

2010 Façade Improvement Grant Program

PART OF KITCHENER'S EDGE PROGRAM

You could be eligible to receive up to \$30,000 in grants to assist with storefront and façade improvements. In 2009, the City of Kitchener launched a new façade improvement grant program to assist property owners and tenants with the financing of street-oriented building façade improvements in downtown Kitchener. Grants will be given to proposals that offer high quality storefront and façade design, high quality signage, and/or the preservation and enhancement of upper-storey facades.



Financial Details:

- Property owners and merchants/business owners are eligible to receive grants of up to \$10,000 per street address or storefront;
- Buildings with multiple storefronts or street addresses are eligible for grants of up to \$30,000;
- Buildings on corner lots, where façade improvements are proposed on both frontages, are eligible for grants of up to \$20,000;
- A maximum of 10 per cent of the façade grant may be used toward soft costs (i.e. design fees);
- The total value of any grant may not exceed 50 per cent of the total cost of eligible works;
- No municipal street address or storefront shall receive more than a total of \$10,000 under this program within a five-year period;
- Grants are subject to the availability of funding. In 2010, a maximum of \$100,000 worth of grants will be issued; and,
- Grants are issued upon the completion of the proposed work.

Eligibility

- Only those properties located within the Downtown Community Improvement Area, with commercial uses on the ground floor, are eligible;
- Only those applications which satisfy the city's downtown design policies and the city's King Street Façade Guidelines will be eligible to receive grants;
- All applications must be capable of satisfying the city's Sign Bylaw and the Ontario Building Code;
- If the total value of all grants applied for exceed the amount of funding available, all applications will be rated based on predetermined criteria. Only those applications that receive the highest scores will be eligible to receive a grant. Criteria include, but not limited to, quality of design, quality of materials used, improved exterior lighting, etc.



Economic Development, City of Kitchener
200 King St. W., PO Box 1118
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
www.downtownkitchener.ca



DISCOVER KITCHENER'S EDGE
EDGE is a series of programs intended to facilitate reurbanization of developed areas of the city, by stimulating private sector investment in the re-use of vacant and underutilized lands.

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- Only applications which propose aesthetic improvements or heritage enhancements such as heritage improved street-fronting facades and signage will be considered. Applications that include typical building maintenance work will not be approved unless such work is for heritage features of historically significant buildings. Interior, roof or rear/side façade repairs are not eligible.

Eligible works include:

- Repainting, cleaning or re-facing of façades;
- Repair or restoration of façade masonry, brickwork or wood;
- Replacement, repair or restoration of cornices, eaves, parapets and other architectural features;
- Replacement or repair of windows;
- Entranceway modifications that improve the appearance and/or access to the commercial units;
- Redesign and reconstruction of the store front;
- Installation of appropriate new signage or improvements to existing signage;
- Installation or repair of canopies and awnings;
- Installation or repair of exterior lighting; and,
- Restoration of historic features.

Timelines for submission: December 22, 2009 at 12 Noon

Early applications may be considered prior to December 22 should additional funding become available in 2009. For 2010, all applications must be received prior to 12 noon on Tuesday, December 22, 2009. Applications submitted anytime after this date will be subject to available funding.

City Policies and Guidelines:

To be eligible for grant funding, applications must satisfy the city's downtown design policies and King Street Façade Guidelines which generally encourage:

- High quality contemporary storefront and sign design in the City Centre District (between Francis Street and Frederick/Benton Streets);
- High quality traditional storefront and sign design in the Market District (between Frederick/Benton Streets and Cedar Street); and,
- The preservation, conservation and enhancement of upper-storey facades.



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Pre-Application Meeting

It is highly recommended that you meet with city staff for a pre-application meeting prior to submitting any application. To ensure your application will meet the city's urban design policies and the King Street Façade Guidelines, and to ensure your application can receive a high evaluation score.

To arrange a meeting, please contact:

Cory Bluhm
Urban Investment Advisor
519-741-3400 ext. 3375
cory.bluhm@kitchener.ca

Terms and Conditions

All successful grant applications will be subject to the terms and conditions of the city's Downtown Community Improvement Plan, as they relate to the façade improvement grant program. For more information, visit the city's website at www.kitchener.ca or contact:

Sandy Curzon
Downtown Service Administrator
519-741-2310
sandy.curzon@kitchener.ca

or

Cory Bluhm
Urban Investment Advisor
519-741-3400 ext. 3375
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