



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

FROM: Elizabeth H. Tyler, FAICP, Community Development Services Director

DATE: January 19, 2012

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment for Grant Awarded for Historic Preservation Education and Promotion

Introduction

On December 19, 2011, the City of Urbana was awarded a \$6,650 Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The grant is for the City of Urbana to create five podcast tours featuring Urbana's 100 Most Significant Buildings.

Last year, the City of Urbana received a CLG Grant to create a list of the 100 most architecturally significant structures in Urbana. With public input, the Urbana Historic Preservation Commission composed a list of the most significant structures in terms of our community heritage and values. The City has now been awarded a grant to create five self-guided audio-visual themed programs that will highlight a number of the buildings on Urbana's 100 Most Significant Buildings list. Public education and awareness, sense of community, and community marketing and promotion are the likely purposes and benefits of the podcast tours.

Background

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) administers the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant program on behalf of the Federal government. Communities that have achieved CLG status under the National Historic Preservation Act are encouraged to apply for Federal grant funds made available through IHPA that are specifically earmarked for local grants in the areas of public preservation and development. The grants are awarded on a matching basis with Federal funds paying for up to 70 percent of the project cost and local funds making up the remainder. In-kind contribution of staff resources are an acceptable match for the local share. The projects must relate to historic preservation and can include planning, public education workshops and heritage publications, National Register of Historic Places property listings, and developments. Only Certified Local Governments may apply for the grants. The City of Urbana has applied for CLG grants on a regular basis since 2001. The following is a history of Urbana's grant applications and awards:

- 2001 \$900 Historic Preservation Brochure
To fund the development and printing of a brochure featuring the historic preservation program in Urbana by offering a description of the five local landmarks and the 20 additional sites listed on the National Register. The brochure also offers a description of the Urbana Historic Preservation Plan and Ordinance.
- 2006 \$1,470 Stucco Workshop
To fund a workshop on historic stucco houses, using Buena Vista Historic District as a model. The workshop included a session on historic stucco repair techniques.
- 2007 \$3,150 Historic Wood Window Repair Workshop
To fund a day-long workshop with a lecture and demonstration by Robert Yapp, a nationally-recognized preservation trades expert. His hands-on, multi-media presentation addressed the proper care and repair of windows in historic structures, as well as working with lead paint in historic properties.
- 2008 \$1,198 Royer Arts & Architecture District Brochure
To defray the cost of creating and printing brochures for the then newly-created Joseph W Royer Arts and Architecture District. The district is dedicated to the arts and the celebration of the city's historic and architectural heritage.
- 2009 \$4,256 Historic House "Unveiling" Workshop
To fund a day-long historic house "unveiling" workshop, where volunteers removed the aluminum siding from a circa 1902 Queen Anne house. The event included a session teaching the volunteers how to remove non-original siding as well as a house painting workshop conducted by Robert Yapp.
- 2010 The City of Urbana applied for but did not receive a grant to create an illustrated guide of the 100 most architecturally significant structures in Urbana.
- 2011 \$5,908 Urbana's 100 Most Significant Buildings
To create an illustrated guide of Urbana's 100 most architecturally significant buildings. Upon completion the guide will be made available to the public in print and on line.

Discussion

The 2012 grant award project is intended to be part of a pro-active preservation program. The Urbana Mayor and City Council held a study session in July 2010 on historic preservation and asked Jim Peters, then president and chief executive officer of Landmarks Illinois, the statewide preservation advocacy organization, to speak on the advantages and benefits of historic preservation. Mr. Peters stressed the importance of having a pro-active preservation program. The list of Urbana's 100 Most Significant Buildings is part of a pro-active preservation effort to

ensure that preservation in Urbana is a positive tool for improving our neighborhoods. The City has received a great deal of positive coverage on this initiative in the local media, including a feature article in the *News-Gazette*, as well as stories on several radio and television stations. The interest in this project has spurred another effort to identify Urbana's mid-20th Century buildings, which will result in a house tour in late April or early May 2012.

Creating podcast tours using Urbana's 100 Most Significant Buildings would further enhance the positive image of preservation in Urbana and help to encourage additional landmark designations in Urbana. Other benefits include public education and awareness about our historic buildings, a sense of community, and community marketing and promotion.

The anticipated five self-guided tours are expected to include three walking tours, one biking tour, and one driving tour. Although the first phase of the project would be to determine the final themes for each of the five tours, the following are examples of possible tours:

- a walking tour of eclectic houses in the West Urbana neighborhood
- a driving tour spanning Urbana's architectural heritage that would start with a circa 1850 cottage and end with a 1964 modern house
- a bicycling tour of Urbana's modern buildings
- a walking tour of Urbana Mayors' homes through the ages

Once the themes are selected, Community Development and Urbana Public Television staff will create an audio-visual program for each. The podcasts will then be made available for download on the City's website, will play on Urbana's public television station, and will be available at the Urbana Free Library. Brochures will also be designed and printed.

Fiscal Impact

The City's matching share of this grant is \$2,850. This will be paid in-kind through Planning Division and UPTV staff hours. The grant funds will generally be spent on intern staff time, and designing and printing a brochure.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council adopt the attached Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance to allow the City to accept a Certified Local Government grant to create Urbana's Most Significant Structures List.

Prepared by:

Rebecca Bird, Planner II

Attachments: Draft Ordinance
cc: HPC, UPTV

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2012-01-008

**AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE
(HISTORICAL PODCAST GRANT)**

WHEREAS, the Annual Budget Ordinance of and for the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2012, (the "Annual Budget Ordinance") has been duly adopted according to sections 8-2-9.1 et seq. of the Illinois Municipal Code (the "Municipal Code") and Division 2, entitled "Budget", of Article VI, entitled "Finances and Purchases", of Chapter 2, entitled "Administration", of the Code of Ordinances, City of Urbana, Illinois (the "City Code"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the said City of Urbana finds it necessary to revise said Annual Budget Ordinance by deleting, adding to, changing or creating sub-classes within object classes and object classes themselves; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to effectuate the purpose of such revision; and

WHEREAS, such revision is not one that may be made by the Budget Director under the authority so delegated to the Budget Director pursuant to section 8-2-9.6 of the Municipal Code and section 2-133 of the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Annual Budget be and the same is hereby revised to provide as follows:

FUND: Economic Development Reserve Fund

ADD EXPENSE: Historical Podcast Costs \$6,650

ADD REV.: Il. Historical Pres. Grant \$6,650

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval and shall not be published.

Section 3. This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the corporate authorities then holding office, the "ayes" and "nays" being called at a regular meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, _____.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, _____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor