



KATJANA BALLANTYNE  
MAYOR

## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR

## Repurposing the FY23 Grace Baptist Church (SHA4CD) CPA Grant to complete installation of an elevator and accessibility improvements

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In FY23 the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development received a \$425,000 CPA grant intended to restore second floor windows and gutters and to continue masonry work to preserve the envelope of the former Grace Baptist Church located at 59 Cross Street. Subsequently SHA4CD was awarded ARPA funds to install an elevator and handicapped accessible bathrooms, as the building is required to come into compliance with ADA. As the full cost for the accessibility improvements exceeds the ARPA award, SHA4CD requests to use the CPA funds that were awarded in FY23 to prioritize completion of the elevator installation before continuing with restoration of the exterior envelope.

### ALIGNMENT WITH FY24 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN

The Community Preservation Plan prioritizes historic resources projects that make historic public and institutional buildings safe and accessible, so that they are functional for their intended use. The Community Preservation Plan further emphasizes strategically-advantageous projects that improve accessibility and support Somerville's vulnerable populations. The Grace Baptist Church building requires accessibility improvements to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to better serve the volunteers and patrons of the food pantry and other community services provided in the building. While the exterior envelope renovation remains a critical outstanding need, coordination with the project funded by ARPA presents a time-sensitive opportunity to address accessibility requirements.

### RECOMMENDATION

On October 25, 2023 by a vote of 7-0, the Community Preservation Committee recommended reallocating \$425,000 from the FY23 grant to the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development that was planned for exterior envelope restoration to instead make accessibility improvements to 59 Cross Street.

### FUNDING CONDITIONS FROM FY23 GRANT

- The CPA-funded portion of the project must be initiated within three years unless an extension is granted by the CPC.
- CPA funds will be used only for CPA eligible expenses.

### DOCUMENTATION

- [SHA4CD Change of Scope Request](#)
- [CPC Funding Recommendation Grace Baptist Church FY23](#)