

## **DESIGNATION OF THE KING EDWARD SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The King Edward School is proposed for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource under Section 26 of the Alberta Historical Resources Act.

In 2013, the King Edward School was protected by an agreement between the City of Calgary and the property owner as a component of the cSPACE King Edward project, contingent on the passage of land use re-designation bylaws 18D2013 and 19D2013. As a condition of the agreement, the owner acknowledged that a future designation bylaw would be brought before Council at the discretion of the City of Calgary. The property was also being subdivided as part of the overall development plan, and a proposed designation bylaw was intentionally delayed until after subdivision, to avoid requiring amendment to the bylaw. With subdivision complete, Administration is now seeking to fulfil a condition of the existing agreement, and designate this site as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Designation offers legal protection to an evaluated historic resource, preserving it for the future and making the owner eligible for financial assistance in maintaining the property through existing Municipal and Provincial incentive programs.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw to designate the King Edward School as a Municipal Historic Resource.

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2017 SEPTEMBER 13:**

That Council give three readings to Bylaw 42M2017.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

At the 2008 February 4 Combined Meeting of Council, through LPT2007-64, Council adopted the Calgary Heritage Strategy. The approved content of the Strategy states that significant historic resources “can and should be protected through designation bylaws”.

At the 2013 February 11 Combined Meeting of Council, bylaws 18D2013 and 19D2013 were passed (CPC2013-017). This made effective a protection agreement between the City of Calgary and the owner of the King Edward School, executed 2013 February 7.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### Existing Protection Agreement

The King Edward School, a pre-WWI sandstone school built 1912-1913 was first listed on the Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources in 2001, and has been determined as a site of ‘City Wide Significance’.

## DESIGNATION OF THE KING EDWARD SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE

In 2013, the property owner of the King Edward School sought land use re-designation of the site as part of the 'cSPACE' project, to accommodate additional development on the site including residential units, and adaptive re-use and additions to the heritage building. In negotiations with Administration, the owner offered designation of the historic resource to offset the impacts of increased development potential on the historic school building.

As it is not possible to guarantee approval of land use re-designations in advance of Calgary Planning Commission and Council, situations of this kind require a provisional mechanism for protecting the interests of both parties. The City of Calgary seeks assurance that the resource will receive heritage designation, and the property owner does not wish to accept legal protection of a property prior to land use approval.

To resolve this issue, both parties entered an agreement specifying that the property would be brought before Council for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource, contingent on approval of the land use re-designation (the agreement also protected the site in the period before a designation bylaw could be brought before Council). Calgary Planning Commission recommended (CPC2013-017) that Council give first and second readings to the land use re-designation bylaws, but:

**"WITHHOLD** third reading pending Municipal Historic Designation of the site or until *any other appropriate mechanism* to ensure such designation is in place, in accordance with the Corporate Planning Applications Group recommendation." (Emphasis)

Following Calgary Planning Commission, an agreement was executed between the owner and the City of Calgary to fulfil this recommendation and protect the King Edward School – becoming effective on the condition that Council approved land use re-designation bylaws 18D2013 and 19D2013. Following Council's approval of these bylaws 2013 February 11, the agreement has been effective, with acknowledgement in the agreement that a future designation bylaw will be brought before Council.

Development of a designation bylaw for the King Edward School was postponed by Administration pending subdivision as part of the 'cSPACE' development. Designation bylaws reference the legal description of a property, and a bylaw passed prior to subdivision would have required amendment at Council once the subdivision was completed. With subdivision completed, Administration is now seeking to bring the designation bylaw forward to the SPC on Planning & Urban Development, and Council.

### General Information on Designation Bylaws and Heritage Grant Programs

Conserving historic buildings through legal protection is an internationally recognized best-practice in heritage planning, and is supported by the Calgary Heritage Strategy and Calgary Municipal Development Plan. Legal protection in Alberta is achieved through designating sites as Municipal and/or Provincial Historic Resources, enabled by the Alberta Historical Resources Act.

