



# City of Eustis

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## Staff Report

**TO:** Eustis City Commission  
**FROM:** Tom Carrino, City Manager  
**DATE:** October 6, 2022  
**RE:** RESOLUTION NUMBER 22-67: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT FOR A SMALL MATCHING GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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### **Introduction:**

Resolution Number 22-67 supports the signing and execution of the grant award agreement, awarded by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, for a small matching grant to obtain up to \$50,000 to update historic surveys performed by the city between 1992 and 2010

Previously, on May 20, 2021, Resolution Number 21-34 was approved by the Eustis City Commission to support staff submittal of a small matching grant application to obtain up to \$50,000 to update historic surveys performed by the city between 1992 and 2010.

### **Background:**

On June 3, 2021, the City of Eustis Development Services department submitted a grant application to request funding to update our historic surveys. If awarded funding, the new proposed survey would provide a survey of resources that may have “come of age” since the prior four surveys. Additionally, the proposed survey should determine which properties may have been demolished since the prior four surveys, which will result in some basic updated numbers. With this approach, we would be looking at a survey that would include the following:

Grant Title: “City of Eustis Historic and Architectural Survey, 1940-1971\*, \* Selected Resources”

1. Historical and Architectural Survey Phase I (Eustis Site Survey, 1992): Survey of properties from 1940 through 1971.
2. Historical and Architectural Survey Phase II (1994): Survey of properties from 1945 through 1971.
3. Eustis Downtown Survey (2002): Survey of properties from 1951 through 1971.
4. Historic and Architectural Survey Phase III (Egypt and East Town, 2010): Survey of properties from 1959 through 1971.

On September 1, 2022, Nicole Hu, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist with the Florida DOS, provided notification of the contract details for Small Matching Project 23.h.sm.200.149 - Eustis Historic & Architectural Survey. Once staff confirmed that there were no issues with the contract details, Ms. Hu then provided the Grant Award Agreement on September 6, which staff reviewed. Staff requested the start date of the agreement to be moved to a date closer to the current rather than July, which has passed. Staff also requested an extension of other deadlines presented in the agreement. Ms. Hu responded that the State cannot edit or change any of the standardized dates and/or language listed within the Grant Award Agreement (GAA). For any extended dates, an Extension Amendment will need to be made after the GAA has already been fully executed by the FL DOS Division Director. For the extension of Encumbrance of Funds, Ms. Hu made a note within their internal tracking sheet that it is extended to January 31, 2023. The Progress Report dates are standardized and cannot be changed.

Once the GAA is signed by the City of Eustis and sent back to the FL DOS, the City of Eustis will need to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find the best consultant to do the work on this grant for the City. Once a consultant is on board to assist with this, the City Development Services department – Planning staff will work with the consultant to complete the small matching grant project.

This grant project can benefit the City, specifically the historic areas and economic development efforts in collecting better records of information on historic sites, which can be used for education and events to increase pride in the City. Preserving historic homes and buildings act as learning tools not only for architects and builders, but students and communities as well. Additionally, this information can assist in creating a sense of culture in neighborhoods as restoring historic buildings and increasing information on historic buildings can connect people to the past. Historic buildings are physical reminders of what came before us. Historical buildings such as libraries, cathedrals, and estates give us a way to study the past and make sense of the communities that came before us. Old buildings have unique characteristics that can be difficult to replicate in new commercial builds. Not only does historic restoration benefit culture and education, but it also helps to boost the economy. Preserving or restoring old structures is good for business. It benefits travel and tourism. Finally, any form of restoration is environmentally friendly compared to a new build. You are not wasting materials, or creating a need for new ones. Also, rehabilitating existing structures can make them more eco-friendly or durable to lessen maintenance costs. Efforts to restore buildings can also help to limit other environmental factors, such as suburban sprawl, traffic, and environmental degradation. You can restore a structure that has value, history, and meaning without the need for demolition or investing in tons of new materials. With historic restoration or preservation, you can return a structure to its original look while also making it more energy efficient and increasing its value.

**Recommended Action:**

The administration recommends approval of Resolution Number 22-67.

**Alternatives:**

1. Approve Resolution Number 22-67.
2. Deny Resolution Number 22-67.