



Heritage Advisory Panel Report For the Meeting of April 9, 2024

To: Heritage Advisory Panel **Date:** April 5, 2024
From: Laura Saretsky, Heritage Planner
Subject: **Heritage Alteration Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Heritage Advisory Panel (HAPI) is requested to review a Heritage Alteration Permit Application for 700 Government Street and provide advice to Council.

The proposal is to add welded metal holders mounted to the edge of the walkway for 12 umbrellas 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 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 Official Community Plan (OCP) and Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP) encourage sensitive and minimal alterations to protected heritage property, placemaking initiatives and the beautification of publicly accessible spaces. 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.

The Options section of this report provides guidance on possible recommendations the Panel may make, or use as a basis to modify, in providing advice on this application.

Description of Proposal

The application proposes mounting 12 umbrella holders to the side of the lower step along the southern portion of the lower causeway walkway in the Inner Harbour.

The proposal includes the following major design components:

- 12 welded metal tube holders, painted black, mounted to the side of the lower step adjacent to the lower causeway walkway.

Consistency with Policies and Design Guidelines

Official Community Plan

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

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.

Accessibility

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

OPTIONS

The following are three potential options that the Panel may consider using or modifying in formulating a recommendation to Council:

Option One

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

Option Two

That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street be approved with the following changes:

- as listed by the Panel.

Option Three

That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street does not sufficiently meet the applicable design guidelines and policies and should be declined (and that the key areas that should be revised include):

- as listed by the Panel, if there is further advice they would like to provide on how the Application could be improved.

ATTACHMENTS

- Subject Map
- Aerial Map
- Plans date stamped March 22, 2024
- Applicant's letter dated March 20, 2024.

cc: Judy Kitts, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority