

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING February 17, 2021

AUTHORED BY CHRIS SHOLBERG, COMMUNITY HERITAGE PLANNER

SUBJECT HERITAGE FAÇADE GRANT – 315 FITZWILLIAM STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval for a Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church building (315 Fitzwilliam Street).

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a \$20,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church building located at 315 Fitzwilliam Street to replace the building's asphalt shingle roof.

BACKGROUND

A Heritage Façade Grant application has been submitted by the Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church (315 Fitzwilliam Street) to replace the asphalt shingle roof of the Church sanctuary and hall with new asphalt shingle roofing.

St. Andrew's United Church 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 – St. Andrew's United Church History and Significance).

DISCUSSION

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 replacement of the existing asphalt roof with a new asphalt roof in a matching style and colour. The roof upgrade does not include the building's spires which were upgraded in 2012 with a wood shake roof treatment. Photos of the existing roof condition can be viewed in Attachment C – Existing Roof Condition.

The proposed work is consistent with the City's Downtown Heritage Gateway Design Guidelines and Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, and is intended to upgrade an old asphalt roof system which is in poor condition and in need of replacement to prevent water penetration into the building.

The total estimated project cost is \$100,000. The project is eligible for up to \$20,000 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.

It should be noted that the property received a grant under the Heritage Façade Grant Program for \$20,000 in 2007 to repair and restore the building's stained glass windows. The property also received a grant under the Heritage Façade Grant Program for \$10,000 in 2012 to replace the asphalt roofing on the Church spires with wood shake.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a \$20,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church building at 315 Fitzwilliam Street to replace the building's asphalt shingle roof.
 - The advantages of this option: The Heritage Façade Grant Program furthers the Livability and Economic Health goals of the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, as well as the conservation objectives of the City's Heritage Conservation Program.
 - The disadvantages of this option: No further money would remain in the Heritage Façade Grant fund for potential additional grant applicants in 2021.
 - Financial Implications: The Heritage Façade Grant Program currently has a \$20,000 budget available to cover the grant application. The program's annual budget is \$20,000 and no other grant applications have been submitted at this time. Additional heritage grant funding (\$10,000) currently exists in the Heritage Home Grant program.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee deny the Heritage Façade Grant application.
 - The advantages of this option: Funding would be left in the Heritage Façade Grant fund for potential applications to be considered until December 2021.
 - The disadvantages of this option: This could create uncertainty about the City's commitment to the grant program's purpose and parameters. It would run counter to the City's livability and heritage conservation objectives. Not awarding funds would be contrary to the first-come, first-served priority for eligible applicants.
 - Financial Implications: A total of \$20,000 would remain available for further applications in 2021. If unused during 2021, this funding would not be carried forward for use in future years.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The building Trustees have applied for a \$20,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church building located at 315 Fitzwilliam Street to replace the building's asphalt shingle roof.
- The total estimated project cost is \$100,000.

- The grant application satisfies the relevant requirements and objectives of the Heritage Façade Grant Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: St. Andrew's United Church Building History and Significance

ATTACHMENT B: Heritage Façade Grant Program Purpose and Conditions

ATTACHMENT C: Existing Roof Condition

Submitted by:

Lisa Bhopalsingh
Manager, Community Planning

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance

Bill Corsan
Director, Development Services

Dale Lindsay
General Manager, Community Development