

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** 2020 Heritage Financial Incentives Program

**Date Prepared:** September 28, 2020

**Report To:** Built Heritage Experts Panel

**Councillor and Role:** Maggie Burton, Built Heritage Experts Panel

**Ward:** N/A

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**Decision/Direction Required:** To seek approval of the grant applications, subject to compliance with requirements of the Heritage Financial Incentives Program

**Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

Council approved the City's Heritage Financial Incentives Program on July 25, 2016 and offers two types of grants:

1. Heritage Maintenance Grant; and
2. Heritage Conservation Grant.

The City has received thirty-one (31) applications for the 2020 Grant program, which is on-par with 2019 and a large increase from previous years. Prior to 2019 the number of applications received ranged from seven (7) to fourteen (14). The increase is due in part to increased promotion, as well as the program becoming more well-known as we enter its fifth year. In addition, in 2020 the provincial government also launched a Residential Construction Rebate Program as a means to stimulate the economy and employment in the province's construction industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. In general the City has seen an increase in renovation applications due to this program.

The applications have been prioritized based on the High, Medium and Low Priority descriptions listed below:

- High Priority – consist of designated Heritage Buildings, first-time applications, and projects that include the preservation, restoration and weatherproofing of historic elements rather than cosmetic improvements.
- Medium Priority – consist of restoration/conservation projects that bring the building closer into compliance with the City's Heritage provisions.
- Low Priority – consist of maintenance and construction work that does not significantly bring the building closer into compliance with the City's Heritage provisions.

In 2019 it was noted that priority tended to be given to Heritage Conservation Grants and only a few Heritage Maintenance Grants were awarded. Therefore, Council directed that \$10,000 of the overall 2020 budget be dedicated to Heritage Maintenance Grants.

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Due to the number of applications received, this year the requests for funding exceed the City's budget for this program. All applications have been assessed and prioritized and there are tentatively twenty-three (23) applications recommended for approval. ***Information on each application will be sent to the Built Heritage Experts Panel under a separate cover because the list is currently in draft form.*** Some applications required clarification and confirmation that appropriate permits were obtained prior to finalizing the recommendation. If all listed applications are approved, the estimated total of the 2020 grant funding is approximately \$60,000 plus permit waiver. This number may change slightly during final review. Any applicant who did not obtain a permit for work completed will be removed from the recommendation to Council.

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications:

The City budgeted \$60,000 in the 2020 Budget. Twenty-three (23) grant applications are tentatively recommended for approval for a total of approximately \$60,000 plus waiver of the permit fees.

Council should note that applicants are given two (2) years to complete the work listed in the grant application. Currently, there is approximately \$19, 700 in outstanding grants to be claimed that were issued in 2019 Grant Program. Outstanding payment for the 2018 Grant Program were to be submitted by May 28, 2020 and have since expired.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

The City will partner with property owners through the Heritage Financial Incentive Program.

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

*St. John's Strategic Plan 2019-2029 - A Sustainable City* – Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.

4. Legal or Policy Implications: Not applicable.

5. Privacy Implications: Not applicable.

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The Grant Program was promoted through the City's website, public notice emails, and social media.

7. Human Resource Implications: Not applicable.

8. Procurement Implications: Not applicable.

9. Information Technology Implications: Not applicable.

10. Other Implications: Not applicable.

**Recommendation:**

That the Built Heritage Experts Panel review the documentation provided regarding the 2020 Heritage Financial Incentives Program and make a recommendation to Council on this matter.

**Prepared by: Ann-Marie Cashin, MCIP, Planner III – Urban Design & Heritage**

**Approved by: Ken O'Brien, MCIP, Chief Municipal Planner**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2020 Heritage Financial Incentives Program.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 29, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Ken O'Brien - Sep 29, 2020 - 1:23 PM**

**Jason Sinyard - Sep 29, 2020 - 1:51 PM**