

DATE OF MEETING JULY 11, 2018

AUTHORED BY CHRIS SHOLBERG, CULTURE & HERITAGE PLANNER

SUBJECT HERITAGE FAÇADE GRANT – 155 COMMERCIAL STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval for a Heritage Façade Grant for the Parkin Block (155 Commercial Street).

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:

1. approve a \$8,683.50 Heritage Façade Grant for the Parkin Block located at 155 Commercial Street to repaint the building exterior and recover its existing awnings; and,
2. provide for the \$7,978.04 Heritage Façade Grant shortfall through a budget transfer from the Heritage Home Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

A Heritage Façade Grant application has been submitted by the owner of the Parkin Block (155 Commercial Street) building to repaint the building's exterior and recover its awnings.

The Parkin Block building is currently on the City's Heritage Register, and is listed as a significant heritage building in the Downtown Heritage Conservation Area as contained in the City's Official Community Plan (see Attachment A – Parkin Block Building History and Significance).

Staff have reviewed and evaluated the grant application and note that the proposed project satisfies the relevant requirements and objectives of the Heritage Façade Grant Program (as outlined in Attachment B – Heritage Façade Grant Program Purpose and Conditions).

The proposed exterior rehabilitation work will include repaint of the exterior walls (maintaining the existing colour scheme) and recovering the building's existing awnings (using the same colour scheme) to provide an improved aesthetic appearance for the building. Photos of the condition of the existing exterior walls and awnings can be viewed in Attachment C – Existing Exterior Wall and Awning Condition.

The repaint and awning upgrade is intended to refresh and conserve the appearance of the building consistent with the City's Downtown Heritage Building Design Guidelines and Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

The total estimated project cost is \$17,367.00. The project is eligible for up to \$8,683.50 in grant assistance based on the 50/50 cost-sharing model specified under the program, and the maximum façade allotment of \$10,000 per street frontage. In this case, the property faces onto two street frontages.

So far this year, two façade grants have been approved by Council and the Heritage Façade Grant budget has been reduced to \$705.46, which leaves a funding shortfall of \$7,978.04 in order to fully fund the requested grant for this project. Should Council wish to fully fund the grant request as eligible under the grant program, Staff recommend using a budget transfer of \$7,978.04 from the Heritage Home Grant Program. Currently, the program has \$12,000 remaining in its 2018 budget. No applications have been submitted so far this year under the Home Grant Program, and staff feel it is unlikely that an application will be submitted at this time, although the Program will retain a budget of \$4,021.96 which is sufficient to cover one application should it be needed.

Staff believes the additional funding support is merited in this case given the significant heritage value of the Parkin Block building, the weathered condition of the building's exterior paint job and awnings, and the building's high profile on Commercial Street.

It should be noted that the property has not previously received a heritage façade grant.

This property is owned by a business. Under Section 25 of the *Community Charter*, Council may, by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of all the members of Council, provide financial assistance to a business for the conservation of a protected heritage property (this property is considered a protected property due to its listing in the Downtown Heritage Conservation Area).

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council:
 - a) approve a \$8,683.50 Heritage Façade Grant for the Parkin Block located at 155 Commercial Street to repaint the building exterior and recover its existing awnings; and,
 - b) provide for the \$7,978.04 Heritage Façade Grant shortfall through a budget transfer from the Heritage Home Grant Program.
 - **Budget Implication:** The Heritage Façade Grant Program currently has \$705.46 left in its annual \$20,000 budget available to partially cover this amount. In order to provide the full eligible funding, an additional \$7,978.04 is proposed to be transferred from the Heritage Home Grant Program budget.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** The Heritage Façade Grant Program furthers the goals of the Economic Health and Cultural Vitality Community Values of the 2016-2019 Strategic Plan Update, as well as the conservation objectives of the City's Heritage Conservation Program.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council deny the Heritage Façade Grant application.
 - **Policy Implication:** Could create uncertainty about the City's commitment to the grant program's purpose and parameters.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Would run counter to the City's cultural vitality and heritage conservation objectives.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The building owner has applied for a \$8,683.50 Heritage Façade Grant for the Parking Block building located at 155 Commercial Street to repaint the building's exterior and recover its awnings.
- The total estimated projected cost is \$17,367.00.
- The grant application satisfies the relevant requirements and objectives of the Heritage Façade Grant Program.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Parkin Block Building History and Significance

ATTACHMENT B: Heritage Façade Grant Program Purpose and Conditions

ATTACHMENT C: Existing Exterior Wall Paint and Awning Condition

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