



2021 Facade Improvement Grant Program Information and Guidelines

Grants will become available beginning January 1 and continue until the fund allocation is exhausted.

What is the Facade Improvement Grant Program?

The Main Street Columbus Facade Improvement Grant Program will assist businesses and commercial property owners with improving building appearance by putting a new “face” on the way goods and services are marketed.

Maximum Awards:

The Facade Improvement Program is available to owners and tenants (with owner permission) for proposed improvements to the front facade of an existing building. Grants will be issued on a first-come basis with the approved fund disbursed at the completion of the facade improvement.

Eligible Expenses:

- Removal of false fronts (such as aluminum panels).
- Exterior painting to already painted brick.
- Repair of windows, doors, and/or trim.
- Exterior lighting.
- Approved exterior decorative enhancements (shutters, trim, etc.).
- Improvements visible within the 34-block Main Street Columbus area.

Eligible Applicants:

- Businesses located in the 34-block Main Street Columbus historic area.
- Exterior rehabilitation only of existing buildings.
- Building must conform to all current codes and ordinances.
- May not be used for residential.
- Applicants must be a Main Street Columbus member business for at least 6 months prior to grant application.

Grant Guidelines:

In addition to the above criteria, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Property owners or business tenants may apply.
- Tenant applicants must have written approval from the building owner (letter must be included with the application submitted to Main Street Columbus).
- All applications must be submitted and approved prior to beginning construction.
- Rehabilitation must comply with all Columbus city codes, ordinances, and policies.
- The Columbus Historic Preservation Commission approval is required.
- If funded, you are responsible to obtain all building licenses required.
- All real property taxes must be paid in full.
- Work must be completed within 6 months of project approval (unless extenuating circumstances are approved by the Main Street Columbus Economic Restructuring Committee.)
- Work must adhere to the plans and rendering approved by Main Street Columbus for the grant. Changes after approval must be brought to the Main Street Columbus Board’s attention.
- Upon completion and review of the work, the applicant must submit proof of payment (paid invoices) for the rehabilitation in order to receive reimbursement from Main Street Columbus, Inc.

Items to be considered in the assessment of the grant:

- Overall need for improvement - relates to current condition and need for improvement.
- Does the cost appear reasonable?
- Does it preserve the architectural character of the building?
- Does it provide a catalyst for others to improve building facades?