Plano City of Excellence | Memorandum

Date: February 21, 2024

To: Mark D. Israelson, City Manager

From: Christina D. Day, AICP, Director of Planning

Subject: Heritage Preservation Grant Program Operations and Maintenance Funding

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The purpose of this memo is to seek direction from the City Council regarding Operations and Maintenance (O/M) funds for the Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

In 2010, the City Council established program restrictions that limited eligibility of O/M funding to organizations that received O/M in FY2009-2010 and capped O/M funding amounts at their FY2009-2010 levels. These restrictions were put in place in response to budget constraints, concerns about organizational dependency on city funding, and legal considerations. Since that time, any grant applicant that did not receive O/M funds in FY2009-2010 was deemed ineligible to apply for O/M funding through the Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

FY2009-2010 Heritage Grant O/M Recipients

Organization	O/M Funding Amount
Heritage Farmstead Museum	$330,000
Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation	$145,000
Plano African American Museum	$95,000
Total	$570,000

In GY23-24, the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library (Masonic Library) requested O/M funds in the amount of $2,875. As the Masonic Library was ineligible for O/M funding under the program restrictions, staff discussed this request with the City Council in executive session on May 22, 2023, prior to the Heritage Commission consideration of grant applications on June 27, 2023. No changes were made to the program restrictions and the Heritage Commission did not recommend any funding for their O/M request. The Masonic Library appealed the recommendation to the City Council at its Work Session on August 17, 2023. The requested O/M funds were ultimately approved after additional discussion.

Since that time, the Masonic Library has indicated intent to request O/M funding again in GY24-25 eligibility, and other Grant Program recipients have inquired to determine if O/M funds could be increased and applied to other entities for GY24-25. As of now, it is anticipated that $1,000,000 will be allocated towards the Heritage Grant Program for the upcoming fiscal year. In previous years, $570,000 (71% of the previously allotted $800,000) has been eligible for O/M funding among the three eligible organizations. If O/M funding increases, it should be directly

tied to a specific program, project, or event. Staff is seeking direction from the City Council as to whether changes in program restrictions regarding O/M are desired in advance of the upcoming grant cycle, which opens on April 1, 2024.

1. Should program restrictions be amended to make O/M funding available to additional organizations?

2. Should the current cap on O/M funding for the three existing organizations be raised? If so, by how much?

CC: Eric Hill, Assistant Director of Planning
Bhavesh Mittal, Senior Planner/Heritage Preservation Officer