

 <p>ST. CHARLES SINCE 1834</p>	HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY			
	Agenda Item Title/Address:	Façade Improvement Grant Program Amendments		
	Proposal:	Changes to program for 2017 year		
	Petitioner:	City of St. Charles		
Please check appropriate box (x)				
	PUBLIC HEARING		MEETING 3/1/17	X
AGENDA ITEM CATEGORY:				
	Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)		Façade Improvement Plan	
	Preliminary Review		Landmark/District Designation	
	Discussion Item	X	Commission Business	
ATTACHMENTS:				
Updated Program Description and Application Materials				
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:				
A number of changes are proposed for the Façade Improvement Grant Program for the 2017 program year, which begins in May:				
<u>Commercial & Multi-Family Residential Buildings</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic district and landmark properties will be eligible (no priority for SSA properties) • Minimum project cost will increase from \$1000 to \$2500 • Signs will no longer be eligible (since the Downtown Partnership has a grant program) • Routine maintenance work will be covered at 25% reimbursement, other improvements will continue to be covered at 50% 				
<u>Single-Family Residential Buildings</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New program • Significant or Contributing buildings are eligible, or Non-Contributing buildings that would be reclassified as Contributing after project completion • Minimum project cost \$1000, Maximum Grant amount \$5000 • Eligible improvements limited to historic preservation appropriate projects at 50% reimbursement (routine maintenance not eligible) 				
<u>For all grants:</u> Requirement for more detailed scope of work identifying all improvements, construction methods, building materials; broken down and itemized by task.				
RECOMMENDATION / SUGGESTED ACTION:				
Provide feedback and a recommendation to the City Council regarding the program amendments.				

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT. /PLANNING DIVISION

CITY OF ST. CHARLES



1. Program Purpose

- The Facade Improvement Program is intended to promote reinvestment and restoration of commercial and residential buildings in the downtown area, with a focus on supporting historic preservation practices.
- The program is intended to assist property owners and commercial tenants to rehabilitate and restore the visible exterior of existing structures.
- Improvements must meet criteria for appropriateness of design.
- Reimbursement grants are provided to property owners or commercial tenants in recognition of the positive impact that individual building improvements can have on the overall appearance, quality and vitality of downtown St. Charles.

2. Application, Review and Approval Process:

- **Determine if your property is eligible for either the Commercial or Residential Façade Improvement Grant.**
- **Determine if your project is eligible for grant reimbursement.**
- **Define the scope of your proposed improvements.** This will probably involve consulting with an architect or other appropriate design professional (for projects that do not need an architect, consult with a contractor).
- **Contact the City to schedule a preliminary review of the project by the Historic Preservation Commission early in the design process to determine if the project scope and improvements will meet the program requirements.** The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the architectural appropriateness of proposed improvements using Design Guidelines and the Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 17.32 of the Municipal Code). Improvements that are not architecturally appropriate, as determined by the City Council upon recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission, are not eligible for a reimbursement grant. The Design Guidelines apply to all grant projects, regardless of whether they are in the Historic District.
- **The grant Program Year runs from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. Grant applications are accepted beginning in March of each year for the Program Year beginning on May 1.** (Note: The budget for the Program Year will not be finalized until approved by the City Council each year. This typically occurs in early April.)
- **Submit a complete grant application. Attend the following meetings on the dates provided by City staff:**
 - The **Historic Preservation Commission** will review and make a recommendation regarding the grant. They meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7:00pm.
 - The **Planning & Development Committee** of the City Council will review the Historic Commission recommendation at their meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm.

If recommended for approval, the City Council will then vote on the formal grant agreement at a subsequent meeting. The grant agreement will follow the standard form, which is attached. Attendance at this meeting is not necessary unless requested.

The earliest the grant agreement can be approved by the City Council is the third Monday of May. Work initiated prior to City Council approval of the grant agreement is not eligible for reimbursement.

