



## 2020 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?