his 2017 publication *Historic Places of Our Republic: A Guide to Teaching United States History for Elementary School Teachers and Parents*. Through his TPDHC service since 2021, Mr. Scoville has contributed an invaluable historian's perspective to Commission deliberations and public engagement.

5. Historic Residential and Commercial Property Development – Joel T. Ireland (formerly District 5 appointee)

Mr. Ireland is a long-time Tucson resident, attorney, and real estate developer with decades of experience rehabilitating historic properties in the West University Historic Preservation Zone, a designated National Register District. He has rehabilitated, rented, and sold historic homes for many years. Most recently, he

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partnered with Capstone Developers on a major project at Speedway and Euclid to ensure preservation of five historic homes, relocating three from Speedway and two from Euclid to lots he owns in West University. The properties were successfully preserved to retain their contributing status within the historic district, and he is overseeing their rehabilitation in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

He currently serves on both TPDHC and its Plans Review Subcommittee, where his professional experience in historic rehabilitation and real estate development adds an essential practical perspective to Commission decisions. His demonstrated success in balancing development pressures with preservation goals makes him highly qualified for appointment.

Conclusion

Per the amended code, all prior commissioner terms have been reset. Accordingly, each of the recommended candidates would be appointed to their first official term under the revised structure (see table below). Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors formally appoint Ms. Savannah McDonald (Architect), Dr. Teresita Majewski (Archaeologist), Mr. Kenneth Scoville (Architectural Historian), and Mr. Joel Ireland (Historic Residential and Commercial Property Development), Ms. Jessica Bassi (Landscape Architect/Historic Preservation Planner) into the newly designated professional seats.

This slate preserves continuity of leadership, leverages longstanding expertise, and introduces new perspectives in preservation planning to the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission.

Category	Appointee/Proposed Appointee	Term – begin 1/1/2025
Board of Supervisors District 1	Gary Minor	Coterminous with Supervisor 8 year limitation
Board of Supervisors District 2	To be appointed by Supervisor Heinz	Coterminous with Supervisor 8 year limitation
Board of Supervisors District 3	To be appointed by Supervisor Allen	Coterminous with Supervisor 8 year limitation
Board of Supervisors District 4	J.J. Lamb	Coterminous with Supervisor 8 year limitation
Board of Supervisors District 5	Mauro Trejo	Coterminous with Supervisor 8 year limitation
Architect	<i>Savannah McDonald</i>	8 year limitation
Archaeologist	<i>Teresita Majewski</i>	8 year limitation
Architectural Historian	<i>Kenneth Scoville</i>	8 year limitation
Historic Residential & Commercial Property Development	<i>Joel Ireland</i>	8 year limitation
Landscape Architect/Historic Preservation Planner	<i>Jessica Bassi</i>	8 year limitation