



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/13/2022

To: Heritage Preservation Commission

From: Mark Reavis, HPO, AICP, NCARB

Subject: Riordan Mansion Grant Request

REQUEST & PRODUCT

The Riordan Mansion a division of AZ State Parks has requested a \$10,000 Historic Facade Grant for a \$98,000 stone & mortar preservation project to take place in key locations at the home's entries and previous repair areas. The project proposes to document the work of the preservation craftsman in the full utilization and application of the US Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation. A video recording of the preservation techniques is to be made available to Flagstaff's Heritage Preservation Program and others. The grant request is for the restoration of exterior stone masonry which is a common material used in historic Flagstaff buildings. The demonstration of proper techniques in stone and mortar preservation is a needed resource as an educational product and will be very useful for the Heritage Preservation Program efforts as an ongoing available resource. The Historic Facade Grant Guidelines states: "The Commission will not consider... Except under extraordinary Circumstances, grants to Government agencies or groups affiliated to support government agencies." The Guidelines also state that the Heritage Preservation Commission has the ability to allocate funding under extraordinary circumstances to government agencies. The benefits proposed appears to justify the allocation of Facade Grant Funding. The Mansion does have the ability to receive donated funds and has ongoing efforts to do so such as their Adopt-A-Viga Program. The Mansion has significant documented visitation, and with visitation that significantly contributes to the Bed, Board and Beverage Tax, that is the source of the Facade Grant Funding. The HPO feels that the provided video product is an extraordinary opportunity that will provide ongoing benefits to the preservation of historic properties within the community and the Heritage

Preservation Commission should grant this exception. State Parks proposes to: "work closely with the State Historic Preservation Office on approvals of materials and procedures. In order to document the proper procedures for future work on the house (Riordan Mansion) as well as to help educate others, staff plans to document the process with at video interviewing the craftsman that will be doing the work. We believe this project is an excellent use of Bed, Board, Beverage Tax to restore and preserve this important Flagstaff heritage site that has a significant economic impact for the community." Recommended Motion: Approve a grant of \$10,000 to be awarded to the Riordan Mansion Action Network and Arizona State Parks for a demonstration project and preservation of exterior stone masonry on Riordan Mansion due to the extraordinary circumstances and the educational opportunities for the public.

BACKGROUND

The Flagstaff Preservation Office Staff and other interested staff were invited to visit the Riordan Mansion to observe restoration efforts and techniques being utilized to restore the exterior of the Mansion. The visit also included a tour of the interior of the home. The tour was conducted by Ms. Nikki Lober Riordan Manson Park Manager as well of 2 preservation experts from Loven Contracting available to answer historic preservation technique questions. The project and contractors demonstrated their expertise in complying with the US Secretary of the Interior Standards for Preservation and the accompanying guidelines in techniques shown is historic log restoration. Riordan Park Staff and the contractors have worked closely with both SHPO and the National Park Service on the complex techniques utilized in log restoration as demonstrated in their current work. The proposed grant project and video product presents a unique opportunity to partner with a significant Flagstaff historic site and learn from expert craftsman. The resulting products can result in a demonstration project to made available to the public that is specific in regard to stone-work commonly used in historic Flagstaff buildings.