## **DESIGNATION OF THE KING EDWARD SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

As part of the designation process, the Alberta Historical Resources Act (Section 28[1]) specifies that Municipalities must compensate property owners for any decreased economic value related to designation. To avoid incurring this cost, Administration only moves to designate sites as Municipal Historic Resources if the property owner consents and waives any compensation associated with the Act, or if Council has otherwise directed the designation.

Prior to being designated, a property must be included on Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources, a growing list of significant local heritage sites. The Inventory is maintained by the Calgary Heritage Authority, a Council-appointed advisory board comprised of members of the public, which evaluates potential Inventory sites and advises Council on heritage-related matters. Properties suggested for inclusion on the Inventory are researched and evaluated according to the Calgary Historic Resource Evaluation System. To date, there are 839 sites on the Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources, including 70 sites that have been demolished.

Property owners may choose to designate for a variety of reasons, including an interest in preservation. Additionally, a variety of incentives for designation are offered at the Municipal and Provincial level, including heritage conservation grant programs, and incentives through the planning approvals process.

The City of Calgary operates a heritage conservation grant program, offering matching funds for projects to restore, preserve or rehabilitate character-defining elements of a privately-owned, designated historic resource. The grant program is funded through an existing reserve receiving \$225,000 per year from the Planning & Development budget. Currently 59 of the 769 existing sites on the Inventory are eligible to apply for grant funding through this program. Applicants can apply for up to 50% of a conservation project cost, once every five years. Total grants received cannot exceed 15% of the assessed value of the property, determined at the time of application, for a period of 15 years. Additional information is included in Financial Capacity of this report, and full terms and conditions are available through [www.calgary.ca/heritage](http://www.calgary.ca/heritage).

Alberta Culture and Tourism operates a Provincial-level grant program, providing matching funds to owners of historic sites under terms and conditions established by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (available online through [www.culturetourism.alberta.ca](http://www.culturetourism.alberta.ca)). The designation of a property as a Municipal Historic Resource qualifies a property owner to apply for up to \$50,000 per year in Provincial matching funds, as opposed to a one-time grant of \$5000 available to non-designated sites.

It is unknown when, or if, a property owner will apply for incentives. Administration provides owners with information about all applicable incentive programs for their properties, and does not guarantee grant funds prior to approving a funding application. Furthermore, owners are made aware that both grant programs are commonly fully-subscribed, and funds may not be available at the time of application.

### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

The King Edward School is being proposed for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource. The site was added to the Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources in 2001 by the Calgary Heritage Authority, and has been determined as a property of 'City Wide Significance'. Using

## **DESIGNATION OF THE KING EDWARD SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

the framework of the Historic Resource Evaluation System, the heritage value of the King Edward School includes:

- Symbolic value – representing Calgary’s increasing maturity and prosperity during the 1909-1913 boom, during which the city expanded into the suburb of South Calgary.
- Style value – as a characteristic example of the Free Classical sandstone schools built in Calgary before the First World War.
- Activity value – for its continuous role in education for nearly a century.
- Person value – associated with its first principal William Aberhart, later Premier of Alberta.
- Construction value – showcasing the wide-use of local sandstone among significant buildings in Calgary from the late 1800s to WWI.
- Landmark value – being a substantial feature in the community of South Calgary, establishing the dominant character of the area.

The property owner has consented through an existing agreement with the City of Calgary to a bylaw being brought before Council to designate the site as a Municipal Historic Resource. Designation would formalize protection for the property, and make it eligible for conservation grant funding from the City of Calgary *Historic Resource Conservation Grant Program*, and the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation *Heritage Preservation Partnership Program*.

The proposed bylaw (Attachment 1) identifies the elements of the property that contribute to its heritage value and must be treated appropriately in any future changes or conservation work.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

An agreement between the City of Calgary and the owners of the King Edward School was executed 2013 February 7, stating “The Owners expressly agree that the Designating Bylaw will be presented to City Council at The City’s discretion.”

Per the Alberta Historical Resources Act, a ‘Notice of Intention’ to designate the property must be issued to the property owner sixty (60) days prior to passage of a designation bylaw by Council (anticipated Council decision on 2017 November 13). A notice will be issued 2017 September 11 or earlier, to be received by 2017 September 14.

