

Survey Results: Old Town Hall

Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of the City of Plymouth to the FlashVote community for Plymouth, MN.

These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

1121

Total Participants
 1060 of 2056 initially invited (52%)
 61 others
 Margin of error: ± 3%

Applied Filter:
Locals only
 Participants for filter:
949

Response Time (hours)

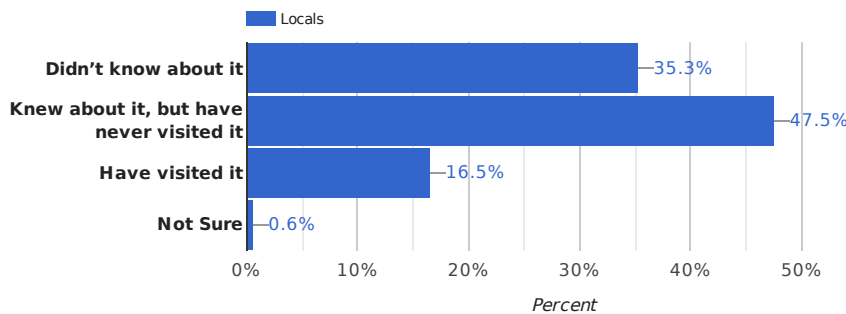
Started: **Dec 19, 2023 11:07am CST**
 Ended: **Dec 21, 2023 11:00am CST**
 Target Participants: **All Plymouth**

Q1 The City of Plymouth is in the process of refreshing the Old Town Hall – built in 1885 and located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane North. The current plan is to reopen it to the public in 2024 with historical exhibits and activities about Plymouth history.

Prior to reading this, which best describes your experience with Plymouth's Old Town Hall?

(949 responses by)

Options	Locals (949)
Didn't know about it	35.3% (335)
Knew about it, but have never visited it	47.5% (451)
Have visited it	16.5% (157)
Not Sure	0.6% (6)

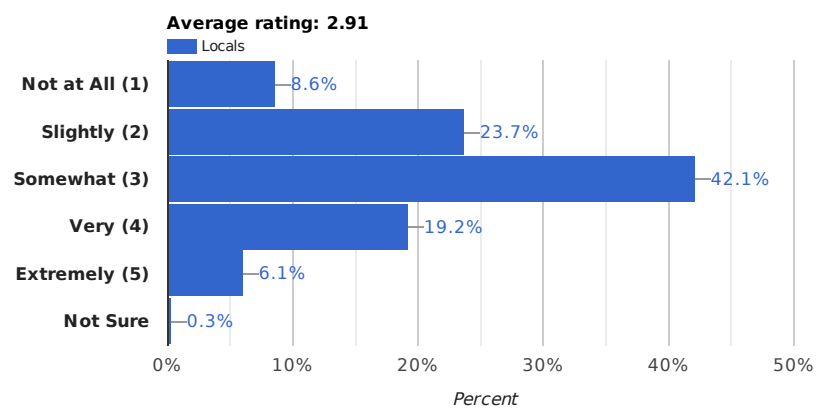


Q2 How interested are you in Plymouth history?

(946 responses by)

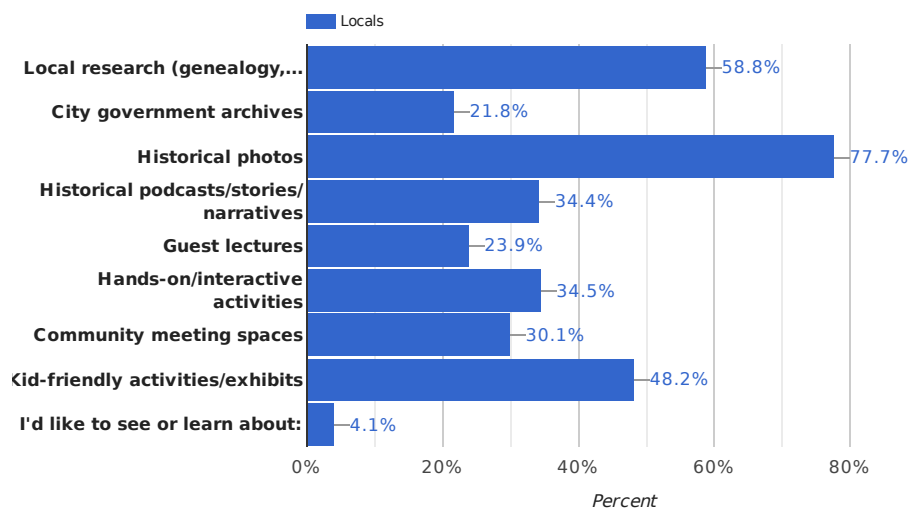
Options	Locals (946)
Not at All (1)	8.6% (81)
Slightly (2)	23.7% (224)
Somewhat (3)	42.1% (398)
Very (4)	19.2% (182)
Extremely (5)	6.1% (58)

