

April 6, 2022

Mayor and Members of Municipal Council:

Re: Notice of Motion – Fugitive Slave Chapel Relocation & Restoration

Given Municipal Council's commitment to taking appropriate steps to celebrate diversity and enhance anti-racism initiatives in our community, and the identified importance to London's Black community to preserve the heritage building known as the "Fugitive Slave Chapel" which played a critical role in the lives of early Black Londoners fleeing slavery in the United States and establishing a community here, we are asking council to making a one time commitment of \$71,000 from our own Community Investment Reserve Fund to assist with the relocation of the Fugitive Slave Chapel from its current site at 432 Gray Street to Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Once on-site it will undergo restoration work and be integrated into programming and tours allowing for an inclusionary story of our city's early history.

In meeting with representatives from the steering committee on this project, we believe this is the appropriate funding source to provide a time-sensitive one-time commitment. As colleagues may know, the building is currently in poor condition and continuing to deteriorate without proper care. In order to prevent further deterioration and allow for stabilization and restoration, it is important the building be relocated before the winter of 2022/2023 arrives. The funding source being recommended will ensure sufficient funds on hand to make the necessary arrangements for relocation in this calendar year. A commitment of municipal funding, in addition to the community fundraising that has already raised in excess of \$85,000 will be important in successfully leveraging an additional \$150,000 in federal funding through Cultural Spaces Canada for restoration work.

Due to the need to meet both the federal funding application timelines and the stated goal for the building's relocation this calendar year, there is not an opportunity to seek funding through a business case in the next Annual Budget Update.

We are therefore seeking leave to make a notice of motion, as follows:

"That pursuant to section 11.3 of the Council Procedure By-law, leave be given for the introduction of a notice of motion to consider a time sensitive request for municipal funding assistance for the relocation and restoration of the heritage building known as the Fugitive Slave Chapel

Should leave be given, we are seeking support of the following motion:

That Civic Administration be directed to make all necessary arrangements to provide a \$71,000 grant from the Community Investment Reserve Fund to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village Fugitive Slave Chapel campaign to assist with the cost of relocating and restoring this cultural heritage asset.

It being noted that this, combined with community fundraising, will assist in leveraging additional federal funding

Respectfully submitted,

Mohamed Salih
Councillor, Ward 3

Shawn Lewis
Councillor, Ward 2

Elizabeth Pelozo
Councillor, Ward 12

John Fyfe-Millar
Councillor, Ward 13



April 1, 2022

Request to Council for project Funding:

Restoration of London's Fugitive Slave Chapel at Fanshawe Pioneer Village

Project Summary

In May 2021, the British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church offered the building, known as the Fugitive Slave Chapel, as a gift to the London & Middlesex Heritage Museum, which operates Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Built in 1848 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Chapel served London's Black community as a place of gathering and worship until 1869; it was home to many who fled their enslavement on the Underground Railroad. The Chapel is the oldest surviving building representing London's Black history. Currently, the BME Church is unable to care for it, and the building's future is at risk.

This project will relocate the Chapel to Fanshawe Pioneer Village, where it will be restored and preserved, ensuring this important piece of local Black history isn't lost and that the historic truths that shaped our city's and nation's past are better shared. Working with community partners (London Black History Coordinating Committee, Black Lives Matter London, the Congress of Black Women of Canada) we will also develop and install an interpretive exhibit about London's involvement in the Underground Railroad and the region's diverse Black histories.

Urgency

There is a great deal of community concern and urgency to protect the Chapel from being lost to vandalism and further deterioration. We are working to ensure the building doesn't sit through another winter exposed. Ideally the Chapel would be moved, placed on a foundation at the Village, and the exterior envelope sealed before next winter to prevent further degradation — but funding is key to this timeline.

The costs of relocation, restoration, and preservation of the Chapel are estimated to be \$300,000. The Village's Board of Directors want to ensure we have funding commitments in place for this project to be successful, and completed in a timely manner. The sooner the funds are committed, the sooner the relocation and restoration process can begin.

