City of Richmond Commission of Architectural Review

FY15 Annual Report to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee of City Council

17 November 2015

Who We Are

The CAR is the city's official historic preservation body and is charged with reviewing all exterior changes to structures within City Old and Historic Districts and issuing Certificates of Appropriateness for those projects that it determines to be appropriate.

Who We Are

The Richmond Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) was established by City Council in 1957.

The first historic district was the St. John's Historic District, created in 1957.

The most recent historic district is the Union Hill Historic District, created in 2009.

Old and Historic Districts are created only by citizen request.

Local Historic Districts in the U.S.

1931: Charleston, SC establishes an "Old and Historic District," administered by a Board of Architectural Review, the first in the U.S.

1936: New Orleans, LA establishes the Vieux Carré Commission

1955: Philadelphia, PA establishes its first local historic preservation ordinance.

1957: Richmond, VA establishes the St. John's Old and Historic District, administered by a Commission of Architectural Review.

1966: The National Historic Preservation Act is passed.

1968: South Carolina legislature approves historic district zoning; Savannah Historic District Board of Review established in 1973.

2015: Over 2,300 local historic districts exist in the U.S.

How do we Function?

The CAR is a nine-member Commission appointed by City Council.

CAR is authorized by Sec. 30-930.3(d) of the City Code to issue or deny certificates of appropriateness for construction, alteration, repair, restoration or demolition within any City Old and Historic District.

City Old and Historic Districts

16 Districts

Containing
4,006 properties

28 Individual
Properties

City Old and Historic Districts

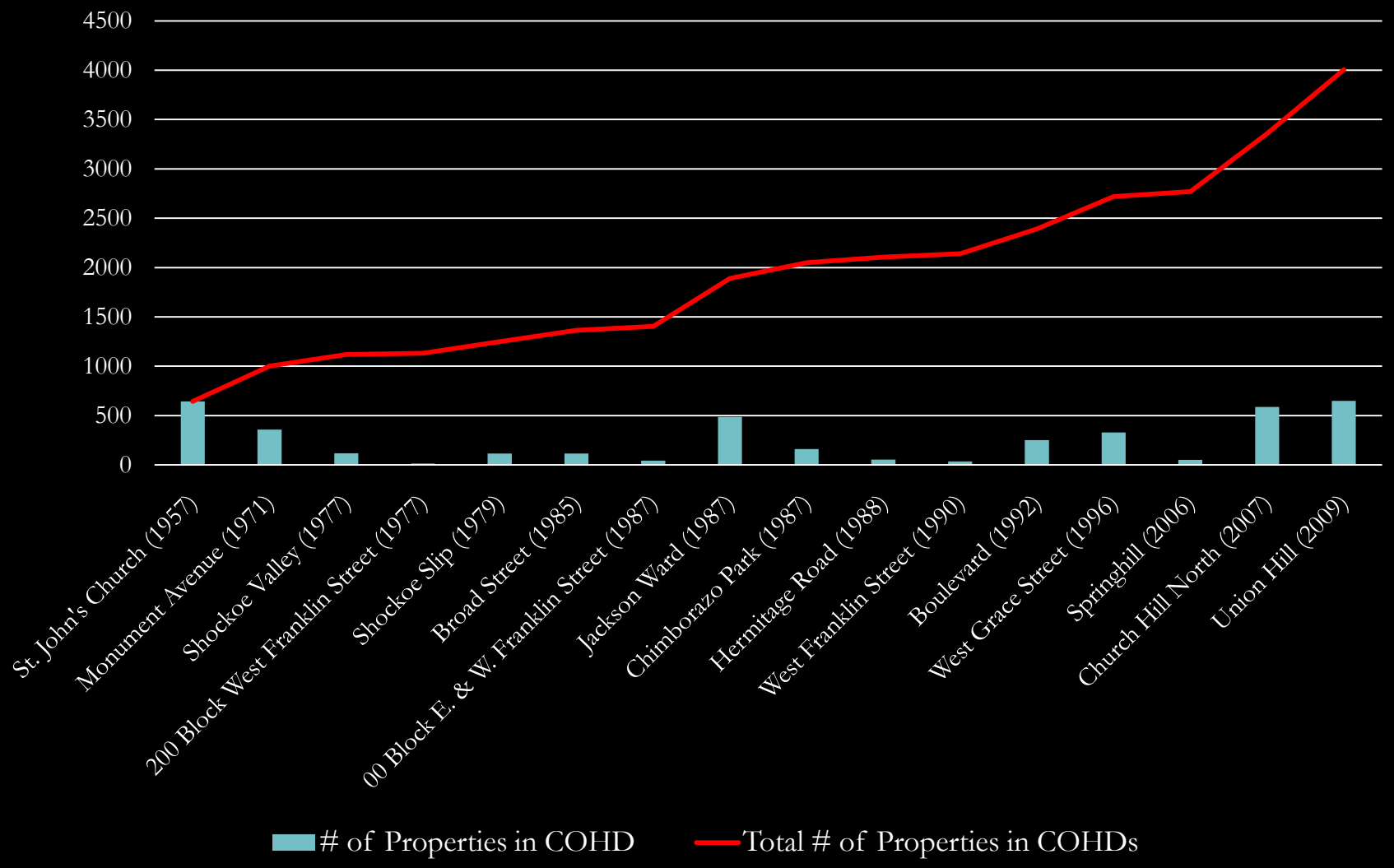
The first historic district was the St. John's Historic District, created in 1957.