Options	Locals (946)
Not Sure	0.3% (3)



Q3 What kind of exhibits or activities do you think would make the most sense there? (You can choose up to FOUR, if any)
(901 responses by)

Options	Locals (901)
Local research (genealogy, home/property histories)	58.8% (530)
City government archives	21.8% (196)
Historical photos	77.7% (700)
Historical podcasts/stories/narratives	34.4% (310)
Guest lectures	23.9% (215)
Hands-on/interactive activities	34.5% (311)
Community meeting spaces	30.1% (271)
Kid-friendly activities/exhibits	48.2% (434)
I'd like to see or learn about:	4.1% (37)



original use city indigenous maps
 local **native** historical fashioned
 early like **history** area old event
 nice **land** american money
 people **american** story
 lived include nothing **plymouth**

Listening to abundance of sirens at 101&6

Native American history and life in this area

Seems like a waste of money

Original indigenous population

Native American history in Plymouth

Histories of native communities in the area

Dakota, Women, Black, Other-abled history. Road naming history. Landmarks/Sites.

Nothing

Native Americans in the area

historical film like state park visitor center

This might help us develop an interest in what seems like a soulless community (just moved here.)

Historical growth patterns and old maps

none of these

Expansion of historical society records to include more of German speaking settlers, Native story

indigenous people of the area

Classical concerts

I think I went to a Plymouth Reads book club event there. It was a nice place for that.

Developers forcing farmers, then horse ranches, to sell.

lakes, original settlers, past uses of land

Early settlers

Plymouth's history

Static displays

The history of the land including and especially the Native American stories.

I would rather see the City SAVE taxpayer dollars and put the money toward decaying walking paths

The indigenous people who lived here first, and the role they play in city government today.

Historical time line of what was happening in Plymouth, MN, and USA concurrently.

maps of the area thru the years

none

reserving it for personal meet up

History of our land

Native peoples

History of water management

History of the land including local Native American history

The Native Americans who lived here originally

Between local genealogy research to kid-friendly, and all ages, interactive historical activities -

Q4 Any other comments or suggestions about exhibits or activities you would like to see at Plymouth's Old Town Hall?

(140 responses by)



Exhibit of corrupt cops and politicians, waisted money projects, how electrical posts are built in the middle of sidewalks along 101 and other "achievements " of Plymouth gov.

Seems like a waste of money

Have it open to visit for free one weekend a month with a special event or exhibit.

I hope that this renovation will not raise our taxes.

Historic objects

Don't tear it down.

Information about the geologic structures of the land and how that shaped our usage of it. That is completely unique and if we don't understand it we will destroy the very things that drew humans here in the first place.

None I can think of

Didn't know it existed. Didn't grow up here so not much interest from me.

Help people understand what it was like to start a new city and the obstacles they had to overcome to do it.

Glad the city is preserving the old town hall and investing in history.

Some examples/pictures of then and now - comparing what it used to look like to what is there now.

Occasional traveling exhibits could be shown to keep it fresh

Do not think I would ever visit it

I am fascinated by how the city has evolved over time.

Unless there is an effort to raise awareness, won't this be a waste of money.

Why do we need it?

Historically important, but cap the cost; it should be utilitarian and nice; but not a "Taj Mahal".

Can we just not go crazy with tax payer money again? I know it is very easy spending other people's money but Plymouth has went over to the dark side in the last couple years where prior it was fiscally well managed.

History of the building/city. Notable citizens.

Solicit historic items from long time residents relating to the urbanization of the city. Properly store, preserve and protect items donated.

I'd like to know more about Plymouth's history from Native American tribes through pioneer settlement and beyond. I'd love to know who settled my property (i.e., who stole it from the Native Americans).

Waste of money

My understanding is the new director is keen to tell an accurate and full account of Plymouth's history. That's exciting! Was the land off of Chankahda deforested for farming? Were the Dakota removed in the 1862 "Removal Act" in this area? Did a Black family open Plymouth's first pub? What famous people came from Plymouth; any women?