3. Commercial Façade Grant

- Eligible Properties:
Commercial or Multi-Family Residential Buildings (two or more units) located within either:
 - Special Service Area #1B
 - Historic District or Landmark Site
- Minimum Project Cost: \$2,500
- Grant for Front or Side Façades (visible from street): Maximum grant amount is based upon the frontage of the façade to be renovated, at a maximum of \$10,000 per 30 ft. horizontal length of façade. A façade is defined as a thirty foot wide span along the front or side of a building facing a public street, measured along the building wall generally parallel to the right of way line. For building fronts or sides exceeding thirty feet, a pro rata amount will be applied.
- Grant for Rear Entrance Improvements: Maximum grant amount of \$10,000, available for buildings with an existing or proposed rear entrance that is accessible to the public from a dedicated public street, alley, or other right of way, or from a parking lot or walkway that is owned or leased by the City, or from other property that is encumbered by an easement granting public pedestrian access. The rear entrance to be improved must provide public access to a business or businesses within the building.
- Maximum Grant Limits:
 - Total grant amount during any five-year period is capped at \$20,000.
 - For properties on the National Register of Historic Places or Locally Designated Landmarks, the total grant amount for any five-year period is capped at \$30,000.
- Eligible Improvements:
 - 25% Reimbursement for Routine Maintenance:
 - ✓ Cleaning, patching, caulking of exterior surfaces.
 - ✓ Re-coating of paint on exterior surfaces (without extensive surface preparation)
 - ✓ Re-roofing visible roof surfaces with non-historic material (such as 3-tab or architectural grade asphalt shingles)
 - ✓ Spot masonry repairs or tuckpointing
 - ✓ Like-in-kind replacement of non-historic elements on a building
 - 50% Reimbursement for:
 - For Historic structures, maintenance utilizing Historic Preservation practices:***
 - ✓ Repair or restoration of historic features
 - ✓ Replacement of deteriorated historic features with like materials or appropriate synthetic materials
 - ✓ Re-roof or repair of visible roof surfaces with non-standard materials (such as wood shake, slate, or other decorative non-standard materials)
 - ✓ Extensive restoration/repair of historic masonry material
 - ✓ Painting of exterior surfaces where the surface preparation includes removal of worn/failing paint and intensive surface preparation prior to painting
 - Building improvements:***
 - ✓ Exterior building upgrades or enhancements that will improve the historic character of a building
 - ✓ Improvement, replacement or installation of storefront systems, doors, windows and trim materials.
 - ✓ Removal of architecturally inappropriate features on buildings (including removal of synthetic surface materials)
 - ✓ Exterior lighting that illuminates a façade

- 100% Reimbursement for Architectural Services (Up to \$4,000)
 - Where architectural services are required, the owner or tenant should retain an architect to prepare a conceptual design and cost estimate for work proposed. If the project is approved by the City, the architect may provide bidding and construction plans and documents, as well as construction supervision. Only those architectural services directly related to the approved facade improvement will be reimbursed.

- Ineligible Improvements:
 - Signs and Awnings
 - Any interior improvement or finishes
 - Any improvements to internal building systems, including HVAC, plumbing, electrical (except for wiring for exterior lighting)
 - Any site improvements, including sidewalks, parking lots and landscaping.

- Improvements not specifically listed as eligible or ineligible are subject to review as to eligibility by the Historic Preservation Commission as an advisory body and approval or disapproval by City Council.

