

# DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

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**Title:** 2024 Heritage Financial Incentives Program

**Date Prepared:** October 1, 2024

**Report To:** Committee of the Whole

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

**Ward:** N/A

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**Decision/Direction Required:**

To approve 23 eligible applications for the 2024 Heritage Financial Incentives Program, as summarized in the attached tables, subject to compliance with the standards of the program and the City's heritage and building requirements.

**Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

Council created the City's Heritage Financial Incentives Program on July 25, 2016, which provides two types of grants:

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

The City received 25 applications for the 2024 grant program, an increase from the 19 applications received in 2023. This reflects the increased popularity compared with the initial years of the program when we received between 7 and 14 applications per year.

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

This year, the amount of application requests has exceeded the budget. The Heritage Maintenance Grants application total was \$10,376.44. To stay within the \$10,000 budget for Maintenance Grants, the six (6) applications that qualified for the maximum amount of \$1,000 were reduced by \$62.74 each to bring the total amount down to \$10,000.

The Heritage Conservation Grants total was also over budget at \$54,300.00. To stay within the amount of \$50,000, incomplete and second-time applicants were removed. This reduced the overall amount to \$51,000. The nine (9) remaining applications that qualified for the maximum amount of \$5,000 were reduced by \$111.11 each to bring the total amount down to \$50,000.

The result is that no one will receive the full grant amount, but most applicants will receive close to it. This maximizes the number of people who will receive a grant. One (1) application was for a designated Heritage Building, the LSPU Hall at 3 Victoria Street.

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# ST. JOHN'S

The Built Heritage Experts Panel carried out an e-vote after not being able to meet quorum for a number of potential meeting dates. The Panel recommended Council approve all 23 applications, as attached. Staff agree with this recommendation to Council.

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications: The City budgeted \$60,000 in the 2024 Budget for the Heritage Financial Incentives Program. There are 23 grant applications for a total of \$60,000 plus the waiving of permit fees.

Applicants are given 2 years to complete the work. There are approximately \$20,173 in outstanding grants that were issued under the 2023 Program. Outstanding payments for the 2023 Program are due October 17, 2025.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders: Relevant property owners.

3. Is this a New Plan or Strategy: No

4. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Sustainable City: Plan for land use and preserve and enhance the natural and built environment where we live.

A Sustainable City: Be financially responsible and accountable.

5. Alignment with Adopted Plans: Envision St. John's Municipal Plan and Development Regulations; St. John's Heritage By-Law.

6. Accessibility and Inclusion: Not applicable.

4. Legal or Policy Implications: Meet the standards of the Heritage Financial Incentives Program.

5. Privacy Implications: Not applicable.

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations: The Heritage Financial Incentives Program was promoted via 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 Council approve the 23 eligible applications for the 2024 Heritage Financial Incentives Program, as summarized in the attached tables, subject to compliance with the standards of the program and the City's heritage and building requirements.

**Prepared by: Lindsay Church, MCIP, Planner III – Urban Design and Heritage**

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

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Heritage Financial Incentives Program - 2024.docx
Attachments:	- Heritage Financial Incentives Program Information Sheet.pdf - 2024 Heritage Financial Incentive Program Summary.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 3, 2024

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

**Ken O'Brien - Oct 3, 2024 - 2:22 PM**

**Jason Sinyard - Oct 3, 2024 - 2:48 PM**