

DATE OF MEETING JUNE 13, 2018

AUTHORED BY CHRIS SHOLBERG, CULTURE & HERITAGE PLANNER

SUBJECT HERITAGE FAÇADE GRANT – 499 WALLACE STREET

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval for a Heritage Façade Grant for the Merchant's Bank of Canada building (499 Wallace Street).

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council approve a \$9,715.13 Heritage Façade Grant for the Merchant's Bank of Canada building located at 499 Wallace Street to repaint the building's exterior and install exterior lighting and wrought iron window boxes.

BACKGROUND

A Heritage Façade Grant application has been submitted by the owner of the Merchant's Bank of Canada (499 Wallace Street) building to repaint the building's exterior and install exterior lighting and wrought iron window boxes.

The Merchant's Bank of Canada 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 – Merchant's Bank of Canada 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 and installation of new exterior lighting and wrought iron window boxes to complete unfinished wiring work and to provide an improved aesthetic appearance for the building both day and night. Photos of the condition of the existing exterior walls and unfinished wiring can be viewed in Attachment C – Existing Exterior Wall Condition and Wiring.

The repaint, lighting and window box installation 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* (see Attachment D – Proposed Exterior Colour Scheme; and Attachment E – Proposed Exterior Light Fixture and Wrought Iron Window Box Detail).

The total estimated project cost is \$19,430.25. 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 separate street frontages.

It should be noted that the property was approved for a \$20,000 grant in 2006, which was renewed in 2008, but ultimately the work did not proceed and the grant money was not used.

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 Council approve a \$9,715.13 Heritage Façade Grant for the Merchant's Bank of Canada building located at 499 Wallace Street to repaint the building's exterior and install exterior lighting and wrought iron window boxes.
 - **Budget Implication:** The Heritage Façade Grant Program currently has a \$10,420.59 budget available to cover this amount.
 - **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 \$9,715.13 Heritage Façade Grant for the Merchant's Bank of Canada building located at 499 Wallace Street to repaint the building's exterior and install exterior lighting and wrought iron window boxes.
- The total estimated projected cost is \$19,430.25.
- The grant application satisfies the relevant requirements and objectives of the Heritage Façade Grant Program.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Merchant's Bank of Canada Building History and Significance

ATTACHMENT B: Heritage Façade Grant Program Purpose and Conditions

ATTACHMENT C: Existing Exterior Wall Paint Condition and Wiring

ATTACHMENT D: Proposed Exterior Colour Scheme

ATTACHMENT E: Proposed Exterior Light Fixture and Wrought Iron Window Box Detail |

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