4. **Residential Façade Grant:**

- **Eligible Properties:**
Residential buildings located within a Historic District or Landmark site, rated in the Historic District Architectural Survey as:
 - “Contributing” or “Significant” structures
 - Non-Contributing structures that, upon completion of the improvements, will be re-classified by the Historic Preservation Commission as “Contributing” or “Significant”
- **Minimum Project Cost:** \$1,000
- **Maximum Grant Amount:** \$5,000 for:
 - Improvements that will be visible from the public right-of-way
 - Improvements to systems that include both the visible and non-visible elevations (such as improvements to siding or windows around entire building)
- **Eligible Improvements:**
 - 50% Reimbursement for projects falling into one or more of the following categories:
 - Repainting of historic exterior surface materials where the surface preparation includes removal of worn/failing paint and intensive surface preparation prior to painting.
 - Reconstruction of missing historic features. (*Example: Previously existing front porch*)
 - Repairing/stabilizing deteriorated historic features and reusing existing architectural elements. (*Example: Repair or partial reconstruction of a porch or replacement of window components*)
 - Removal of inappropriate features and restoration with original details and materials. (*Example: Removal of non-original aluminum/vinyl siding and restoration of the original siding, Removal of vinyl or aluminum windows and replacement with wood or aluminum clad wood windows.*)
 - Upgrade deteriorated materials with new appropriate materials. (*Example: Replacement of deteriorated wood windows with new wood windows*)
 - 100% Reimbursement for Architectural Services (Up to \$2,000)
 - Where architectural services are required, the owner or tenant should retain an architect to prepare a conceptual design and cost estimate for work proposed. If the project is approved by the City, the architect may provide bidding and construction plans and documents, as well as construction supervision. Only those architectural services directly related to the approved facade improvement will be reimbursed.
- **Ineligible:**
 - Routine maintenance
 - Any interior improvement or finishes
 - Any improvements to internal building systems, including HVAC, plumbing, electrical (except for wiring for exterior lighting)
 - Any site improvements, including sidewalks, parking lots and landscaping.
- Improvements not specifically listed as eligible or ineligible are subject to review as to eligibility by the Historic Preservation Commission as an advisory body and approval or disapproval by City Council.

5. **Terms and Conditions applicable to all grants:**

- **Grant applications will be considered in the order they are received.** In the event that the total amount of the potential reimbursement grants exceeds the amount budgeted for the program year, the applications will be carried over for consideration during the following program year.
- **Not more than one grant shall be approved for a building in any program year, and a grant shall not be approved if a grant was made for the same portion of the building within the previous five years.**
- **The maximum amount of the reimbursement grant for a specific property will be set forth in a Facade Improvement Agreement between the City and the property owner or tenant.** If the actual costs exceed the original final estimates submitted with the application and used to determine the final total amount of reimbursement within the Agreement, the property owner or tenant will be responsible for the full amount of the excess. The City cannot reimburse more than the total amount specified in the Agreement.
- **Reimbursement grants are subject to Federal and State taxes, and are reported to the Internal Revenue Service on Form 1099.** You are required to provide your taxpayer ID number or social security number as part of the Façade Improvement Agreement. Property owners and tenants should consult their tax advisor for tax liability information.
- **The following items are not considered “improvements” and therefore they are not eligible for reimbursement:**
 - Building Permit fees and related costs.
 - Extermination of insects, rodents, vermin and other pests.
 - Title reports and legal fees.
 - Acquisition of land or buildings.
 - Financing costs.
 - Sweat equity.
 - Working capital for businesses.
- **Work that has been initiated prior to the approval of the Facade Improvement Agreement by the City Council is NOT eligible for grant reimbursement.**
- **All improvements must be completed prior to the end of the program year on April 30.** If the work is not complete by the end of the program year, the City’s remaining obligation to reimburse the owner or tenant for the project terminates. The City may, its sole discretion, grant a single one-year extension due to unforeseen circumstances that have prevented the completion of the project.
- **The property owner and tenant shall be responsible for maintaining the facade improvements without alteration for five (5) years.** A restrictive covenant limiting alterations may be required by the City Council at the time of approval of the Facade Improvement Agreement.
- **Any project changes must be approved by the City.** Major changes or elimination of improvements must be approved by the City Council. Minor revisions must be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.
- **This is a reimbursement program -- you must pay your architect, contractors and suppliers before you receive payment from the City.**

