



REPORT

Report Date: June 8, 2020
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RTS No.: 13916
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 7, 2020
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Vancouver Heritage Foundation Board

SUBJECT: Vancouver Heritage Foundation – Heritage Conservation Grants Program
Report 2019/20

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the Heritage Conservation Grants Program – Annual Report 2019/20 attached as Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council approve payment of a grant to the Vancouver Heritage Foundation in the amount of \$300,000 for the implementation of the second year of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program, source of funding 2020 Capital Budget.

Approval of Recommendations A and B constitutes grants and therefore requires an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of all of Council members pursuant to Section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation (“VHF”) 2019/20 Heritage Conservation Grants Annual Report as required by the agreement between VHF and the City (the “Grant Agreement”). Also, this report seeks approval of the payment of a grant of \$300,000 to VHF for the implementation of the second year of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program (the “Program”).

The first year of granted projects is underway, with grants supporting conservation projects at 35 sites across the city. In this first year, the demand for funding exceeded the available funds by nearly 100%. The grants proceeding as of May 2020 will provide \$208,539 and leverage a

further \$458,699 in private investment and other funding for Vancouver's heritage buildings for projects costing more than \$667,000 in total.

The Program emphasizes best practices in heritage conservation including planning and implementation. Through the Program, VHF is able to provide guidance to owners, building stewards and professionals to help in achieving high standards of conservation and long-term benefits of heritage buildings and places. The Program builds on VHF's 20 years of granting experience for the conservation of Vancouver's built heritage.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On March 13, 2019, Vancouver City Council approved the Heritage Incentive Program (RTS 12903) to implement the Program. There is \$1.2 million allocated in the 2019 – 2022 Capital Plan to support grants approved through the Program.

An annual grant of \$300,000 for the Heritage Incentive Program was approved as part of the 2020 Capital Budget.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

VHF launched the Program in September 2019 with funding provided by a \$300,000 grant from the City of Vancouver. Funding for this grant was approved as part of the 2019 annual Capital Budget. This 2019 grant was the first year of a planned four-year agreement to grant a total of \$1.2 million to VHF. The funding for these grants is identified as part of the 2019 - 2022 Capital Plan.

The Program is able to support a wide variety of exterior conservation project types for buildings and sites citywide on the Vancouver Heritage Register, providing matching grants of up to 50%. Eligible projects range from developing a conservation plan to the restoration of historic elements and conservation of the structure and exterior for a diverse spectrum of buildings and sites, and ownership types.

Strategic Analysis

Program Marketing

VHF developed and implemented a communications plan to launch the Program and reach as many potential applicants as possible. With many of the 2,200+ buildings and sites on the Vancouver Heritage Register eligible for the Program, target audiences for communications included homeowners and building owners, long-term tenants such as non-profit societies, and heritage and construction professionals.

Communications about the launch of the Program included:

- VHF website, fall newsletter, bi-weekly e-newsletters, and social media channels.
- Information to heritage, arts and culture organizations, and professional associations.
- Media release resulting in coverage in the Vancouver Sun and Vancouver Courier, The Province, West Coast Homes, News 1130, and through industry partner newsletters such as Heritage BC and Museum of Vancouver.
- Presentations at VHF events in late summer and fall by VHF staff.
- Rack cards printed and distributed.
- Emails to past grantees, past-tour property owners, and professionals who work on heritage projects.

In December 2019, Program information was mailed directly to over 1,300 properties on the Vancouver Heritage Register. Twenty lawn signs were designed and printed for display at grantee projects.

Results (Year 1 - 2019/2020)

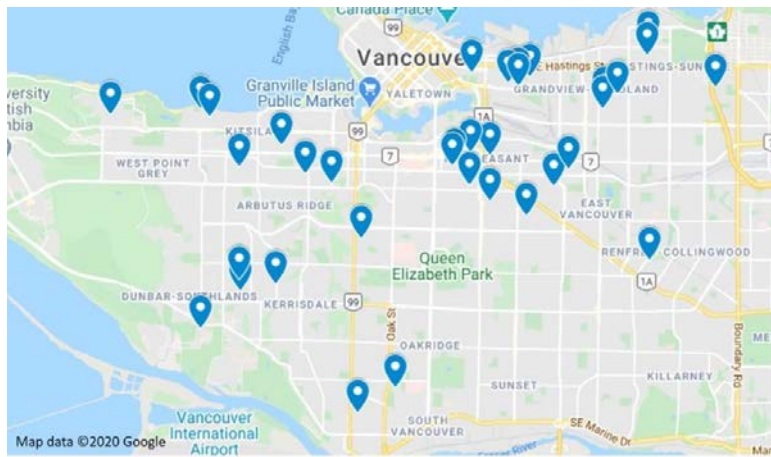
The Program has had a very successful start in this first year, achieving goals for the number of applications and allocating available funds to provide meaningful support to projects while leveraging private investment in Vancouver's historic buildings and sites.