In 1957, there was one historic district containing approximately 324 properties*. There were no individual historic properties.

In 2015, there are 16 historic districts containing 4,006 properties. In addition, there are 28 individual historic properties.

* The St. John's Church OHD was amended in 1967, 1977 and 1987 and now contains 643 properties

Growth in Number of Properties in City Old and Historic Districts



* The St. John's Church OHD was amended in 1967, 1977 and 1987 and now contains 643 properties

A Citizen-Requested Program

Old and Historic Districts are created only by citizen request. The growth in the number of properties is a reflection of this.

1. Residents see the designation as a way to protect the qualities that make their neighborhoods unique.

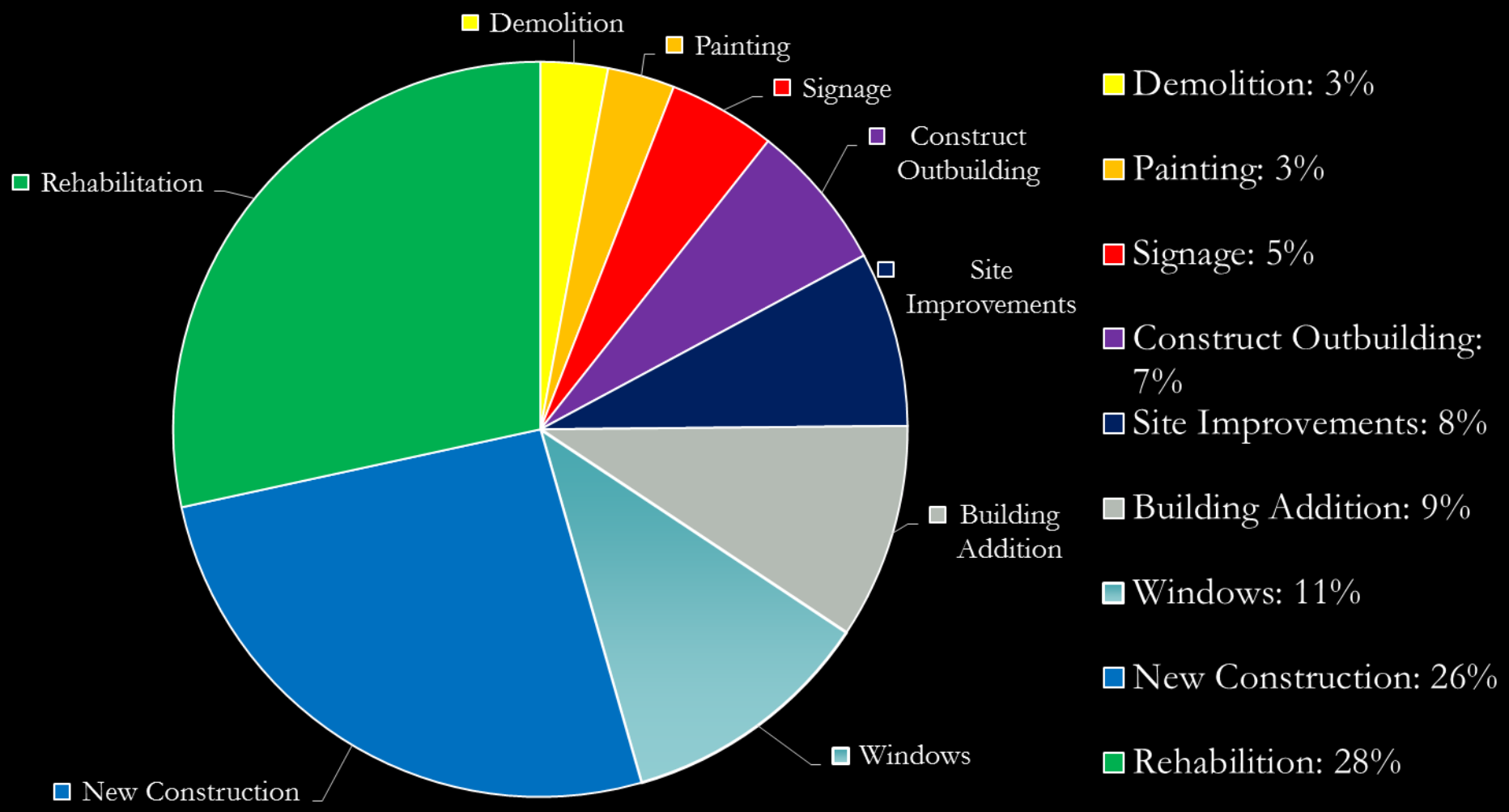
2. They must organize and solidify the support of their neighbors and the city to be designated.