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPT. /PLANNING DIVISION

CITY OF ST. CHARLES



Grant Type (select one):

- Commercial Residential

Received Date

Property Information:

Building or establishment for which the reimbursement grant is requested:

Address: _____

Property Identification Number: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Project Description:

Total Cost Estimate: \$ _____

Submittal Checklist:

- \$50 Application Fee**
- Detailed Scope of Work:** Must identify all improvements, construction methods, building materials to be used. Costs must be broken down and itemized by task. In general, this scope of work should be prepared by the contractor(s) who will be completing the project.
- Documentation on Existing Conditions:** Reports or photographs to demonstrate need for improvements.
- W-9 Form:** Filled out and signed by the grant applicant, with a Federal Tax ID Number (or a Social Security Number for an individual)

Applicant Contact Information:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Statement of Understanding:

- I agree to comply with the guidelines and procedures of the Façade Improvement Grant Program. I have read and understand the "Terms and Conditions".
- I understand that I must submit detailed cost documentation, copies of bids, contracts, invoices, receipts, and contractor's final waivers of lien upon completion of the approved improvements.
- I understand that work done before a Façade Improvement Agreement is approved by the City Council is not eligible for a grant.
- I understand the Façade Improvement reimbursement grants are subject to taxation and that the City is required to report the amount and recipient of said grants to the IRS

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Applicant

Owner Authorization (if applicable):

If the applicant is other than the owner, you must have the owner complete the following certificate:

I certify that I am the owner of the property at _____, and that I authorize the applicant to apply for a reimbursement grant under the St. Charles Facade Improvement Program and undertake the approved improvements.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Owner

FACADE GRANT REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST FORM

Project Address: _____

Grant Recipient Name: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Upon completion of the work, the grant recipient must submit copies of all architect's invoices, contractor's statements, invoices, proof of payment, and notarized final lien waivers as evidence that the recipient has paid the architect and contractor(s). Use the attached forms for the contractor's statement and final lien waivers. Payment will be authorized upon completion of all work items as originally approved and receipt of all of the required documents.

Partial Reimbursement

Reimbursement may be made in two payments, if all of the following conditions are present: 1) The first partial payment may be made upon completion of work representing at least fifty percent (50%) of the amount specified in the Facade Improvement Agreement; 2) The architect's invoices, contractor's statements, invoices, notarized final lien waivers and proof of payment for the completed work have been submitted; 3) The remaining work is expected to be delayed for thirty days or more following completion of the initial work due to weather, availability of materials, or other circumstances beyond the control of the grant recipient.

Reimbursement for Architectural Services

Reimbursement for architectural services will be made at the same time reimbursement is made for improvements, and only if a Facade Improvement Agreement has been approved by the City Council. Architectural services may be reimbursed for:

- Concept Plans and cost estimates prepared before approval of a Facade Improvement Agreement.
- Architectural construction drawings and specifications for the improvement to the extent required by the St. Charles Building Code, prepared after City Council approval of a Facade Improvement Agreement.
- Construction supervision conducted after City Council approval of the Facade Improvement Agreement.

Reimbursement Request Checklist (Complete this section)

- Full Reimbursement *OR* Partial Reimbursement
- A Final Inspection been completed by the Building Division (for project requiring a building permit)
- Attach the following items:
 - *Sworn Statement For Contractor and Subcontractor to Owner* (completed by Contractor only when Subcontractors are used and are paid by the Contractor, not the owner), completed original signed and notarized.
 - *Final Waiver of Lien and Contractor's Affidavit* for each contractor working on the project, completed original signed and notarized.
 - Proof of full payment to all contractors, in form of:
 - Copies of checks from the owner
 - Copies of invoices from the contractor showing full payment for the project

Upon review of the materials, the Planning Division will request a check be issued for reimbursement for the completed improvements. Check can either be:

- Mailed to address on W9 form *OR* Made available for pick up at City Hall