EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MARCH 15th, 2010
CITY OF WINNIPEG, 510 Main Street

Funding for
HERITAGE WINNIPEG CORPORATION

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg was created by the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Heritage Canada Foundation thirty one years ago (1978), and serves the City of Winnipeg; and

Whereas our organization over the years has acted as a catalyst to all levels of government, the private sector, and non-government organizations to collaborate and partner on many projects and issues related to advocacy, education, and public service; and

Whereas the City has benefited economically from heritage tourism and film activity generated by the existence of the Exchange District, a national historic site and the other heritage sites in Winnipeg.

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg promotes the City with its rich and colourful built heritage and culture. We also provide access to a year round resource centre to students, teachers, community groups, businesses and the public at large for research, and educational purposes. In addition, we provide school presentations and walking tours, and participates at the city and provincial level for the Heritage Fairs; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has been a major factor in the regeneration of the downtown and the city's built heritage by facilitating the highly successful Doors Open Winnipeg, which has been significant in promoting awareness, civic pride, economic spin-offs, and to date has had over 200,000 site visits. The annual event generates over $200,000 in revenue, including over 300 volunteers; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has played a major role in advocating the maintenance and redevelopment of heritage sites, encouraging building/property owners to maintain their properties and, through its advocacy role and the creation of a "Buildings at Risk" database. Challenging developers to respect and invest in heritage properties and by continually providing a positive reminder of the long-term value of our built heritage and the immense economic spin-offs; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg plays a critically important role in working with and educating local property owners and the business community leaders, to encourage them to recognize that there are economic and environmental advantages to be gained through investment in heritage buildings, including increased property tax revenue. In addition we sit on many local organizational Board such as the Millennium Centre, and the Manitoba Transit Heritage Association; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg participates in a wide range of educational events/projects such as the redevelopment of the historic Upper Fort Garry site as a major tourist attraction. Rehabilitation of Streetcar 356, Manitoba Day celebrations that remind school children of the importance of our heritage, and we are currently just finished our first publication, "Armstrong's Point – A History". Our Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony which just celebrated our 25th year, gives due recognition to building owners, architects, and tenants. We serve Winnipeg on the Heritage Canada Board of Directors, giving Winnipeg national exposure, maintaining critical lobbying of all levels of government, and moreover we continue to increase awareness through public/private partnerships; and

Whereas, in partnership with Canadian Heritage, Heritage Winnipeg completed a successful bilingual website including 360 degree virtual tours, 170 historical vignettes and over 3,000 archival photos. This site continues to be an immense source of information for research and education. We also recently completed a newly designed website to help increase public awareness. We are also embarking on another new media project in partnership with the National Film Board and Red River College to create the Virtual Reality Theatre at the Upper Fort Garry Interpretive Centre; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has a successful working relationship with CentreVenture Development Corporation. Recently the historic Kelly House has been rehabilitated. In addition we will continue to work with government. Holding valuable roundtable discussions with various stakeholders regarding such issues as Heritage Management Plan and Parks Canada CIS Evaluation.

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg is continually holding various educational fundraising events throughout the year in order to raise funds for our operational requirements.

Therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE ARE REQUESTING THE CITY OF WINNIPEG, AS A COMMITTED SUPPORTER PROVIDE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $22,000.

Submitted By:
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