

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 10, 2025
TO: Joliet Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Jayne M. Bernhard, Secretary to the Joliet Historic Preservation Commission
SUBJECT: Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources for the Joliet Oral Histories Context Study Project

BACKGROUND

The State of Illinois' Certified Local Government (CLG) matching grant program annually provides preservation and heritage planning opportunities for 83 Illinois municipalities that have been certified by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office. The City of Joliet—by having a qualified historic preservation commission, Historic Preservation Ordinance, and system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources—is a CLG.

In November 2024, the City of Joliet, through its Historic Preservation Commission, sought a CLG grant in the amount of \$21,000 to fund an oral history project focusing on the history and culture of the Joliet area Black community. Such grant funding would leverage the ongoing Joliet African American Historic Context Study project to allow for more individual stakeholder engagement, enable high-quality video interviews and creation of a digital archive that can be publicly available.

The City of Joliet was recently notified that it was awarded the requested \$21,000 in CLG grant funding for this project.

CONCLUSION

Approval of the Intergovernmental Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the agency that administers funding for the Certified Local Government Grant program, will advance the goals of the Joliet Area African American Historic Context Study and enable oral histories to be recorded as part of this project. The City has the funds to meet the required 30% local match for this reimbursement grant program through its Planning Division Professional Services budget (Org # 02024000; Obj # 523300; \$9,000).

The project period begins on the date of the signed Grant Agreement and includes expenditures incurred through June 01, 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

- Grant Agreement