

Nautical history home still moored in square

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The Maritime Museum of B.C. is going to be moored in historic Bastion Square for the foreseeable future.

A few years ago, the museum was pushing for a new location on the waterfront.

But financial realities mean it is concentrating on its Bastion Square home, Keith Reed, museum society president, told Victoria councillors this past week.

Major improvements to the square in the past few years helped influence the decision, he said later.

"It is an inviting area, and for a long time it wasn't."

The museum is still hoping to have some kind of waterfront presence. No plans are in place yet, Reed said.

Revitalizing the museum will cost \$1.2 million, Jeanne Shoemaker, museum executive director, said.

The society has applied for \$800,000 from a federal-provincial infrastructure grant program. A fund-raising campaign would bring in the extra money.

The society expects to learn Thursday whether the application is



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approved. If the money doesn't come through, the museum would then fund-raise for individual projects, Reed said.

The city of Victoria is giving the Maritime Museum of B.C. \$20,000 this year.

The museum is also hoping to attract more tour buses.

There hasn't been much demand by the bus companies so far. But the city will provide parking spots if they are requested, Mike Skene, assistant transportation manager, said.

If a demand is created, then Victoria could look at instituting a permanent bus-parking zone, he said.