



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
from the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning  
Division**

**Date:** January 29, 2009

**To:** Councilmember Gary Schiff, Zoning and Planning Committee

**Referral to:** Councilmember Paul Ostrow, Ways and Means Committee

**Prepared and Submitted by:** Molly McCartney, Senior City Planner, (612) 673-5811

**Approved by:** Jack Byers, Planning Supervisor

**Presenter in Committee:** Molly McCartney, Senior City Planner

**Subject:** Apply for a federal Certified Local Government (CLG) grant through the Minnesota Historical Society in the amount of \$30,000 to complete the historic resource survey of the City of Minneapolis.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize CPED Planning staff to apply for a matching federal Certified Local Government (CLG) grant, administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Minnesota Historical Society in the amount of \$30,000 to complete the ten-year historic resource survey of the city by conducting the next phase in the following neighborhoods: Shingle Creek, Lind-Bohanon, Victory, Camden, Southeast Como, Corcoran, Standish, Erickson, Bryant, Bancroft, Field, Regina, Northrup, Page, Hale, Diamond Lake, Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Wenonah, Morris Park, Armatage, Kenny, and Windom.

**Previous Directives:**

City Council Approvals for funding previous historic resource surveys from 2000-2009

**Financial Impact**

- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

## Community Impact

**Neighborhood Notification:** Neighborhood groups have received preliminary notification of the proposed survey area.

**Ward:** 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13

**City Goals:** Consistent with the following goal:

### ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT

In five years there will be plentiful green spaces, public gathering areas, celebrated historic architectural features and urban forests in Minneapolis; lakes, rivers and the soil and air will be clean; the city's parks and the Mississippi riverfront will be valued and utilized; opportunities to experience diverse cultures and the arts will abound; and usage of renewable energy will be increasing.

**Comprehensive Plan:** Consistent with the following policies and implementation steps of The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth

### **Policy 8.2: Continue to evaluate potential historic resources for future studies and designation as the city ages.**

8.2.1 Future surveys should focus on completion of a basic or reconnaissance survey of the entire city which incorporates nominations of potential landmarks or historic districts.

### **Policy 8.6: Provide educational, financial, technical, and regulatory assistance to ensure the survival of the city's historic resources.**

### **Policy 8.12: Raise awareness of the history of Minneapolis and promote the quality of the built environment.**

8.12.1 Promote heritage preservation planning efforts to important stakeholders, including other city offices, the public, and preservation organizations.

8.12.2 Continue to work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and preservation organizations to promote education and incentive programs.

8.12.3 Involve residents and neighborhood organizations in review of heritage preservation applications.

8.12.5 Provide educational activities, such as walking tours, to foster appreciation of Minneapolis' history and the built and natural environment.

## Supporting Information

### Background:

The Certified Local Government (CLG) grant is a federal grant administered through the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Minnesota Historical Society. Since 1985, the City of Minneapolis has received grants for projects such as landmark designations, historic context studies, and historic resource surveys.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) created the Preservation Study Group in 1999 to research how the existing citywide historic resources inventory should be updated and devised a plan for gathering funds. The City Council approved the Commission's plan and called for matching funds to be granted each year that a CLG grant is awarded by SHPO. Since 2000, the City has applied for these grant funds and provided the matching funds to complete the surveys.

The historic resource survey serves as a planning tool for the City of Minneapolis, specifically CPED staff and the HPC. Staff and the HPC use the inventory to make informed decisions about the significance and protection of historic resources in reviewing demolition permits as well as reviewing development proposals. The surveys aid to develop goals and strategies for preservation as well as other planning processes, such as neighborhood planning.

The proposed survey area for 2009-2010 will complete the re-survey of Minneapolis, which adheres to the long-range goal of identifying and documenting the city's historic resources. The survey area for 2009-2010 includes neighborhoods in the following areas of Minneapolis:

- North: Shingle Creek, Lind-Bohanon, Victory, Camden
- Southeast: Southeast Como
- South: Corcoran, Standish, Erickson, Bryant, Bancroft, Field, Regina, Northrup, Page, Hale, Diamond Lake, Keewaydin, Minnehaha, Wenonah, Morris Park
- Southwest: Armatage, Kenny, and Windom (please see attached map).

These are non-contiguous areas; however, there are similarities in the development pattern of these areas. Many of these areas were lands last annexed to the City of Minneapolis, were located outside of the streetcar network, and developed after the proliferation of the automobile.

In order to complete the survey for the proposed areas during the 2009-2010 CLG grant period, CPED-staff proposes to contribute in-kind resources to the survey, specifically creating a Historic Resource Geographic Information System (GIS) – a spatial mapping program that can help to prioritize properties in the survey areas prior to and during field review of properties. The use of GIS and mapping will focus survey efforts and eliminate some areas or properties from review. Staff would be able to consolidate information from previous context studies and Heritage Preservation files into the GIS prior to work performed by a consultant.

Inference mapping and the use of GIS in heritage preservation is a new concept for Minneapolis, however, spatial data analysis is a routine analytical tool used in the planning, geography, and history fields. The use of spatial data as a predictive methodology can advance qualitative and quantitative skills in the discipline of preservation. Minneapolis is in a unique position to have staff and resources to support an innovative survey research design that incorporates GIS and mapping with traditional preservation methods. In addition to the research assistance, maps and other visual resources contribute to the quality of the public outreach and education that is vital to the survey program. Maps can communicate to community residents as well as elected and appointed officials the project impacts and benefits.

The last two survey projects from 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 increased the amount of public education and outreach for the survey areas by including three community meetings into the survey. This is an important step in reaching out to the community about the survey program as well as increasing civic understanding and awareness of heritage preservation in the Minneapolis.

The proposed survey project was presented to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) as an informational item on January 27, 2009 (Attachment B).

Attachments:

A: Map of proposed 2009-2010 CLG survey area

B. Memorandum to the Heritage Preservation Commission meeting, January 27, 2009