

# Marker Repair and Replacement Fund Policy

**In order to better maintain and upgrade Michigan's historical markers, the Michigan Historical Commission is creating the Marker Repair and Replacement Fund to assist local communities, groups and individuals who are having difficulty finding resources for marker refinishing or replacement of damaged markers.**

## **Allocation of Funds**

Each year, the Michigan Historical Center (MHC) will set aside for this purpose 75 percent of the previous year's Michigan Historical Marker Fund unrestricted account income, plus the smaller of \$5,000 or the amount in excess of \$20,000 held in that account at year's end. Any unexpended funds will return to the unrestricted account at the end of the fiscal year.

## **Eligibility**

Funds may be used only for the cost of purchasing new posts, refinishing markers or replacing damaged markers and the associated shipping costs.

Applications to the fund will be accepted and evaluated on a first-come, first-awarded basis.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate that they have exhausted other options for funding the needed work prior to seeking support from the Marker Repair and Replacement Fund.

MHC staff will evaluate the condition of a marker prior to authorizing funding.

- In a case where a marker that is to be refinished has inaccurate information, staff will work with the sponsor to adjust the text and recast instead of refinishing the marker.
- The text for all markers that must be recast due to damage will be evaluated for content. Staff will work with the sponsors on any recommended changes.

Applications will close when all funds for a given fiscal year have been committed. Applications may be re-submitted at the beginning of the following fiscal year (October 1).

## **Matching Requirements**

The fund will pay 60 percent of the cost of repairs or recasting of the marker and/or replacement of posts. Sponsors will provide a match of 40 percent of the cost.

Once sponsors are notified that funding is available, they will have 90 days to provide the 40 percent match to the MHC. Failure to meet this deadline will cause the available funds to be revoked.

## **Public Information**

The Marker Repair and Replacement Fund and the application will be included in the commission portion of the MHC website as an option for sponsors who are having difficulty raising funds for marker repair or replacement.

## **Sunset Review**

This policy will sunset on September 30, 2023, by which time the commission will determine whether to continue, modify or discontinue the program.

Policy Adopted on 9/3/2020