


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	24-350	Meeting:	August 19, 2024
	Agenda Item:	24	Roll Call:	24-1153
	Submitted by:	Cody Christensen, Development Services Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Resolution authorizing submittal of Fiscal Year 2025 State of Iowa Certified Local Government (CLG) grant application to assist with consulting services for the development of a work program and public engagement strategy for conducting a city-wide historic survey.

SYNOPSIS:

The Development Services Department proposes an application for a State of Iowa CLG grant be submitted to assist with funding consulting services for the creation of a city-wide historic survey, a key action in the recently adopted ReflectDSM Historic Preservation Plan. This project would establish a community-led process for a city-wide survey to document underrepresented histories and less-traditional historic resources, with a strong focus on equity and inclusion. Securing this grant is essential for planning the survey, organizing public outreach and establishing a comprehensive preservation program for Des Moines.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$20,000 match (\$40,000 total budget with 50% funding from grant).

Funding Source: To be determined.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Development Services Department is preparing to apply for a State of Iowa Certified Local Government (CLG) grant to secure funding for consulting services that will create a work program and a public engagement strategy for a comprehensive city-wide historic survey. This project aligns with Action N2 of the recently adopted Historic Preservation Plan, ReflectDSM, which calls for a renewed commitment to surveying and researching potential historic resources across Des Moines. The goal is to create a community-led process that highlights stories from underrepresented groups and explores less-traditional historic resources. Based on recommendations from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), securing this grant is crucial for planning the survey and organizing the extensive public outreach that will be essential for the project's success.

The proposed city-wide survey will prioritize equity and inclusion, ensuring that the histories of all Des Moines' communities are documented. This comprehensive, community-led approach aims create a preservation program that recognizes and preserves the city's diverse histories. The project will involve setting overall goals, researching other successful models, assessing in-house capacity, and

creating a plan to engage the community. Additionally, it will include developing an online communication strategy to maximize visibility and enthusiasm, defining roles and responsibilities, establishing a timeline with milestones, and identifying potential vendors and consultants for the survey. Through this effort, the city seeks to lay a strong foundation for future preservation initiatives that honor and include all aspects of Des Moines' history.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: September 11, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1275](#)

Action: [On](#) City-initiated request to amend the PlanDSM Creating Our Tomorrow Plan to adopt ReflectDSM: Honoring All Des Moines Histories (Historic Preservation Plan) and incorporate as an element. ([Council Communication No. 23-403](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Second by Gatto. Motion Carried 6-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Historic Preservation Commission

Date: July 19, 2023

Resolution Number: NA.

Action: Motion to recommend approval of the ReflectDSM: Honoring All Des Moines Histories (Historic Preservation Plan) as an element to PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow comprehensive plan. Approved 9-0.

Board: Plan & Zoning Commission

Date: August 3, 2023

Resolution Number: COMP-2023-000023

Action: Motion for approval of the proposed adoption of the ReflectDSM: Honoring All Des Moines Histories (Historic Preservation Plan) as an amendment to PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. Approved 13-0.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

- Grant agreement approval if awarded.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive

meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.