The Calgary Heritage Authority has expressed support of this proposed designation as outlined in Attachment 2 to this report.

### **Strategic Alignment**

Council priorities outlined in The City’s *2015 – 2018 Action Plan* include the fostering of “A city of inspiring neighbourhoods”. Historic resources are an integral component of such neighbourhoods and their retention contributes to the diversity and character of their surroundings.

The City of Calgary *Municipal Development Plan* supports the conservation and protection of Calgary’s historic resources. The plan identifies historic preservation as part of good city building and community identity, and encourages property owners to conserve Calgary’s historic resources.

## **DESIGNATION OF THE KING EDWARD SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

The City of Calgary *2020 Sustainability Direction* includes an objective for Calgary to become a “diverse and socially inclusive city that respects its heritage and the arts,” as well as a strategy to “support the preservation of Calgary’s historic resources”.

The City’s *Calgary Heritage Strategy* (2008) recommends that identified historic resources should be protected by designation bylaws, when possible, to ensure their preservation. This protection prevents demolition, provides appropriate management of physical interventions and is critical to ensuring effective management of historic resources.

### **Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

#### **Social**

Historic resources connect us to our past, our future, and to each other. They provide places of learning and places of understanding for all Canadians. Historic resources are integral to the identity of our community and help to strengthen its distinctiveness. Historic resources add to the beauty, character and visual interest of our urban environment, which contribute to the city’s liveability and are sources of community pride.

#### **Environmental**

The preservation of historic places capitalizes on their embodied energy. Re-using existing resources requires a much smaller expenditure of materials and energy than demolishing and reconstructing a city’s building stock.

#### **Economic (External)**

Historic Resources add character and visual interest to a streetscape, increasing the attractiveness of the area to investors. Designation of historic resources ensures these attributes are protected, and the resulting certainty promotes high-quality investment. Additionally, tourists and residents are attracted to areas with historic resources.

### **Financial Capacity**

#### **Current and Future Operating Budget:**

Designation of the King Edward School will have no operating budget implications for The City of Calgary.

Designation will make the property eligible to apply to The City of Calgary’s Heritage Conservation Grant Program, funded through an existing reserve administered by Heritage Planning, which receives \$225,000 per year from the Planning & Development budget. Until 2022, \$85,000 of this total is allocated to an existing grant agreement with the Lougheed Building (FCS2004-20, approved 2004 March 22). The unsubscribed balance is available to eligible applicants on a ‘first-come/first-serve’ basis. Designated heritage resources may apply to the grant program once every five years (as needed), for matching funds up to 50% of a conservation project cost. Total grants received cannot exceed 15% of the assessed value of a property, determined at the time of application, for a period of 15 years. As of the writing of this report, the grant program reserve is close to being fully subscribed. Applicants may still submit grant requests at any time, which will be held in queue until such time as grant funds become available.

## **DESIGNATION OF THE KING EDWARD SCHOOL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE**

### **Current and Future Capital Budget:**

Designation of the King Edward School will have no capital budget implications for The City of Calgary.

### **Risk Assessment**

No risks have been identified in designating the King Edward School as a Municipal Historic Resource. The property owner has previously consented to a designation bylaw being brought before Council, which does not affect activities in the building or on the property, allows the owner to retain all rights to the individual enjoyment of their property, and does not prevent the property from being sold.

The Heritage Conservation Grant Program risks under-serving historic property owners if reserve funding does not increase in some proportion to the number of designated properties. A lack of available funding may discourage some owners from applying for designation.

### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The property is identified on Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources as a site of 'City Wide Significance' for its Activity, Construction, Landmark, Person, Style and Symbolic value, making it eligible for designation as a Municipal Historic Resource.

Discretion to bring a designation bylaw before Council is provided in an existing agreement between the property owner and The City of Calgary. Protecting Calgary's historic resources is an identified objective of The City.

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Proposed Bylaw 42M2017
2. Calgary Heritage Authority Letter of Support