

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



<p>Date: May 26, 2021</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of Heritage Advisory Committee</p> <p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p> <hr/> <p>Meeting date: June 8, 2021</p>
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Subject

2021 Designated Heritage Property Grant Allocations

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report entitled "2021 Designated Heritage Property Grant Allocations" dated May 26, 2021 from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee support a recommendation to Council to transfer \$40,000 from the Arts Reserve to fund an additional three applications as part of the Designated Heritage Property Grant program.
3. That the Designated Heritage Property Grant pilot program be extended for an additional two years.

Executive Summary

- 25 applications were received during the 2021 application period
- 13 applications were recommended for funding
- \$40,000 is being requested to be transferred from the Arts Reserve to fund three additional projects
- Staff recommend an extension of two years for the heritage grant capacity pilot program

Background

Council adopted the Heritage Grant By-law in May 2007 to provide grants to owners of heritage designated properties to address conservation and restoration work on these properties. The program assists heritage designated property owners with financial assistance from a minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000 in matching funds for conservation projects, and up to \$10,000

for structural projects. Properties must be designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the work proposed must be a restoration or reconstruction of original architectural elements. In 2019 the Heritage Advisory Committee approved a three-year pilot program to demonstrate demand for designated heritage property restoration and conservation grants (GC-0199-2019). This pilot project included adding a third-tier value of \$25,000 as well as rolling application periods throughout the year if there was capacity within the annual budget to support new projects. 2021 is set to be the last year of the pilot project.

Comments

2021 Designated Heritage Grants Program

The Designated Heritage Property Grant program has approved 13 applications for 2021 totalling \$74,862 (Appendix 1). This was a record year with the City receiving 25 applications in the first round of funding. Due to the high number of applications and the budget already being allocated, a few projects have not been approved despite the application receiving a strong score in their review.

Additional Applications

Staff are recommending that an additional \$40,000 be transferred from the Arts Reserve to fund three additional projects, which submitted applications in line with the programs priorities but which could not be approved due to the approved budget of \$75,000 being reached.

Over the past eight years the Designated Heritage Property Grant program has transferred \$145,883 (Appendix 2) of unspent funding to the Arts Reserve. These funds are the result of unused funding from successive years of the program. Drawing from these previously unused funds to support the additional applications would be in line with its purpose.

Designated Heritage Grants Program Pilot Project

The three year pilot project is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2021. Overall, the information collected over the duration of the pilot program was inconsistent from year to year. In 2019, 20 applications were received through two application intake periods (March and July). In 2020, 19 applications were received in a single intake period (March) and in 2021, 25 applications were received in a single intake period (March). Although the information collected thus far tends to indicate an increase in applications over these three years, 2020 and 2021 were heavily impacted by the ongoing pandemic and it is not clear if the increase in applications over a single application period is the result of the pilot project or the pandemic.

Staff are recommending that the pilot program be extended for another two years to better determine if the changes to the program are working or if the demand for heritage grants has increased as a result of the pandemic and stay home orders.

Financial Impact

City Council approved a \$75,000 budget for the 2021 Designated Heritage Property Grant program. Of which \$74,862 has been allocated to 13 eligible applicants.

An additional \$40,000 is required from the Arts Reserve #30195 to fund three additional eligible applications.

Conclusion

A record number of applications to the Designated Heritage Property Grant program were received in 2021. Of the 25 applications received only 13 were able to be funded under the annual project budget. Staff are requesting \$40,000 be transferred from the Arts Reserve to support an additional three application being funded. Staff would also like to extend the Designated Heritage Property Grant Capacity pilot program for an additional two years to better demonstrate the demand for funding in light of the pandemic.

Attachments

Appendix 1: 2021 Summary of Designated Heritage Property Grants

Appendix 2: Amounts Transferred to Arts Reserve



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Andrew Douglas, Heritage Analyst