I remember going to the town hall in the late 80s to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Not a high priority for me.

Curious, who's paying: Tax Payer dollars, or donations?

Seasonal Displays

As an archivist myself, my concern would be that the building appears quite old and seems to be a wood structure. I'm concerned about fire risks and question the wisdom of having city official documents stored there. Anything on display there should be high quality copies of the originals (documents, photos, etc.) while the originals are stored more safely in a permanent storage probably at City Hall.

Research on FIRSTS.... First beach. First fuel station. First school, etc.

preserve the building, but I am SURE the city will find some way to screw it up and tax me at the same time.

Maybe have a once a month or every other month day where there are people in costume talking about life in Plymouth when it was first settled?

Bring back the old fashioned Christmas

Do not make this a "woke" ideological exhibit trying to be inclusive. History is history, tell the real stories of the people and places that made up Plymouth.

Plymouth growth history and future projections

Dakota native exhibit

Compare local taxes to nearby cities. More about Plymouth water that need work.

Don't raise taxes to do this.

a nice little coffee shop as a part of it would be fun.

Photos are the best; and maps

Quiz programs

Any history of Indigenous people in what is now Plymouth

Not sure if it is on the original site, however, when I drive on Fernbrook this site doesn't entice me to stop or plan to return. Suggest moving it to the newly planned development on Plymouth Blvd.

I'm not sure how much history or value in reviewing the history there is. I would generally prefer funds be spent on community centers and current activities.

We have always enjoyed the old fashioned Christmas at the old town hall. We're excited to see the updates.

Be the city that respects history.

I'm glad you are going to remodel it. I'd like to know more about Plymouth history. It has changed a great deal since I moved here in 1987.

Please do not waste money on this. Give it to firemen or teachers.

Prior town hall was very slanted toward the area around Parker's lake. Would like to see more of the city represented

Traditional holiday celebrations (Christmas and Easter).

How big was the group annoying the city council about this project?? My guess is, pretty small compared to all of us who could care less. I think it's another example of a few driving a project the majority doesn't want/need.

Making it interactive and accessible to wide variety of Plymouth residents to enjoy. Kid friendly would be ideal as it is right next to a park/playground.

We've enjoyed visiting at Christmas.

This initiative is exciting!

Kids activities would be great - great way to get kids thinking about our local history and how it relates to broader MN, US and global history. Having guest lectures or other events would be a great way to bring in folks and remind them of what the building has to offer!

I enjoy this sort of thing but there needs to be some fiscal sanity here. We already have plenty of very expensive facilities and these projects easily get out of control.

Which native groups lived here before white settlers moved in?

N/A

Who was the gifted marketer who branded Plymouth public schools as "Wayzata"?

wildlife, plants (flora & fauna)

Seems like a waste of money.

Early settlement and settlers and Schwebes(spelling?) Corner

Photos of and information about before and after development in various neighborhoods. I like to hear the stories of former and founding residents.

Please don't make it "woke".

All original government archives should be preserved and protected with supervised and properly trained access only. All materials should be scanned and available online through the city's website.

I do not want any money spent on this project!

A flip book map (transparent layers) showing the growth and changes in Plymouth over the years

Racial covenants on Plymouth properties and their history. Any stories about inhabitants of Native Americans.

Very little taxpayer dollars should go towards this project. I still oppose the \$50 million dollar political boondoggle that was the Community Center. Total WASTE!!!

Protect it from looters

A pictorial and narration summary time line with key historical occurrences would be good with the ability to then "drill down", if desired, into the key topics to learn more about them.

I'll be interested to see what's proposed.

Thank you for caring about Plymouth's history!

Would love old photos of how the city has grown. Old schools, farms, how familiar roads (county road 6, 101, 55 to name a few) have changed over time. For example we have old land records for our home that show it used to be a pig farm. No pictures unfortunately. But would be neat to see.

More signage might be helpful. Not sure how many people even know the place even exists or if they do, what it means. Need to let people know how Plymouth got from where it was to where it is today. Why is Plymouth what it is? How did we get here anywhere? Why is Plymouth important?

I don't think these types of things bring much value, from a historical perspective, to most people outside of history buffs so I suggest having the place available for other uses such as meetings and other group activities

Ghost stories. Or stories about the natives that lived here

Most people think of Plymouth as a suburb filled with big homes. It has an interesting history that should be talked about and promoted.