Demonstrated financial support from the City of London also helps our campaign build momentum within the community, carries weight in our applications to other funders, and helps to leverage funds from government grant programs. We have prepared an application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) for 50% of the project's expenses. A commitment from the City would assist in leveraging these funds.

Funding Request

We are respectfully requesting a one-time grant of \$71,000 from London City Council to assist with the moving and restoration costs of relocating the Fugitive Slave Chapel from Grey Street to Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

As of April 1, 2022 the campaign for this project has raised over \$85,500 with support from local foundations, community organizations and individual donors. These funds are held in a flow through fund at the London Community Foundation, as well as in a dedicated account at the Museum.

Please find images of the Chapel's current condition, and letters of support from our community partners attached. If you have questions or require any further information, please contact me.

On behalf of the London & Middlesex Heritage Museum Board of Directors, and the project Steering Committee, we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Miskelly — Executive Director
director@fanshawepioneervillage.ca



London & Middlesex Heritage Museum
BN/Charitable Registration #
129874541 RR0001

Steering Committee

- Anne Baxter
- Carl Cadogan
- Mary Ann Colihan
- Nikisha Evans
- Silence Genti
- Genet Hodder
- Alexandra Kane
- Christina Lord
- Hilary Neary
- Thomas Peace
- Heather Rennalls
- Norm Steele
- Harold Usher

Community Partners

- London Black History Coordinating Committee
- Black Lives Matter London
- The Chapel Committee
- Congress of Black Women of Canada -London Chapter



Support the Restoration of London's Fugitive Slave Chapel at Fanshawe Pioneer Village



Images taken December 2021 of the condition of the Fugitive Slave Chapel





April 1, 2022

Chair and Members
London City Council

Re: ***The Fugitive Slave Chapel Project***

Dear City Council:

The ***London Black History Coordinating Committee*** was formed out of a desire to increase awareness of Black History and Black History Month activities in the London area and to highlight the contributions of London's diverse Black community. The Committee is dedicated to providing educational programs, activities and services that increases public understanding of the diversity and history of London's Black community. 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of our committee; during the last twenty years, the LBHCC has organized events and has been the 'clearing house' for other events organized by other groups from the Windsor area to London/Middlesex area. As a volunteer led and run organization, LBHCC partners with others to present and deliver programs not only during February/Black History Month but other times of the year.

I have lived in five cities in Canada, and it has always seemed to me our history, Black History, has not been 'front and centre' in any way. Whether it has been in Alberta, that has had three hundred years of Black presence or SW Ontario that was an important part of the Underground Railroad, our history and contributions has not always been a part of the general understanding and education in our communities.

Black History did not start and end with Slavery, but those four hundred years were important as it demonstrated in real, concrete and very poignant ways, the resilience and strength of people of African descent, wherever they may have ended up in the diaspora.

The Fugitive Slave Chapel is an important part of that history in London and moving it to Fanshawe Pioneer Village will ensure our history is part of the broader history of London. A restored Chapel will also ensure that students and the general public will have a real interpretation of the history of Black settlers who helped build our urban and rural communities for more than two hundred years.

On behalf of the LBHCC, we hope you can join with us and many others in supporting this exciting and very worthwhile project. But more than that, we hope that you as City Leaders, recognize that London's Black History is London's history, Canada's history and for those reasons, is critical to preserve and to promote.

Respectfully,

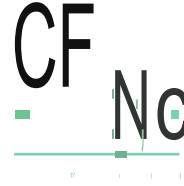
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Cadogan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carl Cadogan, Chair
London Black History Coordinating Committee
C/O London Cross Cultural Learner Centre
505 Dundas Street
London, Ontario
N6B 1W4



CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN OF CANADA
LE CONGRES DES FEMMES NOIRES DU CANADA

London Chapter
P.O. Box 24143 301 Oxford St. London O, 10, C,
www.cbwlondon.org



April 30, 2021

Genet Hodder
The Chair
The Chapel Project
London, ON

Dear Ms. Hodder,

Re: The Chapel Project

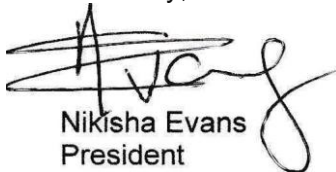
The Congress of Black Women of Canada (CBWC) was established in 1973 to provide a national forum to address the concerns of Black women and their families. The London chapter (CBWCL) since 1989, continues the mandate and has worked to improve the welfare of black women and their families in the Southwestern Ontario through our programs of education and services.

