CITY OF WINNIPEG, 510 Main Street
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
Special Meeting of March 17, 2015

Funding for
HERITAGE WINNIPEG CORPORATION

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg was created by the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Heritage Canada Foundation in 1978, and serves the City of Winnipeg through advocacy, promotion and education, the conservation of Winnipeg's built heritage; and

Whereas for thirty seven years our organization has acted as a catalyst and facilitator 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 the hundreds of heritage projects that were generated in the Exchange District – a national historic site also including many other heritage and cultural sites in downtown Winnipeg and surrounding areas; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg promotes the city with its rich and unique built heritage and culture. We provide access to a year round resource center to students, teachers, community groups, businesses and the public at large for research for educational purposes. We participate in the Heritage Fairs celebrate Manitoba Day and participate in many speaking engagements. We facilitate meetings with organizations, building owners, developers and various stakeholders to work on and implement feasible business plans.

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has been a major factor in overseeing protection of 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 250,000 site visits, including over 400 volunteers in the past 11 years. This event continues to evolve and showcases the best of Winnipeg's history and heritage; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has played a major role in advocating and facilitating the protection, maintenance and redevelopment of heritage sites. Working with developers to educate and respect heritage properties, and by providing a positive and pragmatic approach to assist in the long-term value of our built heritage and its economic benefit; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg plays a critically important role in working with and educating local property owners and the business community leaders, to encourage

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them to recognize that there are vast architectural, economic and environmental advantages to be gained through the investment of our built heritage. In addition we participate on many local organizational Boards and are leaders on many of these historic projects such as the Millennium Centre, the Friends of Upper Fort Garry and Friends of Dalnavert Museum; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg participates in a wide range of historic and educational events/projects. They include the ongoing rehabilitation of Streetcar 356, and Manitoba Day, and our Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony which just celebrated its 30th year which gives due recognition to building owners, architects, and heritage advocates; and

Whereas we participate in many student programs such the YCW and RRC Creative Communications work placement program. A lot of resources have been put into growth regarding all social media, including our website, twitter, Facebook and the creation of our heritage blog.

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has a successful working relationship with the City of Winnipeg. We continue to work well with city employees and elected officials, along with various stakeholders regarding such issues as the creation of a public Heritage Centre in the Exchange District, the ongoing involvement in the Heritage Conservation District Study, the revision of Vacant and Derelict Buildings bylaw, and the creation of a heritage maintenance bylaw; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg is continually holding various fundraising events throughout the year in order raise funds to help sustain our organization so we can continue to support the heritage sector. Demands on our organization have grown expeditionally and unfortunately due to lack of funding, our resources are limited, and have been very difficult to keep up with the overwhelming demand with only one full-time staff person.

Therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE ARE REQUESTING THE CITY OF WINNIPEG AS A COMMITTED HERITAGE SUPPORTER; PROVIDE AN INCREASE IN OUR COMMUNITY GRANT FOR THE 2015-YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $15,000.

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