



## Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of June 13, 2024

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** May 31, 2024

**From:** Karen Hoese, Director, Sustainable Planning and Community Development

**Subject:** **Heritage Alteration Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street**

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### RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council authorize the issuance of Heritage Alteration Permit No. 00264 for 700 Government Street in accordance with plans submitted to the Planning department and date stamped by Planning on March 22, 2024.
2. That the Heritage Alteration Permit, if issued, expires two years from the date of this resolution.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

In accordance with Sections 617 and 618 of the *Local Government Act*, Council may issue a Heritage Alteration Permit which may be subject to terms consistent with the purpose of the heritage protection of the property, including: (i) conditions respecting the sequencing and timing of construction, (ii) conditions respecting the character of the alteration or action to be authorized, including landscaping and the siting, form, exterior design and finish of buildings and structures and (iii) security. Council may refuse to issue a Heritage Alteration Permit for an action that, in the opinion of Council, would not be consistent with the purpose of the heritage protection of the property.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information, analysis and recommendations for a Heritage Alteration Permit Application for the property located at 700 Government Street. The proposal is to mount 12 metal umbrella holders to the edge of the upper step (seat level) on the south side of the Lower Causeway.

The following points are noted based on an assessment of this application:

- The proposal is consistent with the *Official Community Plan (OCP)*, which encourages sensitive alterations to heritage property and placemaking initiatives that enhance the public realm.
- The proposal aligns with the *Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP)* objectives related to the interpretation of heritage and culture through public art.

- The proposal is consistent with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (Standards and Guidelines), which allow for minimal alterations that enhance the useability of historic places.
- The application was reviewed by the Heritage Advisory Panel (HAPL) at its April 9, 2024 meeting and was recommended for approval.

The application is supportable as a minor alteration to a historic place that will enhance the useability and cultural programming of the Lower Causeway. It is recommended that Council authorize the issuance of the permit.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Description of Proposal**

The proposal is to mount 12 metal umbrella holders to the edge of the upper step on the south side of the Lower Causeway. The umbrellas will provide shade and protection for the artists who participate in the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority's (GVHA) Indigenous Artists Causeway Program and will feature art by Songhees Nation artist Butch Dick. The holders will be painted black to match the other street furnishings along the causeway, and the GVHA will put up and take down the umbrellas every day, storing them in a secure area when not in use. It is not intended that all 12 umbrellas will be in use at all times.

The causeway, including both the lower and upper sections, is heritage designated and the Statement of Significance identifies the pavers and arrangement of walkways and seated areas as character-defining elements. The proposal is minimal and reversible, while serving to enhance the sense of place and make the causeway a more accessible place for Indigenous artists.

### **Accessibility**

The umbrellas and holders will not impact the accessibility of the walkway.

## **ANALYSIS**

The following sections provide a summary of the application's consistency with the relevant City policies.

### **Official Community Plan (OCP)**

The proposal is consistent with the policies in Section 8: Placemaking- Urban Design and Heritage of the OCP, which includes objectives to conserve and enhance heritage property and public spaces, including with art that reflects the culture and heritage of Victoria.

### **Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP)**

The proposal is consistent with the heritage objectives of DCAP, such as the integration of art and cultural programming that is responsive to and representative of heritage values and history in streetscapes and open spaces.

## **Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada**

The proposal is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines, which encourages minimal intervention and reversible alterations to heritage property where possible, while allowing for alterations that enhance the useability of historic places.

### **Heritage Advisory Panel**

The application was reviewed by HAPL at its April 9, 2024 meeting. HAPL passed the following motion recommending that Council approve the application:

*“That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street be approved as presented.”*

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Adding minimal, reversible infrastructure to the Lower Causeway to enable cultural programming and placemaking while maintaining accessibility is supported by City policy, including the OCP and DCAP, and heritage best practices, such as the Standards and Guidelines. Therefore, it is recommended that Council consider permitting the addition of umbrella holders in this location.

### **ALTERNATE MOTION**

That Council decline Heritage Alteration Permit Application No. 00264 for the property located at 700 Government Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Saretsky  
Heritage Planner  
Community Planning Division

Karen Hoese, Director  
Sustainable Planning and Community  
Development Department

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.**

### **List of Attachments**

- Attachment A: Subject Map
- Attachment B: Aerial Map
- Attachment C: Applicant’s letter dated March 20, 2024
- Attachment D: Plans date stamped March 22, 2024
- Attachment E: Statement of Significance
- Attachment F: Draft Heritage Advisory Panel Minutes, April 9, 2024.