



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

<b>County Board Agenda Item Meeting of December 9, 2006</b>
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**DATE:** November 13, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to accept \$25,000 from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' (VDHR) Cost Share Program, to continue with phase ten of the on-going Arlington County Countywide Historic Resources Survey.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Accept \$25,000 in grant funds from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), under the Cost Share Program, for a consultant to continue with the on going phase ten of the Arlington County Countywide Historic Resources Survey.
2. Authorize the County Manager to sign the attached Cost Share Grant Agreement.

**ISSUE:** Should the County accept the VDHR/Cost Share Program award that would use \$25,000 of County funds (101.438200.72303.000.000.0000) to leverage state funds in the same amount to pay for the continuation of year ten of the Countywide Historic Resources Survey?

**SUMMARY:** For the past nine years, the County's Historic Preservation Program has undertaken a comprehensive systematic survey of all buildings in the County with a goal of identifying all of the existing historic resources. Each year a goal of having 1,000 buildings identified, photographed, and described has been achieved. This Countywide Historic Resources Survey has been made possible in the past with matching grants by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources from either their Certified Local Government (CLG) Program or their Cost Share Program. A history of the County's grant relationship with VDHR is attached.

This year VDHR has awarded the County a \$25,000 Cost Share Grant, to be matched with County funds, to continue the Countywide Historic Resources Survey, now in year ten. The County match for this grant has been approved as part of the FY 07 County budget, in the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, Neighborhood Services Division, the Historic Preservation Program section.

County Manager: _____
County Attorney: _____
Staff: Michael Leventhal, CPHD

**BACKGROUND:** The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) administers the Cost Share Program, which receives these pass-through funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Arlington Countywide Historic Resources Survey has been receiving matching funds from VDHR for all but one year of this multi-year project, now entering its tenth year. VDHR has generally mailed its notice of the Cost Share Program and Grant application form to all of the State's Certified Local Governments after the County Board's July meeting and sets the deadline for the completed applications back to VDHR before the County Board meets in September. The County Manager approves of the Cost Share Grant application knowing that once the County receives its notice of acceptance, the County Board will be informed and its approval requested.

The State recently announced that it had limited funds available in fiscal year 2007 to fund all of the grants it had received. This year's grant application by Arlington County was for \$50,000. VDHR was only able to award Arlington County a grant of \$25,000. As with all of VDHR's grant programs, the Cost Share Program requires matching funds in order to be awarded this grant. As stated in the VDHR grant application guide "Matching Share – It is strongly recommended that applicants provide a cash match equal to 50% of the total project costs."

The Arlington County Countywide Historic Resources Survey is held as an exemplary survey example, and VDHR encouraged Arlington County to apply for Cost Share funding to continue with its Countywide Historic Resources Survey. The State had 18 applications from 27 communities competing for these Cost Share grants. While there is greater competition for these Cost Share Program grants, Arlington continues to receive the support of VDHR for its historic preservation program.

**DISCUSSION:** Because of the State Cost Share Program grant deadlines, County staff had already submitted the grant application (Attachment A) prior to County Board consideration. The application originally sought a grant of \$50,000. Together with matching funds of \$50,000 from the County, these funds would be used to hire a consultant to continue with year ten of the Countywide Historic Resources Survey. It was hoped that year ten would be the final year of this project.

For the past nine (9) years both the County and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources have supported the Countywide Historic Resources Survey. This support came in the form of funds from either the VDHR Certified Local Government (CLG) Program or their Cost Share Program and matched by Arlington County. This year's award is for \$25,000, to which the County's match has already been allocated in the approved FY07 budget. In the VDHR's letter announcing this award to the County, VDHR "...strongly urge(s) you to apply for funding during next year's Cost Share cycle to complete any remaining tasks."

Therefore, it is recommended that the County Board accept the County Manager's receipt of this VDHR/CLG award (Attachment B) and authorize the County Manager to sign the agreement document (Attachment C). If the County Board decides not to accept this matching grant award, it will be withdrawn from consideration.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The recommended consultant work is estimated to cost \$50,000 and is based on the costs associated with the past nine years of the Countywide Historic Resources Survey. The actual cost has been established during the history of these surveys. The total cost of this portion of year ten of the Countywide Historic Resources Survey will be \$50,000, with half of the cost paid by the State Cost Share Program and a matching expense paid with funds from the budget of the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development, Neighborhood Services Division, Historic Preservation Program (101.438200.72303.000.000.0000).

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Application Request for the 2007 Cost Share Program
- Attachment B: Letter from VDHR on the awarding of the 2007 Cost Share Program grant
- Attachment C: Contract between VDHR and Arlington County to be signed