

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: 231759

Pass-through grant from the National Park Service to Wisconsin Historical Society to the City for research on and historic designation for two historically Black churches and their congregations. The churches are Calvary Baptist at 2959 N. Teutonia Avenue and St. Benedict the Moor at 930 W. State Street. The grant also covers a subscription to the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database which is required for HPC staff to be efficient in their work.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

To our knowledge, no historically Black churches have been placed on the National Register in Milwaukee. So far, there is only a plaque for the original location of St. Mark AME. This grant begins to address this inequity by starting with the oldest Baptist and oldest Catholic Black congregations in the City. It is hoped that these studies will create a baseline of knowledge for further historical narratives on Black religion and life in the Milwaukee area.

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

This will have a positive impact on the Black churches. It will increase their public profile among the historical and architectural communities and be a source of pride and public recognition for the impact these churches have had on their communities and the City. National Register listing will make them eligible for historic preservation grants and tax incentives for repairs to their buildings that would not otherwise be available to them.



4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

Historic Preservation Commission staff began working with the church leadership of both congregations at the application stage. Support of the leadership is the only way to do such a historic designation fairly and equitably and the National Register program effectively requires owner consent. The relationship with both congregations should grow as the project develops and increases cultural awareness for City staff and improves public perceptions of historic preservation.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

HPC staff will determine in coordination with the Wisconsin Historical Society whether the work products are complete. Representatives of the churches will be invited to review and comment on drafts and the proposed final product.

Work products will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission in a public hearing and representatives of the churches will be invited to attend the hearing at City Hall. Work products will also be reviewed by the Wisconsin Historical Society in a public hearing. This hearing will likely be held in Madison, but could be held anywhere in the state. Their 2025 schedule has not yet been created. HPC will encourage the Historical Society to hold the hearing in the Milwaukee area.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

As this grant is conducted with federal funds, full compliance with all federal civil rights legislation is required. Work products are required to list a discrimination complaint contact at the Office of Equity of the National Park Service. Advice will be sought from the City's Office of Equity and Inclusion if necessary.

Name: **Tim Askin**

Signature:



Tim Askin
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Date: **2/28/2024**