



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of March 28, 2023
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of April 11, 2023

DATE: March 20, 2023
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Al Raymond, AIA, Director, Development Services Department
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Ordinance authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a \$25,000.00 grant from the Texas Historical Commission Certified Local Government program for the Upper Westside Historic Resource Survey project

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a \$25,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission Certified Local Government program for the Upper Westside Historic Resource Survey project with a City match of \$25,000 budgeted and coming from the Development Services fund.

SUMMARY:

This is an ordinance accepting and appropriating \$25,000.00 from the Texas Historical Commission Certified Local Government program for the Upper Westside Historic Resource Survey Update project. The grant funding source is the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

To preserve the heritage of Corpus Christi, the Landmark Commission was established by the City Council in 1974. The commission's primary tasks are to:

- Consider specific sites, structures, and districts for designation as historic landmarks.
- Encourage and communicate with property owners the benefit of rehabilitation of potential landmarks as an alternative to demolition.
- Review and recommend nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Promote preservation through education.
- Maintain and update the historical resource survey.
- Promote preservation through the Planning and Zoning process.
- Seek and apply for preservation grant funding.

Corpus Christi, Texas is a Certified Local Government. The CLG program empowers local communities to better protect historic resources and meet recognized historic preservation standards. Cities participating in the CLG program may take advantage of CLG grants, technical assistance, training opportunities, and the CLG network. This program recognizes a partnership between the local, state, and federal governments to enhance preservation.

The Texas Historical Commission's Certified Local Government program is awarding the City of Corpus Christi a \$25,000 match on a reimbursement basis to undertake a historic resource survey for the Upper Westside. The city will have until September 30, 2025, to complete the project.

A historic resources survey of the Upper Westside area of Corpus Christi will implement the city's Historic Preservation Plan, Goal 2: Enable Community Driven Preservation, and Strategy 9 to document underrepresented historic resources (www.cctexas.com/hpp). The Upper Westside consists of approximately 3000 parcels and includes the Leopard St. and Staples St. Commercial Corridors, and early twentieth century to post World War II neighborhoods including the Ben Garza Park/Uptown area, Oak Park, Up River Road, and Saxet Heights neighborhoods. This survey area reflects the settlement and expansion of the city's Hispanic population.

Although scattered sites in this area were surveyed in the 1990s and by TxDOT in 2012 for the Harbor Bridge project, a survey for this area is incomplete and requires updating. A consultant will be hired to undertake the survey, and the data, pictures, and community history videos will be accessible through the City's "Landmark Commission Web Viewer (www.cctexas.com/landmark)." An ESRI Collector application of the Texas Historical Commission Survey Form was created for the survey. This platform, accessible through the internet, will facilitate the survey in the field via phone or laptop. Once uploaded the survey will be mapped instantaneously along with the site photography. A project website will host additional information including outreach opportunities, historical background, video/oral histories, and other reference materials. This data will provide the basis for future local, state, or national designations and potential incentives for preservation and rehabilitation efforts.

ALTERNATIVES:

Undertake the survey using volunteers. This could extend the project 5 years or more.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If approved, the additional grant funds will provide 50% or \$25,000.00 on a reimbursement basis towards a total project cost of \$50,000.00. The city will match 100% of the grant award or \$25,000.00.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Matching:

Fund: Development Services 4670
Organization/Activity: DSD Administration 11300
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: Professional Services 530000 (matching)

Revenue and Expense:

Fund: Community Development Grant Fund 1072
Organization/Activity: 870109S
Project # (CIP Only): N/A
Account: THC (Tx Historical Commission) 304850 (Revenue)
Professional Services 530000 (Expense)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance authorizing the acceptance and appropriation of a \$25,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission Certified Local Government program for the Upper Westside Historic Resource Survey project with a City match of \$25,000 budgeted and coming from the Development Services fund; and authorizing the

execution of all documents necessary to implement the project.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance

Award letter

Presentation

Historic Profile of Area and Map