Applications	Grants offered	Grants proceeding	Grantees contribution
53 applicants Requested \$450,300	39 sites offered grants \$230,000 \$10,000 largest grant	35 sites proceeding 14 neighbourhoods \$208,539 in grants	\$458,699 investment by site owners and stewards \$667,000 total project costs

The Program received applications from 53 owners and stewards of heritage buildings and sites across the city. Total requested grant funds were \$450,300. Grants were offered to 39 sites, allocating the full amount of funds available. Of these, 35 sites are proceeding with their projects or plan to do so with a wide range of project types (Appendix B). Total grant funds now anticipated to be disbursed are \$208,539, leveraging \$458,699 in private investment by building owners and stewards.

The largest grant offered was \$10,000. The maximum grant available is \$25,000 for a site with Heritage Designation and owned/managed by a non-profit society. Sites in private ownership and without/with Heritage Designation can qualify for maximum grants of \$7,500 - \$10,000 for conservation projects and \$2,000 - \$3,000 for planning projects.

The Program is offered citywide. The 2019-20 grants are supporting projects in 14 different neighbourhoods, with the highest numbers in Mount Pleasant, Kitsilano, Strathcona, Hastings-Sunrise, Grandview-Woodland, and Dunbar-Southlands.



Heritage Conservation Grants Program – Locations of Projects – 2019/20

The Program is providing grants to buildings owned and managed by non-profit organizations as well as in a variety of private ownership.

Type of building/site and ownership				
Community building/site, Non-profit	Residential: Houses (1-2 units)	Residential: Strata	Residential: Co-operative	Residential: Multi-unit rental
7	22	4	1	1

During a challenging time due to the coronavirus pandemic, this Program is supporting local jobs and skilled work, investing \$667,000 into the local economy, 69% of that from private investment by owners, and building stewards. It is assisting in sustaining heritage places and all the benefits they bring including connections to local history, neighborhoods, and communities. Restored and rehabilitated heritage buildings and treasured places can provide a sense of continuity, connection, and enduring values. Seeing familiar places restored and cared for can help lift spirits and encourage optimism for the future. While some projects have been affected by the current public health situation and are unable to proceed (due to economic hardship or uncertainty of grantees), most are going ahead or planning to do so during the grant timeframe.

Funding Summary

The available funds for the Program for the year were \$300,000. Of this, \$230,000 is available for grants while up to \$70,000 is allocated to administration and communications. Funds that are not claimed by grantees who have withdrawn will be added to the funds for grants to be allocated in the second year of the Program.

Grant funds Year 1:

Starting balance	Grants offered	Grants paid to date	Total grants currently anticipated to complete	Available funds to carry forward
\$230,000	\$230,000	\$38,565	\$208,539	\$21,461

Of the \$230,000 available for grants to projects, \$38,565 has already been disbursed. The total grants anticipated to be paid out to completed projects for 2019-20 is now \$208,539. This will leave \$21,461 to add to the funds available for grants for the second year.

Administration costs: July 2019 – June 2020:

VHF staff and office costs include grant program management, supervision, equipment, expenses, and administrative support. Communications costs include design, printing of materials, and mailing.

Starting balance	Staff wages, employment costs, supervision, office	Communications, printing, mailing	Total admin costs	Available funds to carry forward
\$70,000	\$65,851	\$5,068	\$70,919	\$0

The available funds of \$70,000 provided by the City of Vancouver for administration and communication of the Program in 2019-20 have been utilized. The amount exceeding \$70,000 is provided by VHF from fundraising revenue. In addition, an estimated 50 volunteer hours have already been donated to the Program by the committee members with an estimated value of \$5,000+.

Financial

First-year grant of \$300,000 has been used in accordance with the Grant Agreement that stipulates \$70,000 limit to fund administrative costs including Program manager's salary and benefits, and up to \$230,000 for grant projects. In the first year of the Program, \$208,539 has been committed to grants, \$38,565 has already been disbursed to completed projects, and \$21,461 is available to carry forward.

This report recommends a grant of \$300,000 to VHF for the implementation of the second year of the Program as per the grant disbursement schedule in the Grant Agreement. The source of funds for the grant is the 2020 Capital Budget.

Legal

On June 6, 2019, Council approved the Grant Agreement.

CONCLUSION

The Program offers great potential to motivate and enable small and medium-sized conservation projects that can make a big difference to the future of a wide range of historic buildings and heritage places in the city. In the second and subsequent years of the Program, we anticipate further strong demand from site owners and stewards for this Program and growing positive benefits in neighbourhoods from heritage being cared for and inspiring others to follow suit. With continued funding support, VHF plans to open the second year of the Program for applications in July with a close date in October. Funded projects will get underway starting in early 2021.

