

CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE AMENDED AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY PLANNING DIVISION



SUBMITTER:	Jamie Carpenter	MEETING DATE:	January 15, 2025
AGENDA SECTION:	New Business	DEPARTMENT:	Downtown Division
TITLE OF ITEM:	Historic Improvement Grant Support Request		

Summary:

In early 2023, the Historic Preservation Commission and Downtown Community Character team met to review façade grants and our process. We had several productive meetings and the Community Character Team made adjustments to the façade grant program, expanding its funding abilities to support preservation of properties, and increasing the maximum amount from \$3000 to \$6000.

Prior to 2020, the Historic Preservation Commission also provided a supplement to grants on Main Street of \$500 per grant to support the program.

Also in 2020, the grant program moved from a City distributed fund to the Friends of Downtown.

Since 2020, the Friends of Downtown Hendersonville (501c3) has provided 100% funding for the grant program, providing façade improvements funded completely by reserve funds and event revenue.

There have been 12 total grants, totaling \$34,550 since 2020.

The program has provided significant improvements for buildings, most notably the Goldsmith by Rudi building where we worked with the business/property owner and UNC Greensboro students through the NC Main Street partnership to provide recommendations for a much-improved façade outcome. Additional façade improvements are reflected in 7th Avenue on 330 7th Avenue E, 319 7th Avenue E, 317 7th Avenue E and Maple Street.

For 2025, we expecting to have reduced income from events due to several factors related to Hurricane Helene. We have at least 4 applications expecting to come this year and approximately \$12,000 to support the program in 2025.

With the reduction in funds and several projected projects that will significantly improve historic structures downtown, we would like to review if there are opportunities for partnership with the HPC and Friends of Downtown to support this program.