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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Planning and Development Services

Re: Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide

To: Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Adam Robb, MPL, MCIP, RPP, CAHP, PLE
Manager, Policy Planning and Heritage

Date: December 9, 2024

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide be received; and
2. That the Heritage Advisory Committee comments regarding Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

Previously, the Town recognized heritage conservation projects and achievements through biennial awards. A new draft Heritage Awards Program Guide has been prepared to provide direction on the re-activation of the awards program moving forward.

Analysis

The draft Heritage Awards Program Guide outlines three award categories as well as several sub-groupings

The draft Heritage Awards Program Guide has been developed around a focus on three primary award categories:

- 1) Residential Buildings
- 2) Commercial and Institutional Buildings
- 3) Heritage Awareness and Achievement

The Residential Buildings and Commercial and Institutional Buildings categories are intended to apply to projects involving designated heritage buildings themselves. Under each of these categories, there are 4 sub-grouping award segments, being Preservation, Restoration, Adaptive Re-use, and Sensitive Additions.

The Heritage Awareness and Achievement category is not necessarily intended for works and projects to heritage buildings themselves, but rather is intended to recognize individuals, businesses, groups, or organizations that promote heritage and conservation through advocacy, education, arts, or volunteer efforts. This category is also intended to recognize those who have made exceptional or long-lasting contributions to heritage conservation within Aurora.

A table displaying the award categories and sub-groupings is provided in the attached Program Guide document and also available for reference below:

Award Categories			
	Buildings		Individuals, Businesses, Groups and Organizations
	1) Residential	2) Commercial and Institutional	3) Heritage Awareness and Achievement
Award Groupings	Preservation Award	Preservation Award	Outstanding Heritage Achievement Award
	Restoration Award	Restoration Award	
	Adaptive Re-use Award	Adaptive Re-use Award	
	Sensitive Addition Award	Sensitive Addition Award	

The Heritage Advisory Committee will be responsible for reviewing and selecting award winners, with selections to then be confirmed by Council. The Heritage Awards will be selected based on each of the application categories and sub-groupings that are received, and not all award categories/sub-groupings may necessarily be awarded each cycle, depending on the total number of applications that are received.

Regarding the nomination process, it is anticipated that nominations will be received by staff on an ongoing basis, with a nomination deadline by the end of Q3 of the respective biennial year. This allows time for the review of nominations and award selections by the Heritage Advisory Committee and Council, in advance of anticipated award presentation during or around national “Heritage Week” which occurs the third week of February.

For the Residential and Commercial and Institutional Buildings categories, work must have been completed in the past two years and self nominations are acceptable. For the Heritage Awareness and Achievement category, individuals or organizations must reside or be operating in Aurora, and nominations must be made by someone other than the nominee.

A complete overview of the draft program is provided in the corresponding attachment. Comments from the Heritage Advisory Committee are encouraged at this time prior to the draft Program Guide being presented to Council for endorsement. It is expected that upon final endorsement, the Awards Program will open and be running for the 2025 year, with award presentations in 2026.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 – Draft Heritage Awards Program Guide