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MAYOR

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR Grace Baptist Church FY23 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, 59 Cross Street, in which its programs are housed. The funds requested in FY23 will continue weatherproofing and stabilization of the building's exterior, including window restoration; gutters, and repointing of deteriorated masonry.

ELIGIBILITY

Historic Resources: This project would preserve and rehabilitate a historic building.

RECOMMENDATION

On March 1, 2023 by a vote of 4-0, the Community Preservation Committee recommended approval to City Council that the Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development be awarded \$425,000 of Community Preservation Act funds to continue the preservation of the former Grace Baptist Church, as described in their application from the following account:

Category: Historic Preservation	Recommended Funding Source	Amount
Grace Baptist Church FY23 Historic Preservation Improvements	Budgeted Reserve	\$195,000
	Undesignated Reserve	\$230,000
	Total	\$425,000

FUNDING CONDITIONS

- 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.

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 make it safe and accessible for the clients of the food pantry and other community groups and organizations who use the building. The City holds a Preservation Restriction on this building, which was granted by SHA4CD as a condition of a prior CPA grant.

PROJECT BUDGET AND SCOPE

CPA Expenses	Amount
Construction	\$308,000
Soft Costs and Contingency	\$117,000
Total	\$425,000

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The goals of this project are to:

1. Cut and repoint brick dentil courses
2. Repoint and rebuild selected brick spandrel areas
3. Provide new gutters and downspouts at northeast and southeast end of building
4. Restore existing windows at 2nd and 3rd floors of southeast tower
5. Restore existing windows at 2nd floor north and south elevations
6. Provide new storm windows at 2nd floor tenant space

The full original proposal is available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NCUbQ08aGkbF9vtVM_Ch2-RLVP_U4LqM/view?usp=share_link