The Congress supports the preservation of the Fugitive Slave Chapel that has been a part of the London community from the 19th Century. The Fugitive Slave Chapel is a part of our Black History and should remain a historical building in the London community. The history that is associated with The Chapel involves our ancestors passage through the Underground Railroad to Freedom. It is important for members of the Black Community, in London, to see historical buildings that tell "Our Story." It is even more important for the community at large to become more informed of the role London played in the Freedom of Black slaves.

The restoration of The Chapel and its relocation to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village will enable citizens of London, the surrounding areas and visitors to learn more about this humble building and its place in our collective history. The Congress of Black Women of Canada London Chapter supports this move and looks forward to visiting The Chapel in its new home.

Preserving The Chapel is preserving Black History which is Canada's History. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to make contact.

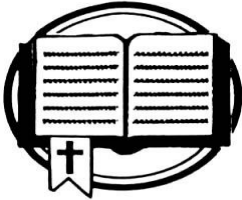
Sincerely,



Nikisha Evans
President

The British Methodist Episcopal Church

CONFERENCE



Founded 1856

Incorporated 1913

Head Office: 1828 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M6E 2H6

General Superintendent

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Chester A. Searles

Assistant General Superintendent

Rev. Maurice Hicks

General Secretary

Rev. Dan Morand

General Treasurer

Mr. Elmo Remo

May 2, 2021

Genet Hodder, Chair, The Chapel Project,
London, Ontario
519-433-9550

Dear Genet Hodder,

Please let me introduce myself; My name is Chester Searles and I am the General Superintendent of the British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada and as such, the owner of the Fugitive Slave Chapel, and Beth Emanuel Church, located at 430 Grey Street in London.

The “Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project” (FSCPP) has been in the works since the Chapel was relocated to its present site on November 12, 2014. Due to many circumstances, the project has not progressed at a pace desired by all parties involved. In fact, it has been stalled for a couple of years. With the recent leadership change at the Beth Emanuel Church, internal discussions have taken place with respect to the best and unbiased options for the future of the Slave Chapel.

We believe that the best option for the Slave Chapel is for us to gift it to the City of London and work with the FSCPP to have it relocated to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village. The Pioneer Village would be a better location to promote the rich history of the Slave Chapel and the involvement of London, in the Underground Railroad. A museum in “SOHO” would not provide the same exposure as it was located at the Pioneer Village.

The addition of the Fugitive Slave Chapel would add diversity to the Pioneer Village and the celebration of its 60th anniversary is timely. The Slave Chapel and Underground Railroad are an important and often overlooked part of our pioneer heritage. Educational school excursions have

already been established at the Pioneer Village and the addition of our “black history” could enhance the educational experience.

A motivated committee, dedicated to restoring and promoting the Slave Chapel has already been established. The FSCPP has recently started to revive their committee to promote the Slave Chapel, so the onus would not be on the City or the Pioneer Village to form a working committee dedicated to this project.

I am requesting a meeting, with all concerned parties to move this proposal along as quickly as possible for the benefit of all. I am available to meet in London at a time and date established to discuss the details of our offer of this “birthday gift” to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village. I will look forward to our meeting.

Sincerely,



Rt. Rev. Dr. Chester Searles
General Superintendent
The British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada
1828 Eglinton Ave, W.
Toronto, Ontario
N6E 2H6

416-534-3831
searlesc@sympatico.ca

cc. Rev. Dan Morand, Senior Pastor, Beth Emanuel Church
Gennet Hodder, Chair, FSCPP
Dawn Miskelly, Executive Director, Fanshawe Pioneer Village
Rev. Maurice Hicks, Assistant General Superintendent
Mrs. Vashti Mascoll, Director