

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 29, 2020

The Honorable Members of the Economic Development Committee:

TO Tennell Atkins (Chair), David Blewett (Vice-Chair), Jennifer Staubach Gates, Adam McGough, Omar Narvaez, Jaime Resendez, Chad West

SUBJECT **Acceptance of four grants from Preservation Dallas as a match for City funds for a contract for a Historic Survey and Contextual Statements**

On May 27, 2020, City Council will consider the acceptance of a financial contribution from Preservation Dallas in the amount of \$95,000. The funding aims to match the City's contribution of \$100,000 for a total of \$195,000 for the purpose of undertaking a historic thematic context assessment and survey of Greater Downtown Dallas. The contract for undertaking this work is also scheduled to be considered at the May 27, 2020, Council hearing.

Background Information

In 2015, the Mayor's appointed Downtown Historic Preservation Task Force identified nine recommendations to improve the preservation program in Dallas. One of the recommendations was to conduct a downtown survey to provide a "base-layer for direction, to establish preservation priorities, and to provide a tool for existing and future planning." The Task Force encouraged exploring sources other than general funds to finance the survey.

Preservation Dallas, a nonprofit organization based in Dallas, participated on the Downtown Historic Preservation Task Force and the subsequent Preservation Solutions Committee. Preservation Dallas has accepted four grants in the amount of \$95,000 to help fund the survey as follows:

1. The Summerlee Foundation \$50,000;
2. Downtown Dallas, Inc. \$15,000;
3. The Hoblitzelle Foundation \$25,000; and
4. The National Trust for Historic Preservation \$5,000.

Scope of Survey Work to be Undertaken

The Survey will provide a historic thematic context assessment and survey of Greater Downtown Dallas. The work will include undertaking a comprehensive reconnaissance field survey of the Downtown area and provide thematic context statements. Context statements provide the framework for evaluating the historic significance and integrity of a property and describe historic events, trends and people that are important to the physical development of an area. These themes may include early settlement; forms of

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development; transportation networks including railroads, street cars, and motor trolleys; architecture and engineering or tourism development.

The historic thematic context assessment and survey will also provide updated National Register information regarding contributing structures within City historic districts, assist with building identification as part of the City's demolition delay districts, and be a starting point towards an updated City of Dallas preservation plan.

Public Consultation

The consultant will host an informational presentation to inform the public of the survey efforts and gather oral histories and historical documents that may inform the context statements. The consultant will submit a final report and copies of photographs, database files, maps, and research supporting the final report.

Schedule

It is anticipated that the work on the survey and historic thematic context assessment will take up to 24 months to complete. The consultant will work with staff, historic preservation stakeholders, and the community throughout the process.

If you have questions about the grants or the historic thematic context assessment and survey, please contact Murray G. Miller, Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation at (214) 671-9260



Dr. Eric Anthony Johnson
Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
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