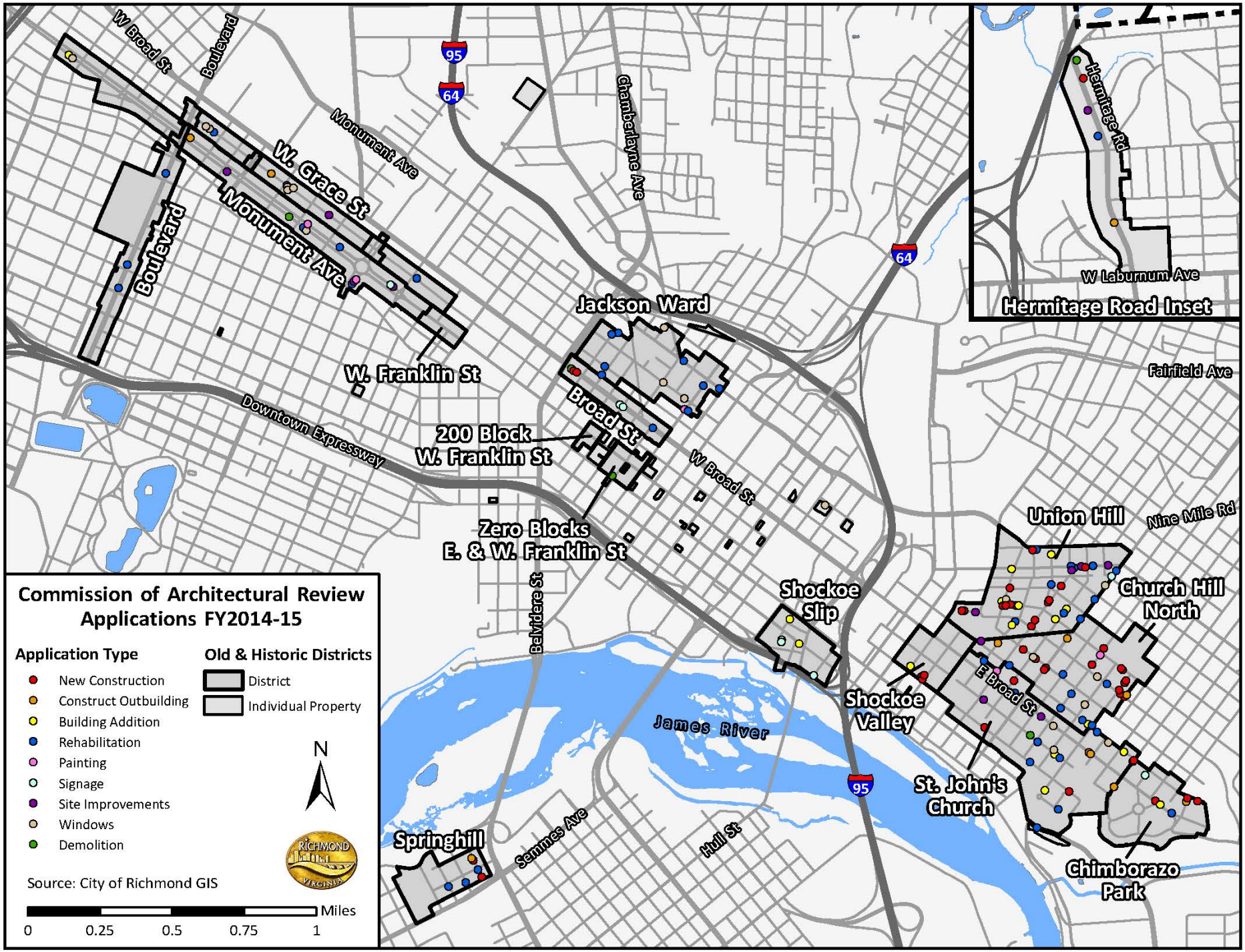
3. Once designated they are actively engaged in the enforcement of the guidelines.

