



Consideration of Award of Community Enhancement Grant Program Funds for Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building Phase 2 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, Phase 2 project.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Applicant	Isleton Museum
Project ID	P6824
Project Type	Implementation
County	Sacramento
Funding Request	\$13,442
Total Project Cost	\$13,442
Funding Recommendation	\$13,442

RECOMMENDATION

Conservancy staff recommends that the Board approve up to \$13,442 in grant funding for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project (P6824) 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 obtain four pedestal covers to protect museum displays, 20 signs mounted on foam board to provide interpretation for museum exhibits and wayfinding throughout the museum, and the conservation, cleaning, and delivery of a Chinese banner from the 1930s. This project is an expansion of an existing Delta Conservancy project (Project ID P6805), which was funded by the Delta Conservancy in March 2022 to purchase display cases for housing artifacts, Chinese pottery, agricultural tools, utensils, and other everyday items. While completing their first Delta Conservancy grant, the applicant identified additional needs for the Isleton Museum that were outside the original grant’s scope and objectives. This proposal requests funds for the new scope and objectives but uses materials provided in the original proposal process (P6805) to expedite review and consideration of award.

This proposal will fund the final step in a multiphase effort with a larger purpose of renovating the Bing Kong Tong historic building and converting it into a museum, providing an historic and cultural resource for Isleton and the Delta. As part of the 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), allowing for the renovation of the building, which now houses the Isleton Museum.

To convert the Bing Kong Tong building into the Isleton Museum, the applicant 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 stages one and two of the project, which included 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 final stage of the project consisted of outfitting the museum. Wall displays, including signage, photos, silks, and maps, were mounted on the walls in December 2021. In March 2022, the Conservancy Board funded the purchase of museum-quality display cases to house and protect cultural artifacts (Project ID P6805). The proposal before the Board today is a continuation of that project.

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 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 in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project is the fourteenth full proposal staff has presented to the Conservancy Board for consideration of the award of grant funds.

SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE

Move that the Board award funding up to \$13,442 to the Isleton Museum from the Proposition 68 Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program for the Isleton Museum in the Bing Kong Tong Building, Phase 2 project.

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FIGURE 8.1. MAP OF THE ISLETON MUSEUM IN THE BING KONG TONG BUILDING PROJECT AREA

