



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 23-125

Date: October 29, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Nov 1, 2023 13:44 EDT)

Re: FY23 Division of Historical Resources Grant and Completion of Intensive Level Architectural Resource Survey

At the August 16, 2022, City Commission meeting, the City Commission approved Resolution 22-171 authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to conduct an Intensive Level Architectural Resource Survey, which commenced in January 2023. Grant funds were provided from the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Grant funds were used to hire a preservation consultant firm, Laura Weinstein Associates, to organize and conduct the Intensive Level Architectural Resource Survey in selected areas of the City. Architectural Resource Surveys primarily act as a planning tool to provide adequate data to make informed decisions, but most importantly, it documents the City's history and contributes important data into a repository of historical information. Additionally, as a Certified Local Government, there is a commitment by the City to protect its historic resources and provide continuous improvement to historic preservation efforts, including the identification of historic properties within the jurisdiction.

For this project, the neighborhoods of Riverside Park and Rio Vista were selected, based on the findings from a previous 2018 Reconnaissance-Level survey. That survey identified priority areas within each neighborhood based on the concentration of historic resources. Using those highlighted areas, Laura Weinstein Associates prioritized the identification of potential historic districts within each neighborhood and identified potential individual resources.

Prior to the start of the Architectural Resource Survey, staff contacted the President of each affected Neighborhood Association. An overview of the project was provided along with a list of frequently asked questions related to Architectural Resource Surveys and staff also offered to speak to each of their groups. Representatives followed up with questions; however, neither of the Neighborhood Associations requested staff to attend one of their meetings.

The survey resulted in the identification of two potential historic districts and the identification of 14 individually eligible historic landmarks in Riverside Park and 29 individually eligible historic landmarks in Rio Vista. Additionally, the completion of 383 new historic structures forms, five historic resource group forms, and updates to 130 historic structures forms have been submitted to the Florida Master Site File. The Florida Master Site File is a repository for information on Florida's archaeological sites and historical structures which is administered by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, under the Florida Department of State.

To adopt any of the findings within the Architectural Resource Survey, further outreach to the communities surveyed and property owners would first need to be conducted. In order to designate a new historic district, the Historic Preservation Board (HPB), the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB), and the City Commission would need to consider an ordinance to establish the historic district and a resolution to adopt a "Contributing" and "Non-Contributing" status for each property within the district boundaries. To designate a property as a historic landmark, the HPB and City Commission would need to consider a resolution to designate the property as such.

A final Architectural Resource Survey report has been prepared that provides an overview of the effort, a summary of the findings, recommendations of eligibility, as well as a historical and architectural context for each neighborhood that was surveyed. The report and a summary of its results have been shared on the Historic Preservation Website (<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/development-services/urban-design-and-planning/historic-preservation/architectural-resource-surveys>) and will be shared with each affected Neighborhood Association.

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Thomas J. Ansbro, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers