



River District Association

Façade Improvement Grant Program

The River District Association is excited to provide the **Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) Program**. This program is designed to assist property and business owners in rehabilitating the commercial facades of their buildings for the purpose of creating a positive visual impact, stimulating private investment, and complementing other community development efforts.

Our goal is simple. We want to provide you with the resources needed to improve the exterior appearance of your business. Research has shown that exterior building improvements result in an increase in sales in the year after the improvements are made (and this increase is often sustained for several years). Additionally, improvements will motivate owners/tenants of other properties in surrounding areas to make similar investments.

Eligibility Areas

In order to be eligible for the FIG Program, you must be located within the Downtown Danville River District boundary OR your building must front North Main Street, between Riverside Dr. and Thomas St. Your project can not exceed \$750,000 to be eligible.

Eligible and Ineligible Grant Uses

Eligible Improvement Examples:

- Cleaning, preparation, and painting of exterior walls and trim
- Cleaning and/or re-pointing of brick, and other masonry
- Installation of siding materials
- Outdoor dining fencing
- Trash can fencing
- Signage
- Replacement of deteriorated windows, doors and/or framing visible from the street
- Removal and/or installation of awnings, canopies or shutters
- Accent lighting
- Work on cornices, gutters and downspouts
- All improvements must be visible from street

Ineligible Improvement Examples:

- Improvements not visible from public streets and sidewalks
- Interior improvements and modifications not related to building facades
- Non-façade improvements such as roofs, structural foundations, billboards, security systems, non-permanent fixtures, parking lots, security bars, interior window coverings

River District Association
208 N Union Street, Suite 101/P.O. Box 853 (Mailing)
Danville, VA 24543
434-791-0210



- Items related to business operations (i.e. inventory, business equipment, etc.)
- Landscaping (except pots and planters that are at least semi-permanent additions)
- New construction
- Property acquisition
- Expansion of building area
- Conversion of use
- Refinance of existing debt
- Payment of delinquent taxes
- Improvements to structures outside of the FIG Grant boundary

FIG Process

- A maximum of \$5,000 is available to be awarded in *matching* grant funding per address. Grants are required to have a 1:1 match (50% up to \$5,000)
- Grants will be awarded up to \$5,000 per business address (the maximum a single business address can receive). If an applicant has one building with multiple addresses and is requesting multiple grants, then their application will be reviewed case by case.
- A business may apply for a grant from \$500 to \$5,000 but please note that the business must spend an equal amount or more on the project
- Owners/tenants can spend more than \$5,000 on a project but the grant will only match up to \$5,000
- Interested owners/tenants should fill out an application
- Applications will be considered by a FIG Program Review Committee to determine grant recipients and to assure, through an equitable process, that the application meets all applicable design-guidelines.
- Applicants will also be required to adhere to all requirements as prescribed by the City of Danville, including review by the River District Design Committee or Commission of Architectural Review (if applicable to boundary location) prior to any work being done and any permits that are required.
- All improvements must meet local, state and federal codes.
- All grant-funded work must be performed by reputable professional contractors that are licensed and insured
- From the date the application is approved by River District Association Staff, the applicant has 60 days to submit a complete and final list of quotes/bids to RDA for approval
- Grants must be submitted and obtain all approvals from RDA and the City of Danville before work begins. Grantees will be asked to sign an MOU prior to the start of the project.
- The completed work must adhere to the final design plans agreed to with the FIG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure final payment.
- From the date of the signed MOU, the applicant has 6 months to fully complete the façade grant project, including submitting all accompanying invoices and receipts. If the applicant cannot meet this timeline, the grant will be released. If unavoidable supply chain issues arise, please communicate this to RDA Staff for consideration of timeline extensions.
- Outstanding grant amounts (balances) will not be held. Any grant funds not used within the MOU grant cycle timeline will be released back into the Façade Improvement Grant budget.
- Grants are available as funding is available; at times there may be a waiting list. Applicants are not guaranteed funding unless an MOU has been signed by both parties.

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Initial Application

Applicant Name _____

Business Name or Building Name _____

Physical Address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *ZIP* _____

Mailing address (if different from business address):

Email _____ *Phone* _____

Type of Business _____

Date Business Opened _____

Are you the Property Owner? (yes or no) _____

Are you interested in a free architectural rendering? (yes or no) _____

What will your complete façade project include? What is the expected timeline? _____

The River District Association will follow up with you to discuss your project and other services we may be able to assist you with.

If you have any questions, contact Lashawn Farmer at the River District Association at (434) 791-0210 or email lashawn@riverdistrictassociation.com.

You may mail, email, or hand deliver this initial request.

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