

EXHIBIT A

Whittier Community Beautification Matching Grant Program

2026 Pilot Program Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Whittier Community Aesthetics Matching Grant Program is a one-year pilot initiative designed to encourage visible, permanent exterior improvements to commercial, small boat harbor, and industrial zoned properties within the City of Whittier.

The program seeks to:

- Improve the visual character of commercial areas;
- Reduce visible exterior clutter and blight;
- Encourage reinvestment and long-term stewardship of properties;
- Promote community pride and economic vitality.

2. Program Funding

Total Program Funding: As authorized by Resolution No. 2026-014.

Grants shall be awarded on a 50% reimbursement basis.

Maximum reimbursement per project: \$5,000.

Minimum total project cost: \$1,000.

Awards are contingent upon available funds and Council approval.

3. Eligible Properties

To qualify, properties must:

- Be located within the City of Whittier;
- Be zoned commercial, small boat harbor, or industrial properties (residential-only properties are not eligible);
- Be current on all property taxes, if applicable;
- Be current on all lease payments if leasing City-owned property;
- Have no active code enforcement violations at the time of application.

If the applicant is not the property owner (other than the City of Whittier), written property owner authorization is required.

4. Eligible Improvements

Projects must result in visible, permanent exterior improvements. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Removal of derelict boats, engines, scrap metal, damaged vehicles, or exterior debris;
- Permanent screening or fencing to properly enclose exterior storage areas;
- Façade improvements (repainting, siding replacement, structural exterior repair);
- Permanent signage upgrades;
- Landscaping or site improvements that enhance visual appearance;
- Removal of wind-damaged or deteriorated exterior materials.

Improvements must be visible from a public right-of-way or public area.

All required federal, state, and local permits must be obtained prior to construction.

5. Ineligible Improvements

The following are not eligible for reimbursement:

- Routine maintenance;
- Interior improvements;
- Temporary or seasonal decorations;
- Roof replacement;
- New building construction;
- Repairs covered by insurance claims;
- Applicant or property owner labor;
- Projects commenced prior to Council approval;
- Improvements not specifically approved in the award resolution.

6. Application Requirements

Complete applications must include:

- Completed application form;
- Detailed written description of proposed improvements;
- Color “before” photographs of the area(s) to be improved;
- Cost estimates or contractor bids;
- Estimated project timeline;
- Narrative describing how the project improves visible aesthetics.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

7. Review and Award Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Council Beautification Review Committee. The Committee will:

- Confirm eligibility;
- Score applications using an adopted rubric;
- Recommend award amounts to the full Council.

Final award approval shall occur by resolution of the City Council.

Grant awards may be less than the amount requested.

8. Project Completion

All approved projects must:

- Be completed by November 15, 2026;
- Obtain all required inspections and approvals;
- Be completed in accordance with the approved scope.

Failure to obtain required permits may result in forfeiture of the award.

9. Reimbursement Requirements

Reimbursement requests must be submitted by December 1, 2026. Reimbursement packages must include:

- Completed reimbursement form;
- Itemized list of project expenses;
- Copies of all paid invoices and receipts;
- Proof of contractor payment, if applicable;
- Copies of permits and inspection approvals, if required;
- Color “after” photographs;
- IRS W-9 form.

Reimbursement will be issued within 30 days upon verification of completion and documentation.

10. Pilot Program Term

This program is authorized for the 2026 funding cycle only. Continuation beyond 2026 requires future Council action.