

STAFF REPORT

Date: January 11, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of a Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grant to conduct a detailed review of existing historic resource surveys within the Reno city limits and complete a survey of downtown Reno in the amount of \$27,000.

From: Megan Berner, Senior Management Analyst

Department: City Manager's Office – Arts and Culture

Summary:

On December 19, 2022, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recommended funding of \$27,000 for a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) subgrant to conduct a detailed review of existing historic resource surveys within the Reno city limits and complete a survey of downtown Reno that will provide a summary with recommendations for possible historic districts and a catalog of completed and in-progress surveys. This requires \$10,000 of matching funding which has been set aside in Councilmember Brekhus' Council Discretionary Funds.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

Background:

Staff applied for a grant from the Nevada SHPO HPF grant program to hire a contractor to conduct a review of existing historic resource surveys within the city of Reno and to complete a survey of all properties within a defined boundary in the downtown area. The City received confirmation from Nevada SHPO that the City was awarded a grant in the amount of \$27,000. The initial work will entail conducting intensive research in order to locate and collect all past surveys of historic resources within the city limits of Reno. The City will hire a contractor through an RFP process to conduct this research. This includes but is not limited to Historic Resource Inventories and Surveys, Architectural Inventories and Survey Reports, and Historic

Resource Surveys and Inventories that have been conducted by city employees and consultants working for the city, as well as surveys conducted by State and Federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. This will require that the Contractor undertake an exhaustive records search of archival databases as well as hands-on research of files in the repositories of governmental and non-governmental organizations. Once all surveys are identified, the consultant will review all data and notate all outdated, underrepresented and/or inadequate survey material for resources dating between the city's prehistoric period and 1970. The methodology for determining existing survey adequacy and for performing historic resources survey and survey updates shall be determined in consultation with the SHPO during a kickoff meeting at the commencement of the project. When the literature review and survey updates have been completed, the Contractor shall create a comprehensive catalog of all surveys that have been completed or are in-progress.

Within a defined boundary in the downtown Reno area (bounded by I-80 on the north, California Avenue on the south, Lake Street on the east, and Arlington Avenue on the west), the Contractor shall complete a reconnaissance level survey of all resources dating between the city's prehistoric period and 1970. There are approximately 250-285 total buildings in the downtown Reno area. The Contractor will submit a survey report with a summary of findings and recommendations for the downtown area. Recommendations must include a priority list of areas or resources for intensive-level survey, a list of resources that may be individually eligible for the NRHP depending on additional evaluation, and identification of potential downtown historic district(s) and their proposed boundaries.

Discussion:

The Nevada SHPO administers a Historic Preservation Fund subgranting program that grants funds to Certified Local Governments (CLG) in Nevada. Only one other CLG in Nevada is receiving funding this year. There is a match of 40 percent of total costs required in the form of cash and in-kind. The cash match needed is \$10,000 and has been set aside from Council Discretionary Funds. As part of the City of Reno's Master Plan, goal 7.5 is to protect and preserve Reno's heritage and historic assets. This grant activity will help accomplish this by progressing the following subgoals:

- 7.5B: Identification of Historic Properties
 - o Identify, recognize, and increase historic resources by encouraging and incentivizing the addition of properties to the City, state, and national registers.
- 7.5E: Economic Development and Heritage Preservation
 - Emphasize the economic benefits of historic preservation and its role in economic development, sustainability, and heritage tourism.

This grant will allow the City to update the inventory of potentially eligible historic properties and associated survey forms. One potential outcome from conducting this research would be the creation of a Historic Commercial District on the National Register of Historic Places. This would allow income-producing contributing properties within the district to be eligible for tax credits from the federal government for eligible rehabilitation expenses. As part of maintaining CLG status, the City is required to build, maintain, and enhance an inventory of historic properties in the community and to encourage local historic preservation efforts.

The period of performance for the grant will be from January 12, 2023 through June 28, 2024. Attached is a detailed timeline with specific benchmarks.

Financial Implications:

This grant requires \$10,000 in matching funding. This has been set aside in Councilmember Brekhus' Council Discretionary Funds.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve and accept the grant funding in the amount of \$27,000.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

NV-22-10016 HPF Subgrant – City of Reno

Timeline HPF 2022 FINAL – Edited 12.5.22