FY 2015 Activity Summary

4,006	Properties in City Old and Historic Districts
714	Applications/Permits Received
545	Administratively Approved by Staff
169	Reviewed by the Commission
7	Applications/Permits Denied by the Commission
2	Denials Appealed to City Council

FY15 Applications by Project Type




Commission of Architectural Review Applications FY2014-15
Application Type
New Construction
Construct Outbuilding
Building Addition
Rehabilitation
Painting
Signage
Site Improvements
Windows
Demolition
Old & Historic Districts
District
Individual Property
Source: City of Richmond GIS
Miles
0
0.25
0.5
0.75
1
N
W Broad St
Boulevard
Monument Ave
W. Grace St
Monument Ave
Boulevard
95
64
Chamberlayne Ave
64
Hermitage Rd
W Laburnum Ave
Hermitage Road Inset
Jackson Ward
W. Franklin St
Fairfield Ave
Broad St
Downtown Expressway
200 Block
W. Franklin St
W Broad St
Zero Blocks
E. & W. Franklin St
Union Hill
Nine Mile Rd
Church Hill North
Shockoe Slip
Belvidere St
E Broad St
Shockoe Valley
James River
St. John's Church
95
Springhill
Semmes Ave
Hull St
Chimborazo Park

Recent Trends: New Construction

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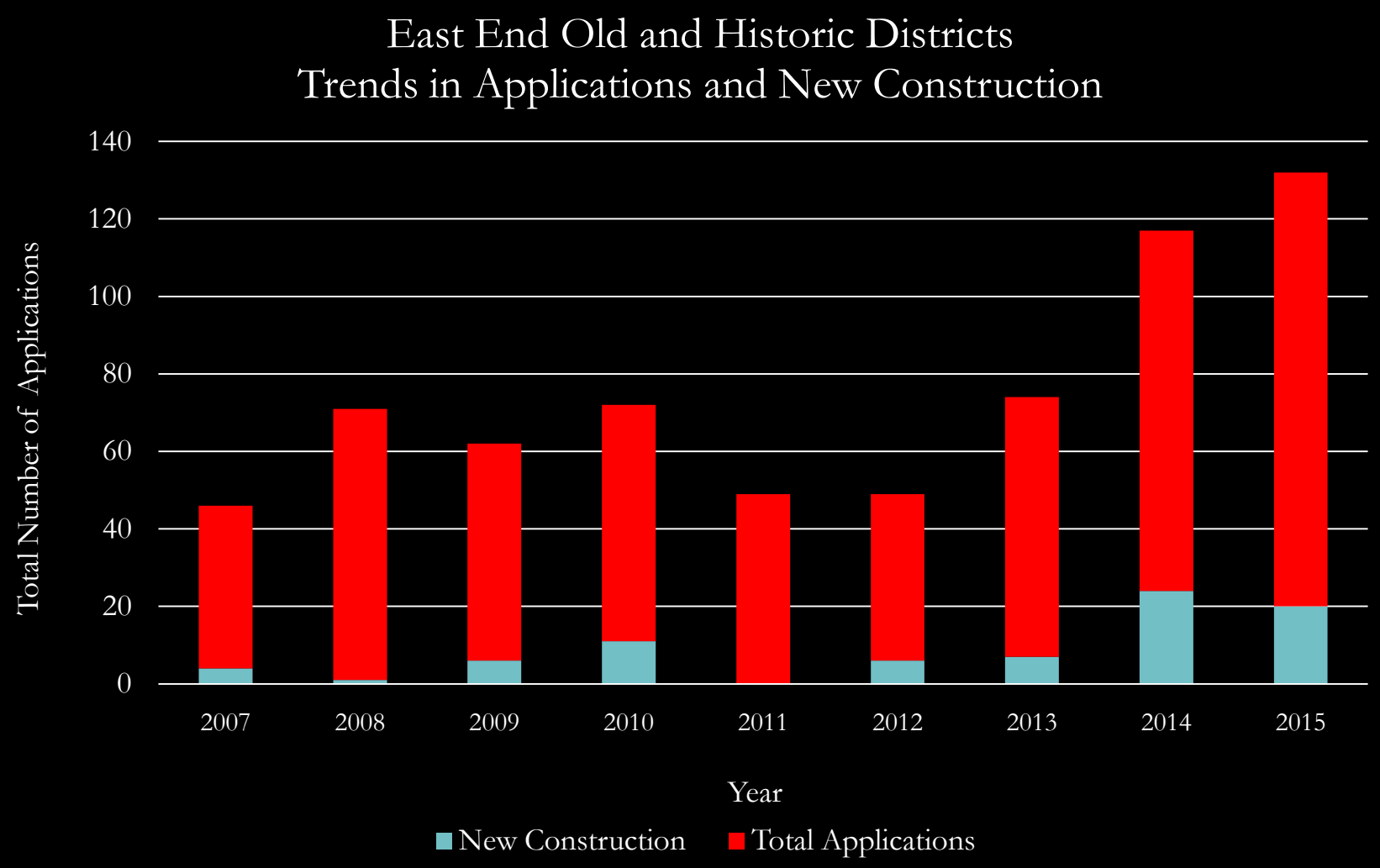
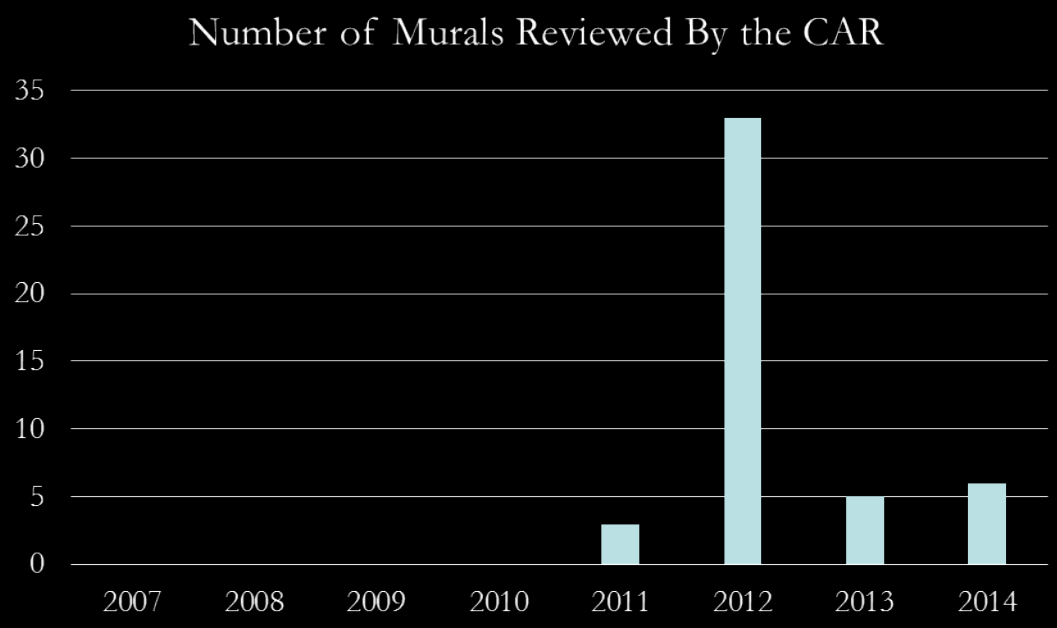


Recent Trends: Murals

- 2012: Guidelines adopted
- 2014: Guidelines revised
- 44 murals reviewed since 2011



Recent Trends: Community Based Enforcement

Citizen reported that original windows were removed and replaced without CAR review. CAR staff worked with the property owner to abate the violation through the reinstallation of the original windows.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND THE COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

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http://www.richmondgov.com/CommissionArchitecturalReview/