

Restoring Santa Rosa Through Historical Preservation

The problem I want to focus on in my community is how parts of Santa Rosa are starting to look run down because of abandoned buildings and overgrown lots. A lot of these areas don't get taken care of, which makes the city look less inviting and can even feel unsafe. This mostly affects the people who live there, small businesses, and even tourists. If a place looks neglected, people are less likely to visit or spend money there, which just keeps the problem going. Things like limited funding and not enough city resources make it harder to fix these issues.

My idea is to help restore Santa Rosa by fixing up important historical sites and getting rid of buildings or lots that are abandoned and not being used anymore. Santa Rosa has a lot of history, especially connected to Route 66, and I think bringing that back could really help the city. Cleaning up these areas would make the city look nicer and could attract more visitors.

There are definitely some big costs involved in this project. Tearing down abandoned buildings could cost around \$10,000 to \$50,000 each, and restoring historical sites could be anywhere from \$100,000 to over \$500,000 depending on how much work they need. When you add in labor, materials, and permits, the total cost could be between \$500,000 and over \$2 million. On top of that, there would be ongoing costs like maintenance, landscaping, and security, which could be about \$50,000 to \$200,000 each year. There could also be unexpected costs, like dealing with hazardous materials or finding out a building has more damage than expected.

Even though it sounds expensive, there are a lot of benefits. Restoring Santa Rosa could bring in more tourists, which could make around \$100,000 to \$500,000 a year. It could also create jobs and help local businesses grow. Property values could go up, and the city would just feel safer and more welcoming overall. Another big benefit is preserving the history of the city, which is important for both residents and visitors. There could even be extra benefits like hosting events or festivals, which would bring in even more money and attention to the area.

Overall, even though restoring Santa Rosa would cost a lot at first, I think it would be worth it in the long run. It would help the city look better, bring in more people, and make it a place that residents can be proud of again.