This is an important community asset. Thank you for preserving it and our history.

Honestly, I probably won't go to it. I'm not really into museums.

Marriage ceremonies? Book clubs?

I think they used to have an old fashioned Christmas at that site. That was fun. Crafts, fire with cocoa, sleigh rides. Used the warming building, the park and the old town hall.

Brats and beer when you have an open house.

I don't think tax payer money should be used to support the building unless there is true significant historical value to the community.

Love that we are making efforts to maintain the history of the area.

Live actors for special occasions

I don't feel that this warrants much investment of taxpayer dollars

Exhibit of the History and accounts of the native Americans who lived here.

Collaboration with other historical sites on area. Such as "history crawl". Participation with middle school history day. Resident artifact research and or collection. History museum collaboration— intern rotation; onsite residency for one day a month;

N/A

no interest

Very disappointed that the cute garden and wooden bench was removed and asphalted over!!!! How sad!!!

No.

Unless this is really historic, tear it down and use it for more affordable housing.

I loved visiting Santa here bring it back please!

Make it a family oriented space to educate families and kids about the history of Plymouth to connect them deeper to the city.

is this the white bldg by the frisbee park? If so, it has always been locked up tight when I was in the park.

How much tax dollars will this cost?

Not a big priority to spend money on for me. Didn't even know it existed and I have lived here 18 years.

I think it would be a minimal benefit to our community and don't want to spend a lot on it.

old newspapers

Please don't spend any money on this. Our property taxes are already too high and increasing uncontrollably each year.

No

Community gathering activities such as art exhibitions, community classes, plant swaps, etc

A walk-through friendship garden, maybe a little cafe outside in summer. Lots of potential

None

Lower our property taxes

I think it is good to be aware of the communities historical past and to have an original building is a bonus.

Open up area for local HOA to rent space for meetings

History of water management. Like is it true that the original town center is now at the bottom of Parker's lake?

I think acknowledgment of historical Native American possession of land in our area is a very important thing that should be included in the historical picture of the town

n/a

History of the police Department

To appreciate the present, we must be aware of the past.

An Ice arena would be preferred

Please include our Native American history!!

Important to have the young people understand history and hardships that people endured

We certainly don't need any more meeting spaces.

Let's not fill everything with kitty events and keep some thing from the past educational and historical

how much will this cost the tax payers?

Like to know more about influential residents of Plymouth and its roots. Photos, letters, old documents would be great.

This sounds fun

Have enjoyed that space in the past for Santa visits!

A variety of activities geared to different age levels which would spark curiosity. A place open to school/camp field trips.

It sounds like an opportunity to acquaint our children with the history of the place they live.

Local Native American history would be interesting to learn more about.

Haven't we spent enough money?

I love to see old technology and equipment.

Seems like money could be better used to protect green spaces, improve horrible neighborhood streets, etc.

I whole heartedly support the city in their effort to restore this site and enhance the offerings. Plymouth has a great history and has a great deal to be proud of!

Better advertising of its existence, perhaps on social media.

I suggest that your remodeling cost estimates are accurate, which rarely seems to be the case for projects led by the city.

Time line for development of Plymouth township and city of Plymouth. May showing development relative Wayzata

It would be kind of fun to see it furnished and set up as it was when it housed the village offices

I'm a Girl Scout leader. We've looked for both meeting spaces and educational activities in the past. Tying some of the exhibits to badges available in different Scouting organizations might get some steady interest.

Remember taking our tween/teen to Old Fashioned Christmas events there when they were little kiddos.

Historic activities to Teach kids, Millennials and GenZ how settlers manually cleared fields and land to grow crops and gardens - physical work by HAND and horse and plow - NO machines. Limited variety fruits/vegies grown - short growing season in Minnesota. They ate vine-ripened fruits and vegies. Limited variety of produce readily available in grocery stores compared to what they see daily shipped in from other countries. Folks had to raise own meat, or hunt for meat, and grow own food and then preserve their own home grown produce and meat. "Teach Home Canning classes for all produce and meat. And sausage making." Old timers didn't waste food like today. NO readily available mangos, Avocados, green salads or protein powder smoothies or specialties. NO Blenders or KitchenAid mixer. It was manual meat grinders and rotary beaters in every home. How many Millennials and GenZ could survive?

Who's paying for this? I assume the tax payers.

i would like to learn more about donations.

Tear it down.

[Additional survey reports](#)