



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Community Development - Planning

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 7, 2022

Re: Columbia Historic Preservation Plan - Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grant

## Executive Summary

Approval of this resolution would indicate City Council support to the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and provide authorization for the City Manager to submit a future FY 2023 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant application, in the amount of \$25,000, to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for the procurement of a qualified historian to produce a city-wide historic preservation plan document. HPF grants are awarded on a 60:40, federal to local matching basis. For the proposed \$25,000 grant, the Federal share would be \$15,000 and the local match requirement would be \$10,000. Future Council action would be required to appropriate the requested matching funds and authorize submission of the finalized HPF grant.

## Discussion

If awarded, this grant (attached) would permit the City to hire a qualified consultant (As defined by 36 Code of Federal Regulations 61) to produce an historic preservation plan for the city based on input from the community and previous surveys conducted at the direction of the Historic Preservation Commission. Once complete, the plan could be adopted by Council and incorporated into the provisions of the comprehensive plan, where it would guide policies and regulations pertaining to historic properties. This project would fulfill one of the enumerated responsibilities of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) outlined in its Powers and Duties of Section 29-2.3(c)(3) of the UDC. The section gives the HPC authority, "To develop a preservation component in the comprehensive plan and to recommend it to the planning and zoning commission and to the council."

The HPC's status as a Certified Local Government (CLG) organization requires that the commission continuously meet certain minimum requirements for education and outreach, advancement of preservation in Columbia, as well as a number of other recordkeeping requirements. By maintaining this status, the commission gains access to grant funding for historical survey work and other preservation projects for the City of Columbia. As a part of maintaining this status, the commission is required to evaluate commission activities every four years.

During this evaluation process the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviews the commission's efforts for education and outreach, as well as the progress made toward the goals of the program. At the conclusion of the evaluation, the commission is provided with a report which details the activities evaluated by the SHPO, and recommendations for advancement of the city's preservation efforts. In each of the previous evaluations, the latest occurring in 2019 shortly after the HPC kicked-off their preservation planning process, SHPO



recommended (attached) that the HPC to develop a preservation plan that can be incorporated into the City's comprehensive plan.

The HPC began the initial public input phase for the proposed preservation plan in the spring of 2019, with an engagement meeting with interested parties at the Blind Boone Home. At that meeting attendees were asked five questions which were devised to gather input from the public in regards to the preservation plan components they most desired. The five questions were as follows:

1. How should historic preservation benefit you?
2. What should be Historic Preservation Commission's priorities?
3. Who should the HPC partner with to support preservation efforts?
4. How can the HPC better serve the public and remain relevant?
5. What can the HPC do to be more accessible?

The feedback generated by the public engagement session was robust and informative. In regards to Question 1, those in attendance shared concerns over displacement of marginalized communities through gentrification of historic areas of town, loss of the 'living history' of Columbia in historic properties to private redevelopment, and maintaining the established identities of Columbia and its neighborhoods.

When asked about HPC priorities, the group noted a need for taking stock of existing historic elements as well as immediate threats to historic properties. They also felt a priority should be on an improved web presence for the HPC and its activities to bolster efforts in terms of education and outreach.

Attendees named a number of local organizations to target for partnerships, including local community improvement districts, Columbia Public Schools, Daniel Boone Regional Library, The University of Missouri Architectural Studies Department, and other local housing organizations that could assist the HPC in reaching a larger audience, especially those that represent minorities.

In terms of accessibility and relevance, the group reiterated a broader, more public online presence as a primary need. Since the initial public input event, members of the commission have visited other community group meetings and presented the survey to those in attendance. Those responses have reiterated the viewpoints expressed at the initial meeting.

The HPC discussed the grant pre-application for the Preservation Plan at their October 4, 2022 meeting and unanimously (5-0) reaffirmed an older recommendation, from their August 3, 2021 meeting, to submit the application in pursuit of a CLG grant securing funding for the services of a qualified historian. The scope of the project will be determined by the available funding and through consultation with the staff at SHPO during the application process.

If awarded, pursuant to the prescribed CLG grant application process, a subsequent memo will be prepared for Council specifically seeking approval of a Financial Assistance



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Agreement between the City and the SHPO, as well as the appropriation authority for necessary local funding match. The HPC believes that the final product will be a representation of the priorities voiced by the community and once complete will be sought for adoption and inclusion in the next update of the City’s comprehensive plan.

A copy of the pre-application for the FY 2023 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant as well as the 2019 CLG Audit Report, prepared by SHPO, are attached for review.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Authorization for \$25,000 to cover the costs of hiring a qualified historian to prepare the Preservation Plan of which 60% (\$15,000) would be reimbursed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as Plan milestones are accomplished. To City contribution is estimated at \$10,000.

Long-Term Impact: None.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Economic Development, Tertiary Impact: Environmental Management

## Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

## Suggested Council Action

Approve the resolution to authorize the City Manager to submit an application for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant, in the amount of \$25,000, to complete a historic preservation plan for the City of Columbia.