



Community Development Authority

Meeting Date:	March 19, 2026
Agenda Item:	Bowers House
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Mason Becker, mbecker@whitewater-wi.gov , 262.443.4458

BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

At a previous CDA meeting (January 2026), it was suggested that the CDA Board revisit the Bowers House Development Agreement. The Bowers House is a notable historic property in Whitewater. A CDA façade loan in conjunction with a grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation supported the redevelopment and preservation of the architectural integrity of the Bowers House. The CDA loan is in repayment. However, it is currently listed for sale, and the Anderson Commercial Group has received an offer on the property.

Below is a snapshot of the terms and conditions in the Bowers House Development Agreement.

1. Developer Improvements. Developer shall complete improvements to the Property in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements of EXHIBIT C ("Developer's Improvements"). The plans, specifications and site plans for Developer's Improvements are subject to City approval and Developer shall not commence construction of Developer's Improvements until such time as the City has approved such plans, specifications and site plans in writing. After the City's approval of Developer's Improvements, such documents shall not be modified without the prior written consent of the City, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned or delayed. City's approval of Developer's Improvements shall not excuse Developer from complying with any other governmental approvals, permits, ordinances or laws that are applicable to the Property or Developer's Improvements. All work to be performed by the Developer related to Developer's Improvements shall be performed in a good and workmanlike manner and consistent with the prevailing industry standards for such work in the area of the City. Developer shall perform all work in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, ordinances and buildings codes and shall obtain and maintain all necessary permits and licenses for such work.

2. City Commitments.

(a) Grant. If the WEDC awards the Grant to the City, the City agrees to administer and disburse the Grant funds as set forth herein but shall not be liable to Developer if the City does not receive funds from the WEDC.

(b) Loan. The City and the Developer will enter into that certain loan agreement, a form of which is attached hereto as EXHIBIT D, which is conditioned on the City's receipt of the Grant.

(c) Improvements. In cooperation with Developer, the City will make City Improvements listed on EXHIBIT B, which are conditioned on the City's receipt of the Grant.

3. Conditions. Prior to the City's performance under this Agreement, Developer shall satisfy the following conditions:

(i) Provide the City with evidence reasonably satisfactory to the City that Developer owns fee simple title to the Property.

(ii) Provide City with copies of permits, licenses and other documents as reasonably requested by City to confirm that Developer has complied with all necessary federal and state laws, regulations and

ordinances necessary to obtain the governmental approvals required for the intended construction of the Project, including without limitation a building permit for Developer's Improvements.

(iii) Provide City with a copy of all plans and complete specifications for construction of Developer's Improvements, which plans and specifications must be reasonably acceptable to City.

(iv) Provide the City with copies of such organizational documents as City shall reasonably require, as well as an incumbency certificate identifying the parties authorized to act on behalf of the Developer.

(v) Developer shall provide Matching Funds in a ratio of 3:1 as compared to the Grant for Grant Eligible Project Costs. "Matching Funds" means non-Grant funds secured by Developer to fund Grant Eligible Project Costs, which may not be in-kind. "Grant Eligible Project Costs" means building construction expenses for the Project, which do not include soft costs for the construction.

(vi) The Grant dollars shall only be utilized for Grant Eligible Project Costs.

(vii) Developer shall submit documentation to the City of all Grant Eligible Project Costs incurred against the requested disbursement of the Grant funds, as required by WEDC. Such documentation may include, but not be limited to, purchase orders and invoices.

(viii) Developer shall request all Grant funds no later than March 1, 2023.

EXHIBIT B

Infrastructure Improvements

The City will assist with infrastructure updates to the Property and surrounding properties, which together with the Loan will be in an amount of approximately \$150,000.00, including the following: (1) re-routing the rain/roof water to the west at 2nd Street; (2) tie the down spout and then route rainwater into the storm sewer; (3) replace 10' of sidewalk, curb, gutter and concrete paving; (4) upgrade the water laterals for the building in the front of the building on Main Street; and (5) replace approximately 12' of sidewalk, curb, gutter and asphalt paving.

EXHIBIT C

Developer's Improvements

Restore the building on the Property to be closer to its original appearance and prominence, as an important and historical building in Walworth County, including the following:

- Remove stucco covering the front and side elevations.
- Open the window opening and replace windows with modern windows of the same size and appearance of the original window on the upper floors on the front and side elevation.
- Depending on condition found, will repair existing and /or cover facade with material that resembles the original or historical fitting look to the building.
- Repair and replace all structures and update all systems to current code, this includes electrical, plumbing and roofing fire protection systems.

The build out of the lower level will allow for the flexibility to accommodate various commercial tenant(s). The renovated commercial space is estimated to be 4000 to 6000 sq feet. The upper floors will be developed into a mix of different living spaces designed with higher end amenities. The upper residential space will contain 12 separate residential units varying between 1 and 2 bedrooms each. The property owner has based his exterior renovation on the original design rendering provided by the Wisconsin Main Street program.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

CDA Façade Loan - 2022

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

\$36509.83 CDI Grant

\$75,000 – Facade Loan which is being repaid.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff has no recommendations at this time.

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

Loan Agreement

Development Agreement
