

HERITAGE CONSERVATION GRANT | June 2025

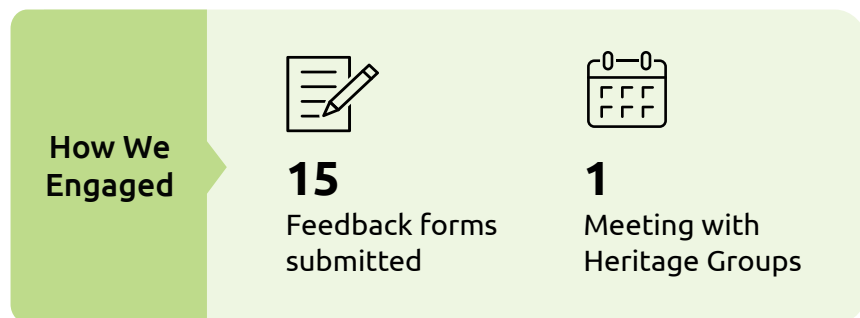
Engagement Report



Engagement Need

Delta’s Heritage Conservation Grant was created to help preserve our community’s unique historical properties. While the grant offers generous financial support to eligible property owners, it is not being used as much as it could be. Only a few applications are received each year. The City of Delta conducted an engagement program to look at ways to improve the Heritage Conservation Grant program to better meet the needs of owners of heritage properties.

Engagement Snapshot



(Feature image for promotional materials)

Who We Involved

The focus of the engagement program was to invite input from heritage property owners listed on Delta’s Heritage Inventory which is comprised of 150 properties. Local conservation groups were also consulted, including Delta Heritage Society and the Kirkland House Foundation.

What We Heard Summary

The following are the key findings from these activities.

Theme	Summary
Low Awareness & Interest	The City received only 15 forms from 150 property owners who were notified, suggesting low awareness of the grant or limited interest in undertaking renovations at this time.
Inventory Outdated	Local heritage groups shared that the Heritage Inventory is outdated, with likely more eligible properties not yet listed.

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Theme	Summary
Reasons for Not Applying	Participants were invited to share their reasons for not applying which included concerns about the 10-year covenant (5 out of 15 participants), concerns about adding their property to the Heritage Register (5 out of 15 participants), and uncertainty about whether their project would qualify for the grant (4 out of 15 participants).
Planned Work Expected	Participants were asked about renovations in the future, 11 of 15 respondents indicated they plan to carry out work on their heritage property within the next five years, showing those who are considering have knowledge of the grant.
Types of Work Being Considered	The grant covers a specific list of work that can be completed. Feedback suggests that the current scope of the grant continues to be relevant. Those considering renovations expressed interest in exterior restoration (11 of 15), followed by interior upgrades (6 of 15) and structural or foundation work (4 of 15). Focus-group participants advocated for expanding eligible project costs to include landscaping, energy efficiency upgrades, and accessibility improvements, indicating a desire for the grant program to cover a broader range of renovations.
Grant Limitations	Responses from the feedback form and focus-group shared that the \$30,000 maximum grant and the restriction to one project per year limit the ability to complete comprehensive restorations efficiently, potentially discouraging larger projects.
Covenant & Registry Concerns	Concerns about the 10-year covenant and Heritage Registry requirements were common, with participants worried these conditions could negatively affect future resale value and restrict certain modifications over time.
Application Process	Even though the City provides resources on how to apply, participants described the process as daunting, particularly for those unfamiliar with heritage grants and recommended a more user-friendly, online list of heritage properties alongside clearer guidance on qualified contractors and consultants.

Key Dates

The engagement period took place between April 23 and May 23, 2025.

Date	Activity
April 23	Focus Group: Delta Heritage Society/Kirkland House Foundation
April 24	Agricultural Advisory Committee
May 13	Launch of Let's Talk Delta project page and feedback form opens
May 13	News release published
May 13	E-Blast #1
May 14	Letter to residents
May 15	Newspaper ads
May 23	Feedback closes

To view the feedback form results, visit letstalk.delta.ca/HeritageGrant.