



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2025-50

Agenda Date: January 16, 2025

Department: Department of Sustainable Development

Title: 2025-50 State Grant for the Architectural Assessment of the Federal Post Office/Hippodrome Theater (B)

Department: Department of Sustainable Development

Description: Request for City Commission to accept a \$50,000 State Grant for the purposes of hiring a Historic Preservation Architect to prepare an Architectural Assessment of the Federal Post Office/Hippodrome Theater.

Fiscal Note: This is a grant for \$50,000 with no match requirement for the City.

Explanation: In the summer of 2023, the Department of Sustainable Development's Office of Historic Preservation submitted a grant application for a Small Matching Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to have an architectural assessment prepared for the Federal Post Office/Hippodrome Theater. The grant comes from the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Department of State.

The purpose of an architectural assessment is to provide the owner (in this case, the City) with a planning tool in order to prioritize funding phases for the repair and restoration of a building. An architectural assessment usually includes a review by a structural engineer and a review of all the major mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

The small matching grant applications were reviewed in September 2023 and the City of Gainesville's application was recommended for funding. The State Legislature then approved the funding in Spring 2024, and the list was not vetoed by the Governor.

The revised grant agreement was sent to the Department of Sustainable Development in October 2024. Even though this is a non-matching grant, the grant agreement must still be approved by the City Commission.

Work is expected to start immediately upon acceptance by the City Commission.

Strategic Connection:

- ☒ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☒ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☐ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☒ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission accept the \$50,000 grant from the State for an Architectural Assessment Report of the Federal Post Office Building/Hippodrome Theater.