

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING July 16, 2025

AUTHORED BY HANNAH GROOT, PLANNING ASSISTANT, COMMUNITY PLANNING

SUBJECT HERITAGE FAÇADE GRANT – 315 FITZWILLIAM STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present a Heritage Façade Grant application for the St. Andrew's United Church at 315 Fitzwilliam Street.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a \$10,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church building located at 315 Fitzwilliam Street to repair the building's gutters.

BACKGROUND

Located at 315 Fitzwilliam Street (Attachment A- Location Map), a Heritage Façade Grant application has been submitted by the Trustees of St. Andrew's United Church to repair the gutters on the building's exterior.

The St. Andrew's United Church is currently listed as a significant heritage building on the Downtown Heritage Conservation Area in City Plan. For historical information on the building see Attachment B - St. Andrew's United Church History and Significance.

City Plan supports the use of financial assistance and incentives to encourage the protection of heritage properties (Policy C4.6.5). Support for continued funding of the Heritage Façade Grant program is found in Section C4.6.3. of the Integrated Action Plan.

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 C – Heritage Façade Grant Program Purpose and Conditions).

The proposed exterior rehabilitation work will replace and repair existing gutters. Photos of the condition of the existing gutters can be viewed in Attachment D. The material and colour of the new and repaired gutters will match the existing gutters.

The proposed work is intended to increase the viability of the building and protect the façade through preventing water-related damage created from gutter leakages. The proposed work is consistent with the City's Downtown Heritage Building Design Guidelines.

The total estimated project cost is \$25,410. The project is eligible for up to \$12,705 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. While this project is eligible for \$12,705 grant, staff are recommending a \$10,000 grant due to program budget availability.

A Heritage Façade Grant of \$8,137.50 was allocated to the Rawlinson & Glaholm Grocers building in February 2025, leaving the remaining budget currently at \$11,862.50. Approval of this grant will reduce the program budget to \$1,862.50, which will be used for grant administration expenses for the 2025 grants to be issued.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council approve a \$10,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church located at 315 Fitzwilliam Street to repair the building's gutters.
 - Advantages: The Heritage Façade Grant Program furthers the Empowered goal of City Plan and the Integrated Action Plan, as well as the conservation objectives of the City's Heritage Conservation Program.
 - Disadvantages: St. Andrew's Church has previously received three grants under the Heritage façade Program: i) \$20,000 in 2007 to repair and rehabilitate the stained-glass windows; ii) \$10,000 in 2012 to replace the asphalt roofing on the church spires; and iii) \$20,000 in 2021 to replace the asphalt roofing (excluding the spires). By allocating funding to St. Andrew's United Church, the money remaining in the Heritage Façade Grant program would be reduced for potential future applicants in 2025.
 - Financial Implications: Approval of this grant would reduce the program budget to \$1,863, which will be used for administration expenses.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee deny the Heritage Façade Grant Application.
 - Advantages: More funding would be available in the Heritage Home Grant fund for potential applications to be considered until December 2025.
 - Disadvantages: 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 heritage conservation objectives. Not awarding funding would be contrary to the first-come, first-served priority for eligible applications.
 - Financial Implications: A total of \$11,863 would remain available for further applications in 2025

SUMMARY POINTS

- The building's Trustees have applied for a \$10,000 Heritage Façade Grant for the St. Andrew's United Church building located at 315 Fitzwilliam Street to repair the gutters.
- The total estimated project cost is \$25,410.
- The grant application satisfies the relevant requirements and objectives of the Heritage Façade Grant Program.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Location Map

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

ATTACHMENT C: Heritage Façade Grant Program Purpose and Conditions

ATTACHMENT D: Existing Gutter Condition

Submitted by:

Lisa Brinkman
Manager, Community Planning

Concurrence by:

Jeremy Holm
Director, Planning & Development

Wendy Fulla
Director, Finance

Laura Mercer
General Manager, Corporate Services