



AGENDA MEMO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: AUGUST 2, 2006

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION: 2006 HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT-IN-AID

In order to complete documented Goals, Objectives, Policies and Programs of the City of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Plan, the Planning and Development Department has applied for a renewal of the **Historic Preservation Grant-In-Aid**, also known as the **Historic Preservation Fund** grant. The grant originates with the United States Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, and is administered by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. The City has been awarded \$37,000 to complete the following:

A) *Preparation of a National Register nomination for the Berkley Square Neighborhood.* The previous survey unearthed valuable information linking the design of the homes to architect Paul R. Williams, an internationally known and highly regarded African American architect. Williams work includes the Lear Theater, in Reno, Nevada (1938), the La Concha Motel in Las Vegas, Nevada (1959), and several notable public buildings in southern California. It was also discovered that Berkley Square was the first minority-built subdivision in Nevada. Because of this information and support from the residents, the City of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) voted at the September 2005 meeting to pursue the completion of a nomination application to the National Register of Historic Places for Berkley Square.

B) *Historic resource survey and archeological documentation of the McWilliams Townsite: Phase I.* Also known as the Original Las Vegas Townsite, it was first settled in 1904 along the wagon road between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. Expansion of the freeway and industrial use has taken its toll on the original lot size and street layout, and continues to be a concern. Phase II will be included in the 2007 HP Grant-In-Aid Application, and will include an urban archeological survey of any buried remains, buildings, structures, plan-form and development pattern components. Both phases will be combined in a comprehensive report on the growth and decline of the Townsite, and identify any remaining historic features.

C) *Update of prior surveys completed within the historic Downtown Core.* Within the last year several high-rise development projects have been introduced which require the use of half and whole blocks within the downtown area. Much of the area has been surveyed in previous projects, the latest completed in 2002. The intent of the 2002 survey was to update earlier surveys completed in 1978 and 1988 that did not include buildings over fifty years old at the time of completion.

D) *Printing and distribution of educational materials.* The Planning Department has received positive feedback from residents and City departments regarding the informative brochures that highlight walking tours, historic sites, and the historic preservation

process. They are a great tool when meeting with neighborhood associations who are contemplating historic designation. With each historic resource survey, the Planning Department produces a brochure that is distributed to libraries, cultural centers and visitors centers. The HPC currently publishes *The Historical Connection*, using HPC funds held in a City of Las Vegas account designated for use by the HPC. *The Historical Connection* highlights the work of the HPC, preservation activities, and informative articles, and is published on the City of Las Vegas website, as well as distributed locally.

The completed surveys and information with backup materials and final report will be printed and placed in ring binders for distribution. All City departments involved in revitalization or public works projects will be given a copy of the final report. Copies will also be distributed to libraries and historical societies.

The scope of work included in the grant renewal application satisfies the following City of Las Vegas Policies and Programs:

The *Historic Preservation Plan*, adopted by City Council as a component of the General Plan in 1992, identifies the following:

Goal: Promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the public through the preservation, maintenance and protection of structures, sites and districts of significant historic, architectural, and archaeological interest within Las Vegas.

Objective A: Promote the preservation and maintenance of structures, sites and districts of historic interest within Las Vegas.

Policy A1: Develop and maintain an inventory of historic properties

Objective B: Encourage community participation in the preservation planning process to achieve public understanding and support of preservation concept and the value of cultural resources to the community.

Policy B1: Develop public awareness programs to promote public interest.

Program B1.1: Establish school programs, the publication of historical findings, and walking tours to interpret the cultural history of Las Vegas and to promote the public interest in the cultural environment.

Program B1.2: Identify and make available to the public the primary documents and collections which record and illustrate the history of Las Vegas.

Program B1.3: Encourage the collection, conservation and interpretation of regional history, culture, archaeology, architecture and art through museums, libraries and other publicly accessible institutions.

The City of Las Vegas *Priorities* supports this project:

Revitalize and invigorate our mature areas and the urban core

Support and encourage affordability, livability, and pride in our neighborhoods

The *City of Las Vegas Master Plan 2020*, adopted by Planning Commission on June 15, 200 and City Council on September 6, 2000, supports this project in the following sections:

Reurbanization

OBJECTIVE 1.4: To retain, where viable, historical structures which represent the architectural, cultural and social legacy of the City of Las Vegas.

Neighborhood Revitalization Area

GOAL 2: Mature neighborhoods will be sustained and improved through appropriate and selective high quality redevelopment and preservation.

Cultural Enhancement

OBJECTIVE 5.2: To promote cultural awareness and pride within the city.

POLICY 5.2.1: That the City support and assist in the development of new programs which provide incentives for the development and expansion of arts and cultural activities, particularly those which demonstrate an identifiable local context.