


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>25-139</b>	Meeting:	<b>April 7, 2025</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>29</b>	Roll Call:	<b>25-0507</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Cody Christensen, Development Services Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Acceptance of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 State of Iowa Certified Local Government (CLG) grant 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 requests the acceptance of FY 2025 State of Iowa CLG grant 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. The project would establish a community-led process for implementing a city-wide survey that documents historic resources in the community, including underrepresented histories and less-traditional historic resources. 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: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Page 38, Housing Study and PlanDSM Update, MS028, Being: \$20,000 Grant and \$20,000 in G.O. Bonds

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Development Services Department received a FY 2025 State of Iowa CLG grant to fund consulting services that will develop a work program and 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 build a community-led process that fully captures the City's layered history—documenting not only traditional structures and resources but also underrepresented places, cultural narratives, and intangible heritage that are often excluded from conventional surveys.
- Following guidance from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), planning the survey process and organizing the extensive public outreach in advance will be essential to the project's success.

- This comprehensive, community-led approach aims to create a preservation program that recognizes, preserves and protects the city's diverse historic fabric. The project will involve setting overall goals, researching other successful models, assessing in-house capacity, and developing a community engagement plan. It will also include creating 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: August 19, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-1153](#)

Action: [Submittal](#) of FY 2025 State of Iowa 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. ([Council Communication No. 24-350](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Coleman. Motion Carried 7-0.

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: 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.

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 of PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. Approved 9-0.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

- Approval of consultant contract.

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