

## What is heritage designation?

Conserving heritage resources through legal protection is an internationally recognized best-practice in heritage planning and is supported by the *Calgary Heritage Strategy* and *Municipal Development Plan*. Legal protection in Calgary is achieved through designating sites listed on the *Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources* as **Municipal** and/or **Provincial Historic Resources**. Designation is enabled by the *Alberta Historical Resources Act*, and performed by a municipality or Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women.

### Designation by Calgary City Council as a Municipal Historic

- Prevents the demolition of an Inventory site.
- Requires collaboration with, and approval from, Heritage Planning to alter certain historic elements.
- Allows property owners and tenants to continue normal day-to-day activities, such as personal use (e.g. hosting gatherings, cooking, etc.), running a business (e.g. coffee shop), or selling the property.

Municipal Historic Resource Designation is a voluntary decision. If a property owner designates their property, they are eligible to apply for financial incentives and grants that can assist them with preserving their property. Learn more about the steps to designation [here](#).

## Which properties are eligible for designation?

To be eligible for designation, a property must be included on Calgary's *Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources*. Properties suggested as potential *Inventory* sites are first researched and evaluated by [Heritage Calgary](#), according to the Council-approved Calgary Historic Resource Evaluation System. The *Inventory* is maintained by Heritage Calgary, who also advises Council on heritage-related matters.

## Why do owners choose to designate?

The owner of an property listed on the *Inventory* may choose to designate for a variety of reasons, including an interest in heritage conservation. Additionally incentives for designation are offered at the Municipal and Provincial level, including heritage conservation grant programs (discussed on the following page), and incentives through the planning approvals process.

Density Transfer is a significant planning incentive available to owners of Municipal Historic Resources in select areas. A designated resource can transfer unused development rights (density) to a new development site at a privately negotiated profit—supporting growth, and benefiting heritage conservation. Further information on density transfer programs can be found at the bottom of this [page](#).



**Blum Residence (built 1963)**  
Municipal Historic Resource  
Designated November 2018



**West End Telephone Exchange (built 1910)**  
Municipal Historic Resource Designated  
February 2018  
Utilized Density Transfer program

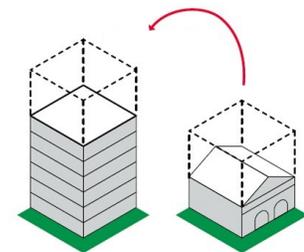


Diagram showing transfer of density from a Municipal Historic Resource to a new development

## Grant programs

### City of Calgary *Historic Resource Conservation Grant Program*

The City of Calgary operates a conservation grant program, offering matching funds for projects to restore, preserve or rehabilitate a privately-owned, Municipal Historic Resource.

Sites designated as Municipal Historic Resources, or those in the process of designation are eligible to apply for grant funding through this program. Applicants can apply for up to 50% of a conservation project cost to a maximum \$125,000, over a period of 15 years, with the option to apply once every five years.

The [Historic Resource Conservation Grant Program](#) is provided through a reserve fund established in 2003, which receives \$500,000 per year from the Planning & Development budget (increased from \$225,000 per year in 2020). The grant program began issuing grants in 2012, following a program structuring through PFC2012-0159.

Following its introduction, the Conservation Grant Program has remained a popular financial incentive. From 2015 to the present day, applications to the program have consistently met or exceeded yearly capacity, despite annual funding more than doubling in 2020 with *One Calgary Service Plans and Budgets*.

A new funding stream specific to non-residential Municipal Historic Resources was introduced to the grant program for 2021 and 2022, though direction with the Heritage Conservation Tools and Incentive Report (PUD2020-0758). Approval of the report recommendations and a subsequent mid-cycle budget adjustment in November 2020 provided a one-time \$1.5 million endowment to the grant reserve over the following two-year period. During this time, the non-residential grant stream has accepted applications up to a maximum per-site matching grant of \$1 million, while the residential stream has kept the previous program terms, using the existing \$500,000 in yearly funding. The non-residential stream was developed in recognition of the significant conservation costs which may be associated with commercial, industrial or institutional heritage resources. Outcomes of the one-time increase will be explored in further reporting on PUD2020-0758. Future direction on the Historic Resource Conservation Grant Program, including potential continuation of a non-residential funding stream will be determined following the 2023-2026 budget deliberations.

Grants supporting 42 Municipal Historic Resources have been committed to by The City of Calgary from 2012-2022 totalling approximately \$5.2 million. However, as grants funds are paid at conservation project milestones, the total funds issued to-date total approximately \$3.8 million.

### Government of Alberta *Heritage Preservation Partnership Program*

Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women operates a Provincial-level grant program, providing matching funds to owners of historic sites under terms and conditions established by the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation (available online through [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)).



**Scarboro United Church and Manse**  
(built 1929)  
Conservation Grant Recipient



**Treend Residence**  
(built 1922)  
Conservation Grant Recipient



**Lorraine Apartments**  
(built 1912-1913)  
Conservation Grant Recipient