



**Consideration of Award of Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Staff Recommendation**

This agenda item presents for Board consideration a recommendation to award Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program funding for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building project.

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

<b>Applicant</b>	Isleton Museum
<b>Project ID</b>	P6805
<b>Project Type</b>	Implementation
<b>County</b>	Sacramento
<b>Funding Request</b>	\$44,500
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$44,500
<b>Funding Recommendation</b>	\$44,500

**RECOMMENDATION**

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$44,500 in grant funding for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building project (P6805) proposed by the Isleton Museum. Conservancy staff prepared the text below based on staff’s best understanding of the information provided in the application and meetings with members of the Isleton Museum. Staff followed the Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program Grant Guidelines, approved by the Conservancy Board December 2019, in working with the applicant and assessing this proposal.

**DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this project is to purchase and install proper display cases for housing historic and cultural items in the Isleton Museum, located in the renovated Bing Kong Tong Building. Items include everyday objects that show what life was like in Isleton from prehistoric times, through to the mid-1900s. Cultural artifacts include native American baskets, Chinese pottery, household utensils, and agricultural tools used by early immigrants. Display cases are specifically designed to protect artifacts while also providing educational displays for viewing.

This proposal will fund the final step in a multiphase effort with a larger purpose of renovating a historic building and converting it into a museum that will be a historic and cultural resource for Isleton and the Delta. As part of the newly formed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, the applicant’s goal is to provide a resource for the general public, teachers, students, and all those interested in the history of the Delta.

In 1994 the land, building and its contents were deeded from the San Francisco Tong to the Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society (IBAHS). Since the transfer of property, the goal has been to convert the building into the Isleton Museum.

To convert the Bing Kong Tong building into the Isleton Museum, the applicant has received grants from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, with assistance from the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. These grants funded phases one and two of the project which including structural stabilization, interior and exterior renovation (e.g., updating the interior floors, walls, ceilings, plumbing, sewer, and electrical systems), and the installation of an elevator and fire suppression system. Renovations of the Bing Kong Tong building were completed in July 2021.

The third and final phase of the project consists of outfitting the museum. Wall displays, including signage, photos, silks, and maps, were mounted on the walls in December 2021. Other museum items need to be secured in lockable cases designed to both protect and display these types of artifacts, and help to preserve them for future generations.

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the CEQA requirements, under Article 19, Section 15301(d). The CEQA exemption can be found in the Environmental Compliance section of the application.

### **Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC)**

Proposition 68 requires that at least 20 percent of all funding be spent on projects that serve severely disadvantaged communities, which are defined as “a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average” (PRC 45 Sec. 80008(a)(1)). Located in the city of Isleton, the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building project serves a severely disadvantaged community.

### **Cost Share**

The Isleton Museum, a nonprofit organization, will not contribute cost share. While the Museum does not have qualifying cost share during the funding term, it is notable that they have secured considerable commitments of time, labor, donations, and monetary support for other components of the project as described in the description section above.

### **CONSISTENCY WITH STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES**

The project is consistent with Proposition 68 and the Conservancy's enabling legislation (Public Resources Code sections 32300-32381) and strategic plan. This project is consistent with priorities outlined in the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Plan and the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan.

### **LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**

The Isleton Museum is governed by an active volunteer board of directors, many of whom who have donated hundreds of hours of their time to the project. The Museum is also financially supported by a large membership base, drawing from the local community. Lastly, local support is evident through letters from local and regional community organizations, including Isleton Elementary School, the

Isleton Chamber of Commerce, the Isleton Historic Review Board, and the California Preservation Foundation.

**BACKGROUND**

Proposition 68 is the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Public Resources Code Division 45) that made \$12,000,000 available to the Conservancy for uses specified in its governing statute (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Act, Public Resources Codes, Division 22.3). The Conservancy will use Proposition 68 funds to support projects in the Conservancy's Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. Unlike traditional grant programs, this program was designed to allow Conservancy staff to collaborate with project applicants to develop proposals that meet the Conservancy and Proposition 68 goals. When applicants submit concept proposals, staff review the proposal to assess viability and appropriateness with program goals. If the concept proposal is suitable, staff then guide applicants as they develop a full proposal for consideration of Proposition 68 funding. The Isleton Museum proposal is the first of three projects being presented to the Conservancy Board for consideration today.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE**

Move to award funding up to \$44,500 to the Isleton Museum from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building project.

**CONTACT**

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FIGURE 1. MAP OF THE ISLETON MUSEUM IN THE BING KONG TONG BUILDING PROJECT AREA