The second year of the Program will continue the benefits including:

- Encourage heritage retention, conservation, and stewardship.
- Leverage private investment in Vancouver's heritage buildings and sites.

- Provide education on best practices through guidance to achieve a high standard of conservation, including local knowledge and skill development among owners and construction professionals.

At this time, continued investment in the Program can provide a valuable contribution to local social and economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Program could also provide important incentive and support for additions to the Heritage Register through the Heritage Action Plan and Vancouver Plan processes, including achieving greater inclusion of places that further reflect the diverse local history and cultural heritage of Vancouver. It is aligned with the Vancouver Heritage Program goals (approved March 10, 2020) to recognize a diversity of heritage values, enhance heritage management tools, link heritage to other City goals, and to promote public awareness, engagement, and support. In 2020, VHF plans to further communicate about the Program to owners and stewards of diverse heritage sites across the city and encourage participation.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM - ANNUAL REPORT (Heritage House Conservation Program)

2019-20: Year 1

SUMMARY

Vancouver Heritage Foundation (VHF) launched the new Heritage Conservation Grants Program in September 2019 with funding provided by a \$300,000 grant from the City of Vancouver. This was the first year of a four-year agreement for funding of \$1.2 million, with the program and funding approved by Council on March 13, 2019 as part of the Heritage Incentive Program.

The Heritage Conservation Grants Program is able to support a wide variety of exterior conservation project types for buildings and sites citywide on the Vancouver Heritage Register, providing matching grants of up to 50%. Eligible projects range from developing a conservation plan to restoration of historic elements and conservation of the structure and exterior for a diverse spectrum of buildings and sites, and ownership types.

The first year of granted projects are underway, with grants supporting conservation projects at 35 sites across the city. In this first year, demand for funding exceeded the available funds by nearly 100%. The grants proceeding as of May 2020 will provide \$208,539 and leverage a further \$458,699 in private investment and other funding for Vancouver's heritage buildings for projects costing more than \$667,000 in total.

The program emphasizes best practices in heritage conservation including planning and implementation. Through the program VHF is able to provide guidance to owners, building stewards and professionals to help in achieving high standards of conservation and long-term benefits of heritage buildings and places. The program builds on VHF's 20 years of granting experience for conservation of Vancouver's built heritage.

During a challenging time due to the coronavirus pandemic, this program is supporting local jobs and skilled work, investing \$667,000 into the local economy, 69% of that from private investment by owners and building stewards. It is assisting in sustaining heritage places and all the benefits they bring including connections to local history, neighbourhoods and communities. Restored and rehabilitated heritage buildings and treasured places can provide a sense of continuity, connection and enduring values. Seeing familiar places restored and cared for can help lift spirits and encourage optimism for the future. While some projects have been affected by the current public health situation and are unable to proceed (due to economic hardship or uncertainty of grantees), most are going ahead or planning to do so during the grant timeframe.

Continued investment in heritage conservation through this program in 2020-21 can also further contribute to social and economic recovery, leveraging private investment to assist in retaining and improving housing, rental accommodation and community spaces, encouraging reuse of existing buildings, and sustaining local skilled jobs.

The release of the second year of funding of \$300,000 is requested so this program can be ready to support a further round of projects in 2020-21. A new application period will open as soon as funding is approved, with a close date in October 2020.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

City of Vancouver Council approved the program and funding on March 13, 2019 and a signed agreement between the City of Vancouver and VHF was executed on June 6, 2019.

VHF developed program materials based on the approved program details, and planned communications. The program launched publicly in September 2019. The first intake of applications closed in November and a second intake closed in February 2020. Applications were reviewed by a committee with diverse heritage expertise who provided recommendations on grant amounts and proposed projects. The VHF Board of Directors reviewed and approved the committee's recommendations on November 25 and March 9. Grant decisions were communicated to applicants and agreements were signed with the successful applicants, setting out conditions of the grant including the requirement to obtain any necessary permits for the proposed work.

The first intake of grantees has until December 2020 to complete their projects, while the second intake has until March 2021. Some projects have now completed while others are in progress or are planned for the drier summer months. Grant amounts are paid out on satisfactory completion of the work, except for non-profit society applicants who can request 50% of their grant at the start of the project.

PROGRAM MARKETING

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Communications about the launch of the program included:

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Samples of communications, 2019-20, Heritage Conservation Grants Program.

