



CITY OF VANCOUVER

A14

Administrative Report

Date: December 6, 2005
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CC File No.: 1805/5052
Meeting Date: December 13, 2005

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Current Planning

SUBJECT: Update and Statements of Significance for Post 1940 buildings - Award of Contract

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the Post 1940 buildings Statements of Significance project with an estimated cost of up to \$25,000 for:
- i) historical context statement and thematic framework for Vancouver's post-1940's buildings; and
 - ii) Statements of Significance (i.e. community heritage register records consistent with B.C. Register of Historic Places documentation standards) for 23 post 1940 Vancouver Heritage Register buildings.

The source of funding is \$25,000 from the Provincial Government.

- B. THAT Council authorize the Director of Legal Services to enter into an agreement with the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to receive \$25,000 towards the Post 1940 buildings project. This Agreement shall be on terms and conditions acceptable to the Director of Legal Services in consultation with the Director of Current Planning and may include an indemnification by the City of the Province for any additional costs incurred beyond the agreed limit.

- C. THAT upon completion of the Post 1940 Buildings Statements of Significance for buildings on the Vancouver Heritage Register, Council direct staff to have the records put forward for inclusion on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

Council approval is required to enter into contracts which are not covered by departmental standing authority. Council approval is also required in order to grant indemnities to third parties.

Council policy permits City Department Heads to select consultants for contracts that do not exceed \$30,000.

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council approval of a Statements of Significance project for post 1940 buildings. To achieve this, Council is asked to enter into an agreement with the Province as for delivery of the Statements of Significance project. The standard agreement document proposed by the Province includes an indemnity by the City to the Province for any additional costs incurred in excess of the Provincial commitment.

BACKGROUND

In the late 1990s, Council instructed staff to complete an inventory of buildings constructed after 1940 for possible inclusion on the Vancouver Heritage Register. More than 220 buildings were reviewed and evaluated, and a priority list of 100 of the most significant modern buildings was identified. Twenty-three of these sites were added to the Register.

Now, with funds available from the Federal Historic Places Initiative (HPI) SOS's can be prepared for these sites. HPI is a new Federal/Provincial Initiative that has introduced a valuable set of heritage planning tools relevant in the Canadian context with ongoing funding to support its implementation at the provincial and municipal levels. A Statement of Significance (SOS) is one of the key planning tools. It summarizes the core heritage values of a heritage site and is developed through detailed research. The Provincial Government has mandated that all new municipal Heritage Register records include an SOS. Statements of Significance achieve the following:

- explain what is formally recognized on a Vancouver Heritage Register site;
- describe the core heritage values to a wide range of audiences;
- identify the key character-defining elements;

- provide a values-based vision for property owners, planners, developers, architects, Council and others involved in the conservation and revitalising of heritage site as a guide to understanding where significance lies;
- assist in decision-making by broadly outlining what needs to be preserved and where changes are appropriate; and
- serve as a reference document for applications to the Federal Commercial Heritage Property Incentive Fund.

In 2003 and 2004, Council approved Statements of Significance consultancy projects for buildings in Gastown, Chinatown, Hastings Street and Victory Square using municipal funding and leveraged senior government funding.

DISCUSSION

The City of Vancouver is undertaking the third year of the Statements of Significance project targeting in part, 23 post 1940 buildings currently on the Register.

For 2005/2006, the Federal and B.C. Provincial Governments are prepared to contribute \$25,000 to the City of Vancouver towards post 1940 buildings. The objective of this project is to bring these Register records up-to-date with Provincial and National documentation standards. SOSs for these sites will help guide conservation planning and make these sites eligible for Federal rehabilitation funds.

At its November 28, 2005 meeting, the Vancouver Heritage Commission supported the recommended Statements of Significance project for post 1940 buildings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All funding for the project comes from senior levels of government. The City of Vancouver's contribution is an in-kind contribution of staff time from existing budgets for project management and reviewing the deliverables.

CONCLUSION

This report recommends Council approve a project budget of up to \$25,000 for the Statements of Significance project for post 1940 buildings. The source of funding is senior levels of government. Council authority is sought to enter into the contract with the Province.

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