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MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR Grace Baptist Church FY22: Historic Preservation Improvements

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development (SHA4CD) requests CPA funds for continued preservation of the historic Grace Baptist Church in which its programs are housed. The funds requested in FY22 will provide accessibility improvements to the basement level, creating an accessible entrance, eliminating changes in floor elevation, and installing the foundation for an elevator to eventually serve the upper floors of the building. The grant will also cover the cost of emergency structural repairs to the roof, and will restore wooden window frames and sashes in the upper floor of the southwest tower.

ELIGIBILITY

Historic Resources: This project would rehabilitate a historic building, enabling it to be used for its intended purpose.

RECOMMENDATION

On November 17, 2021 by a vote of 8-0-0 the Community Preservation Committee recommended that SHA4CD be awarded \$494,110.50 of Community Preservation Act funds for continued improvement of the Grace Baptist Church, as described in their application presented in October, 2021 from the following accounts:

Category: Historic Preservation	Recommended Funding Source	Amount
Grace Baptist Church Historic Preservation Improvements FY22	Historic Preservation Reserve	\$223,427.57
	Budgeted Reserve	\$270,682.93
	Total	\$494,110.50

FUNDING CONDITIONS

- For each element of the project scope, proposed improvements must receive approval of the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission and all necessary permits before funds will be disbursed.
- Where relevant, improvements must be compliant with ADA and MAAB regulations.
- Upon commencement of the Project and as appropriate, SHA4CD agrees to post a sign stating that the Project was funded through the City of Somerville's Community Preservation Act program.

ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development is an East Somerville non-profit that serves a range of urgent community needs including food, shelter, childcare, and gathering space for numerous community groups. Continuing upon work funded through previous CPA grants, the project will help to preserve the historic building and ensure that the programs and services are handicapped accessible. Previous urgent repairs to the structure and envelope of the building may have exceeded 30% of the value of the building, which would trigger a requirement that the entire building be brought into compliance with accessibility codes under 521 CMR: Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.

PROJECT BUDGET AND SCOPE

CPA Expenses	Amount
Emergency Structural Roof Repair	\$11,510.50
Accessible Entrance and Elevation of Ground Floor	\$374,550
Foundation for Elevator	\$63,600
Window Restoration	\$44,450
Total	\$494,110.50
Sources	
CPA funds	\$494,110.50
Other	\$0
Total	\$494,110.50

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The goals of this project are to:

- Create an ADA accessible entrance to the building
- Facilitate handicapped accessibility throughout the basement level of the building
- Restore the exterior elements of the building's historic architecture.

The full original proposal is available at:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/ifa.somervillema.gov/documents/cpa/grace-baptist-church-2021-09-13-full-application.pdf>