



CLARK COUNTY

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor
Vancouver, WA
www.clark.wa.gov/planning/historic

TO: Clark County Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Sharon Lumbantobing, Planner II

DATE: Feb. 26, 2020

FILE: **Certified Local Government Grant Proposals**

Proposal 1- Mid-20th Century Modern Historic Context Statement:

This project is to develop a detailed mid-20th century modern historic context statement for Clark County focusing on post-war development and architectural trends, primarily in the city of Vancouver, but including prominent buildings in other parts of Clark County. The properties to be surveyed date from 1949 to 1972 which have not been included in any cultural resource inventories conducted in the city and county to date. The historic context statement will provide a focus on the economic, geographic, historical and cultural elements that significantly shaped the physical development of the city's land use patterns and built environment in the mid-20th century. The historic context statement will focus on property types rather than on individual buildings or architectural styles and will meet the Washington State Standards for Cultural Resources Reporting 2015. Research will address the development context in Clark County in the post-war period, design and technical innovations that occurred, profiles of important architects and designers, and other important post-war trends. Research will include primary and secondary sources. The project will include one public meeting to share the research findings.

Proposal 2 – Unreinforced Masonry Buildings and Earthquakes

An unreinforced masonry (URM) building is a structure where load bearing walls, non-load bearing walls or other structures are made of brick, cinderblock, tiles, or other masonry material that is not braced by reinforcing materials, such as rebar. This building type is generally one of the most seismically vulnerable categories in any community. URM buildings were constructed in Clark County between about 1870 and 1960 and include residential, commercial, industrial, and religious buildings. URM buildings define the character of the downtowns in Vancouver, Camas, Washougal and Ridgefield in Clark County.

This project would hire a consultant for two related tasks: an inventory of URM buildings in Clark County and recommendations for a seismic risk reduction program tailored to Clark County. The inventory of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings in Clark County would capture the buildings' location, physical characteristics, square footage, number of stories, construction dates, ownership and occupancy. This work is important to understand the scale and, more importantly, the nature of the seismic risk of these buildings for those who own, occupy or use these buildings. Based on this inventory, the consultant will develop a set of recommendations for a seismic risk reduction program for URM in Clark County. This program would draw on both best practices and lessons learned from other communities that have addressed seismic risk such as Portland and Seattle and communities in California. It would be substantially informed by the inventory of Clark County URMs to ensure that the program is tailored to the risks specific to the kinds of URM buildings found in Clark County. The recommendations would also consider the many policy and regulatory issues, such as voluntary versus mandatory programs, the costs of retrofitting, the economic viability of older buildings, current occupancy and use, and historic and architectural values.