



COMMUNITY MAIN STREET FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Program Details

Purpose

Community Main Street seeks to provide building owners and their tenants with assistance to permanently improve their structures and property for the betterment of the Cedar Falls Downtown District. Our goal is to provide financial assistance to property owners and tenants who demonstrate a strong dedication to district improvement. Projects that will receive grant funding should focus on the improvement of existing assets, which are permanent in nature and enhance the visual presentation of the district and, therefore, its image.

Structure

The CMS Board of Directors, and/or Design Committee will award grants to eligible applicants for eligible activities, which are outlined below. Applicants must submit an application of the intended project for a formal review. The Board of Directors and/or Design Committee will act on grant applications at their next scheduled meeting.

Grants will be awarded based on the following basis:

- Applicants demonstration of strong dedication to district improvement
- Eligibility of the project and applicant
- Adheres to the CMS Design Guidelines
- Affect of the proposed improvement(s) on the district
- Alignment of the project with Main Street's four point approach
- Grantee abiding by all terms and conditions of the grant

Projects should comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Grants will be offered for amounts up to \$2,500 and require 1:1 matching funds from the Grantee. NOTE: Grant funds provided as a reimbursement.

Applications will be accepted on an on-going basis until funds are allocated.

Typically applications will be reviewed on the third Friday of each month.

Grant project must be completed within one year of the grantees notification of award. Extensions may be granted with prior approval from the CMS Board of Directors.

An individual property is available for grant funds once every five years, unless under new ownership.

There is no limit on how many grants will be given to properties of the same owner. However, the goal of the program is to bring improvement to the entire district and assist multiple property owners. Multiple requests and awards to the same owner may be taken into consideration by the CMS Board and/or Design Committee as a factor in the approval process.

A completed application does not guarantee receipt of any program funding.

The CMS Board and/or Design Committee will not use race, sex, orientation, age, religion or other factors as a basis for awarding or refusing to award a grant to an eligible applicant.

Eligible Applicants

Property owner or property owner-sponsored tenants of existing commercial buildings located within the defined CMS District boundary.

Eligible Activities

Eligible activities include: 1. Permanent building improvements ('Bricks and mortar') 2. Murals

Permanent building improvements included but not limited to the following:

- Repairs to building facades
- Masonry repair
- Cleaning of the exterior of the building
- Exterior painting
- Repairing or replacing entrances, doors, windows, decorative details
- Awnings
- Sign removal or repair that meets the requirements of the City of Cedar Rapids sign ordinance and Overlay District guidelines.
- Roofing
- Permanent landscaping, benches and sidewalk repairs
- Interior improvements that are permanent in nature
- Other repairs that improve the aesthetic quality of the property

Murals:

- Art proposals may be submitted by the artist, tenant, or property owner with prior approval and should support CMS' mission and vision.
- CMS Design Committee reserves the right to approve or deny funding for art based on their determination of the appropriateness of the art within CMS District.
- Art installations must be permanent in nature with the expectation that art as installed will remain in place and be maintained indefinitely.
- Art installations should be outdoors in a location where the public can view it without requiring special access.

The CMS Board and/or Design Committee have final determination of the eligibility of projects.

Ineligible Activities

Items are included but not limited to the following:

- Improvements which are not permanent in nature
- Any work that does not comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

Projects started prior to application submission and approval will not be considered eligible for this program. However, funding can be provided for specific project scope/portion that is not yet purchased or underway as long as invoices and/or receipts can be provided for that specific portion, such as purchasing and installing windows, main entry door, painting, masonry repointing, etc.

Application Process

1. Application package and guidelines are available at the Community Main Street office (310 East 4th Street) and at www.communitymainstreet.org
2. Completed grant application, including drawings, photos, cost estimates, paint and material samples, etc. will be submitted to the Main Street office.
3. The CMS Board and/or Design Committee will approve the application and notify the applicant. If the application is rejected, the applicant will be notified in writing.

Post Grant Award Procedure

1. Successful applicants will sign an agreement with CMS regarding terms and conditions.
2. CMS will monitor the progress of the project.
3. The CMS Board and/or Design Committee must approve any changes in the scope of work.
4. Approved changes in the scope of work will be signed by the recipient and CMS and will be attached to the original application.
5. An Application for Payment is due within 60 days of the project completion, and must include copies of invoices/receipts for all expenses and photographs of the completed work.
6. Property shall not have any mechanics liens associated with this project in place at the time of Application for Payment.
7. The CMS Board and/or Design Committee will distribute Grant monies after completion of the project and upon approval. Representatives of the CMS Board and/or Design Committee will conduct a final inspection to approve disbursement of funds.
8. Deviations from the approved plan will disqualify the recipient from this grant program and result in forfeiture of all grant monies.

Amendments

The details of the grant program may be amended subject to the formal approval of the CMS Board and/or Design Committee.

We look forward to receiving and considering your applications.

Contact Information:

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