



DDA ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2024

TOPIC Update Façade and Preservation Grant Guidelines

BACKGROUND BRIEF:

The DDA has maintained a grant program, of varying styles, for nearly two decades. This program is designed to provide financial assistance, and connected resource assistance, to businesses seeking to improve the street facing appearance of their building through base façade improvements or a larger historic preservation/rehabilitation project. The program has seen several substantive projects bring essential re-design and beautification to the District including; Anita’s Kitchen, Pattie’s Place, and 20 Front Street, among many others.

The need for a refresh is pretty simple. The program was largely “case by case” and without defined review criteria and other balanced measures to ensure the program is being administered fairly, is not a simple money grab for less impactful regular maintenance, and is enabled as an economic driver of sustainable preservation.

The proposed program guidelines and application materials are supported by traditional Main Street Design approaches to growth and preservation. They break the application eligibility into two levels, allowing for a reasoned approach to both funding approval but also amount of award assistance. The program would now be backstopped with a Grant Agreement, measurable promotion, and structure.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The program is traditionally funded in the GL 248-726-843-000. In the 2024-2025 Budget the Board has approved funding of \$20,000.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Motion to approve the New Historic Preservation and Façade improvement Grant Program Guidelines and Application as presented, to be effective July 1, 2024.