



City of Colusa California

STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 4, 2022

TO: City of Colusa Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Fernanda Vanetta, Grant Writer through Jesse Cain, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

Subject: Discussion of Save America's Treasures Grant and Possible Application to Restore Auditorium for the Historical Grammar School Building

Recommendation: Discuss the possibility of preserving and restoring the historically designated grammar school (currently used as City Hall). Identify possible fundraising opportunities to raise capital for necessary matching funds.

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS: The Save America's Treasures grant program was established in 1998 to celebrate America's premier cultural resources in the new millennium. After more than 20 years, this grant program has awarded more than 1,300 grants totaling more than \$300 million to projects across the United States. Funded projects, selected from 4,000-plus applications requesting \$1.5 billion, represent nationally significant historic properties and collections that convey our nation's rich heritage to future generations. The National Park Service administers Save America's Treasures grants in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The grant program can be used for preservation projects (for properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places for national significance or designated a National Historic Landmark. The property may be listed on either individually or as contributing to a nationally significant district). These awards are managed by the National Park Service.

The City may apply for up to \$500,000 in Federal Funds but projects require a dollar-for-dollar non-federal matching share. Efforts will be made to fundraise outside of City funds, but it is also of importance to consider if there is any willingness by the people of Colusa and by extension City Council to consider committing city funds to restoration and preservation efforts.

While part of the project will be to raise funds in as many diverse methods as possible, it would be of pivotal importance to the grant application to have an accurate assessment on the structural and design needs of a restoration project. City staff has identified that running a structural evaluation will cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000. This document would allow the grant

writer to accurately budget for the project while accurately explaining the needs for restoration and preservation.

It is the City's Staff intent to hold several public meetings about this project before grant submission deadline. Grant submission deadline is December 20, 2022.

BUDGET IMPACT: If approved City's Grant Writer would like to contract with an engineering firm to complete a structural review to scope structural work requirements. The structural work report should cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000. City's grant writer will make sure to get multiple quotes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Discuss the possibility of preserving and restoring the historically designated grammar school (currently used as City Hall). Identify possible fundraising opportunities to raise capital for necessary matching funds.