

STAFF REPORT

Façade Grant Program – Proposed Eligibility Changes

October 10, 2023 Town Council Meeting



The purpose of the Town of Apex’s Façade Grant Program is to provide incentive funds in the form of a matching grant to tenants/property owners to increase rehabilitation activity and encourage appropriate, attractive improvements to downtown buildings, thereby increasing their longevity and raising their property values.

Currently, properties must be located within the Central Business District in order to be eligible for the matching grant. Planning staff have received numerous requests from business owners downtown, but outside of the Central Business District, for Façade Grants.

The current year budget for the Façade Grant Program is \$20,000. The following amounts have been put toward façade grants in the last 7 years:

FY 2016-17 = \$1000.00
FY 2017-18 = \$1,644.16
FY 2018-19 = \$2571.43
FY 2019-20 = \$2,144.20
FY 2020-21 = \$9,213.26
FY 2021-22 = \$7,506.62
FY 2022-23 = \$4,365.78

Given that the budgeted funds have not been fully utilized in the last seven years, Planning staff propose expanding the Façade Grant Program eligibility to the Downtown Festival District and presented this idea to the Planning Committee on September 7, 2023. The Planning Committee supports the expansion request to the Downtown Festival District. Maps of the Central Business District and the Downtown Festival District are included below for comparison of the two areas.

In reviewing the Façade Grant Program Application, staff propose the following amendments in addition to the expansion to the Downtown Festival District:

- Clarify that only non-residential tenants and property owners are eligible for the grant.
- Clarify that repair, replacement, or new ADA accessible entrances (e.g. ramps) are eligible for the grant.

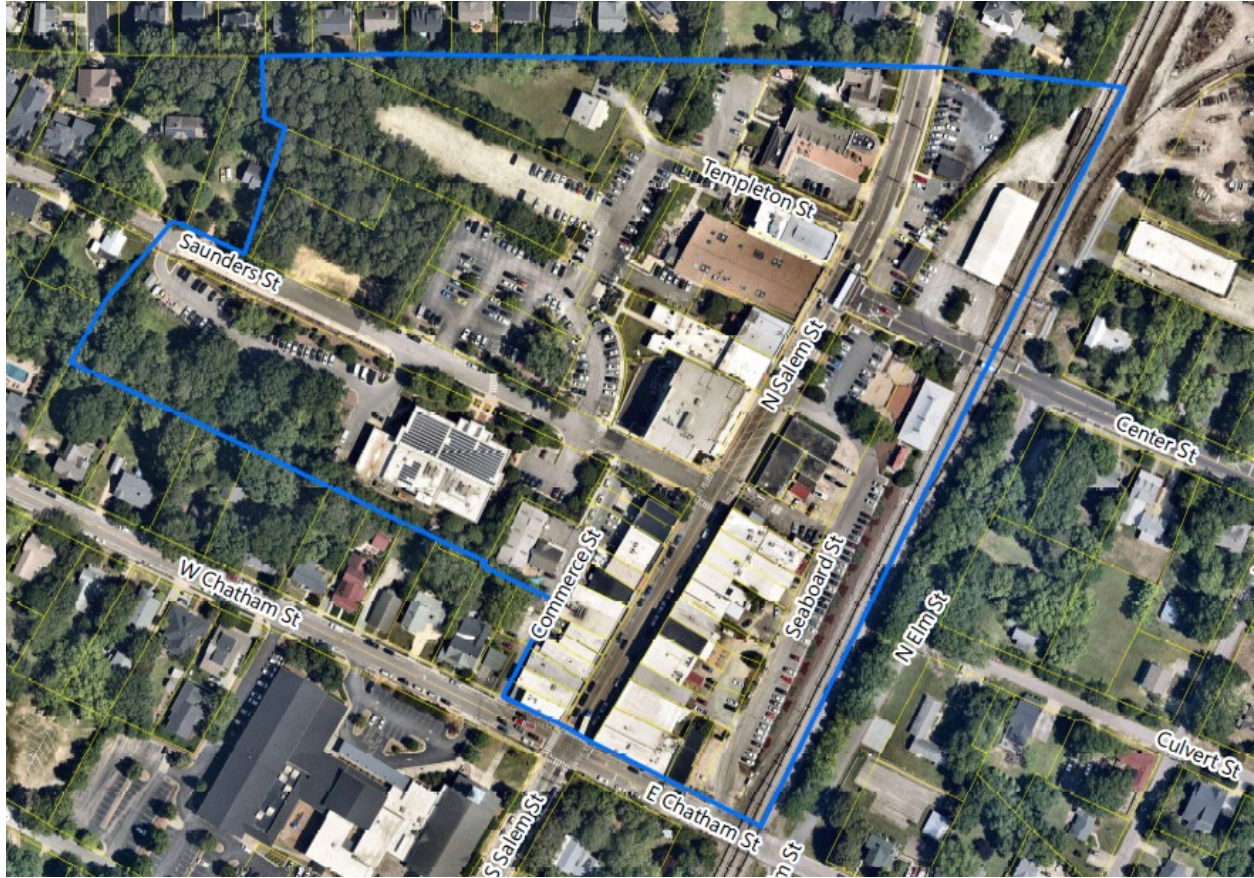
The revised Façade Grant Application is attached for your information.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Planning staff recommend approval of the proposed eligibility changes to the Façade Grant Program.



Central Business District (currently eligible area)



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Downtown Festival District (proposed expanded boundary)

