



# River District Association

## Façade Improvement Grant Program

The River District Association is excited to launch 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 Area**

In order to be eligible for the FIG Program, you must be located within the Downtown Danville River District boundary.

### **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 down spouts
- 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

River District Association  
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- Non-façade improvements such as roofs, structural foundations, billboards, security systems, non-permanent fixtures, parking lots, security bars, interior window coverings
- Items related to business operations (i.e. inventory, business equipment, etc.)
- 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 total of \$5,000 is available to be awarded in *matching* grant funding. Grants are required to have a 1:1 match (50% up to \$5,000)
- Grants will be awarded up to \$5,000 per business (the maximum a single business can receive)
- 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 prior to any work being done and any permits that are required.
- The completed work must adhere to the final design plans agreed to with the FIG Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure final payment.
- All improvements must meet local, state and federal codes.
- 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.
- 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.



**River District Association  
Façade Improvement Grant Program  
Initial Application**

*Applicant Name*

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*Business Name or Building Name*

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*Physical Address*

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*City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *ZIP* \_\_\_\_\_

*Mailing address (if different from business address):*

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*Email* \_\_\_\_\_ *Phone* \_\_\_\_\_

*Type of Business*

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*Date Business Opened*

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

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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 Diana Schwartz at the River District Association at (434) 791-0210 or email [Diana@Riverdistrictassociation.com](mailto:Diana@Riverdistrictassociation.com).

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

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