

Heard in Government Operations Interim Committee Meeting on 5/20/2026

EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE COMMISSION

MARVIN DODGE

Commissioner

Department of Government Operations

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CREATION & PURPOSE

The Executive Residence Commission was created in 1985 with Utah Code Section 67-1-8.1 in order to make recommendations to the Division of Facilities Construction & Management regarding the use, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, alteration, restoration, placement of art and monuments, and the adaptive use of the executive residence.

MEMBERS



JESSELIE ANDERSON (CHAIR)

Serving as a private citizen appointee, Anderson has a long-demonstrated interest in historic preservation and higher education in Utah, bringing extensive community leadership experience to her role as chair.



MARVIN DODGE

The Commissioner of the Utah Department of Government Operations, representing the state's administrative and facilities footprint.



VICTORIA BOURNS

The Director of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, ensuring the state's artistic heritage is represented in the mansion's interior curation.



JENNIFER ORTIZ

The Director of the Utah Historical Society, acting as the state's leading voice on historical accuracy and cultural heritage.



ELLIE SONNTAG

Serving as a private citizen appointee, representing the public's interest in the preservation of the estate.



DAVID BAIRD

Filling the required role of an interior design professional with a background in historic spaces. Baird is an expert craftsman and designer associated with Historical Arts & Casting, bringing hands-on knowledge of restoring historical metalwork and architectural details.



SUSAN CROOK

Filling the required role of a landscape architect with a background in historic properties. Crook is a prominent Utah landscape architect and historian with deep expertise in pioneer-era gardens and cultural landscapes.



GLORIA KUMMER

Serving as a private citizen appointee, Kummer is an interior classic architect with a strong background in advocating for and executing historical commercial preservation projects.



PAUL MONSON

Filling the statutorily required role of an architect with a historic preservation background, Monson is an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Utah Valley University and has an extensive background in historical, sustainable, and institutional design.



BALANCING MODERN NEEDS WITH **HISTORIC INTEGRITY**

The mansion isn't just a museum, it is a functioning home for sitting governors and their families, as well as a venue for state events. The commission is necessary to navigate the complex tension between upgrading security, implementing modern technology, and conducting routine maintenance, all without destroying the character-defining features of a 120-year-old historic zone.

Utah

An ornate, historic interior space, likely a parlor or drawing room. The room features a large, light-colored tufted sofa, several upholstered chairs, and a grand piano with its lid open. The walls are decorated with framed paintings and sconces. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The room is well-lit, with a warm, golden glow. The floor is covered with a patterned rug. The overall atmosphere is one of elegance and historical significance.

EXPERT OVERSIGHT

Without a dedicated board of architects, historians, and designers, renovations could be left to standard state procurement processes, which often prioritize cost-efficiency over historical accuracy.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION FOUNDATION

The Governor's Mansion Foundation was established by former Governor Mike Leavitt after a devastating 1993 electrical fire.

The non-profit organization utilizes private donations to fund the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the mansion. The foundation is specifically responsible for acquiring period-appropriate furniture, rugs, and draperies to reflect the home's original 1902 style.

ASK

The Department of Government Operations recommends that the committee favorably continue the Executive Residence Commission.

QUESTIONS

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