RESULTS

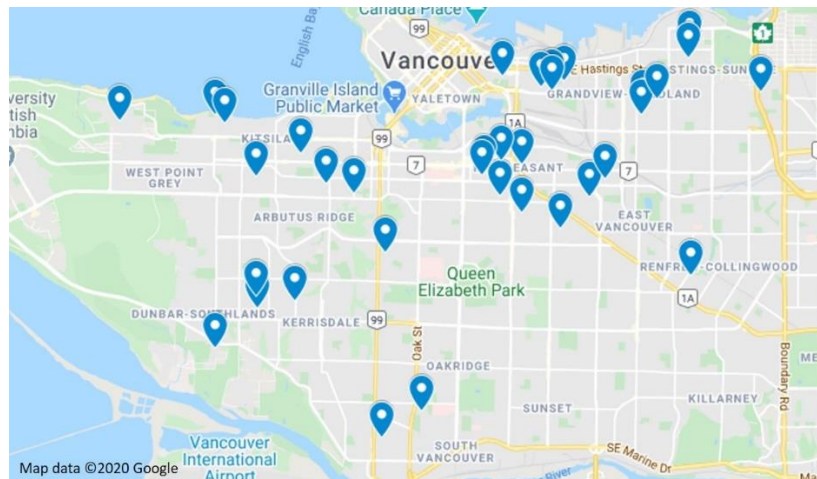
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The program is offered citywide. The 2019-20 grants are supporting projects in 14 different neighbourhoods, with the highest numbers in Mount Pleasant, Kitsilano, Strathcona, Hastings-Sunrise, Grandview-Woodland and Dunbar-Southlands.



Location of projects, 2019-20, Heritage Conservation Grants Program.

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Seven projects have now completed to date.



Gutters and drainpipes renewal



Historical paint palette restoration – two houses



Examples of some completed projects.

FUNDING SUMMARY

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LOOKING FORWARD

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In 2020, VHF plans to further communicate about the program to owners and stewards of diverse heritage sites across the city and encourage participation.

Vancouver Heritage Foundation

Vancouver Heritage Foundation is a registered charity that promotes the appreciation and conservation of our city's historic places for current and future generations.

VHF does this by creating opportunities and resources to learn about Vancouver's history and heritage places, and providing practical support for the successful conservation of historic buildings and sites.

	Heritage Register	Project Scope	Grant Category		Status	Grant Amount (Offered/ Paid)	Amount paid (Partial/ Full)	Built Year
	Category		Planning Project	Conservation Project				
1	Landscape (M)	Stone tile restoration; Painting restoration		2	In progress	\$9,700	\$4,850.00	1985-86
2	B (M)(H)	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Completed	\$9,450		pre-1895
3	B (M)(H)	Roofing		1	Completed - paid	\$8,901	\$8,900.85	1893
4	A	Statement of Significance; Chimney conservation; Roofing	1	2	In progress	\$8,670	\$4,770.00	1913
5	C (M)(H)	Roofing		1	Completed - paid	\$8,510	\$8,510.00	1910
6	A (M)(H)	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$8,000		1912
7	B	Roofing		1	Accepted	\$7,500		1910
8	A	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours); Carpentry repairs; Gutters renewal		1	In progress	\$7,500		1911-12
9	A	Window restoration		1	In progress	\$7,500		1908
10	C	Stained glass window restoration		1	Completed	\$7,313	\$3,656.50	1949
11	B	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1912
12	B	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1912
13	C	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1912
14	B	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1912
15	B	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1912
16	B	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1910
17	B	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,200		1910
18	C	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours); Stucco removal		2	Completed	\$7,200		1907
19	A (M)	Window restoration		1	Accepted	\$7,000		1912-14
20	C	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,000		1911
21	B(H); B(M)(H)	Historical paint palette restoration (True Colours)		1	Accepted	\$7,000		1892
22	C	Window restoration		1	Accepted	\$6,815		1910

	Heritage Register	Project Scope	Grant Category		Status	Grant Amount (Offered/ Paid)	Amount paid (Partial/ Full)	Built Year
	Category		Planning Project	Conservation Project				
23	B	Window restoration		1	In progress	\$4,755	\$2,377.50	1912
24	A	Window restoration		1	Accepted	\$4,250		1959
25	A (M)	Gutters and drainpipes renewal		1	Completed - paid	\$4,000	\$4,000.00	1867
26	C	Roofing		1	In progress	\$3,700		1910
27	A	Exterior door restoration		1	Accepted	\$3,600		1927
28	C	Roofing		1	Accepted	\$3,500		1925
29	A (M)	Chimney restoration		1	Accepted	\$3,500		1927-29
30	B	Conservation Plan	1		Accepted	\$3,000	\$1,500.00	1922
31	C (M)	Window restoration		1	Accepted	\$2,300		1918
32	A (M)	Window conservation planning	1		Accepted	\$2,100		1924
33	B	Roofing		1	Completed	\$2,000		1931
34	C (M)(H)	Gutters renewal		1	Accepted	\$1,800		1908
35	C	Porch restoration		1	Accepted	\$1,575		1895-98
			3	36		\$208,539	\$38,564.85	