

# 2012 Façade Improvement Grant 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,
- 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.
- 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.



Economic Development, City of Kitchener  
200 King St. W., PO Box 1118  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7  
[www.downtownkitchener.ca](http://www.downtownkitchener.ca)



# 2012 Façade Improvement Grant Program



## Eligible works include:

- Redesign and reconstruction of the store front;
- Installation of appropriate new signage or improvements to existing signage;
- 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;
- Installation or repair of canopies and awnings;
- Installation or repair of exterior lighting,
- Restoration of historic features.

## 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),
- The preservation, conservation and enhancement of upper-storey facades.

## 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, manager of downtown community development, 519-741-3400 ext. 3375, [cory.bluhm@kitchener.ca](mailto: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](http://www.kitchener.ca) or contact:

Sandy Curzon  
Downtown service administrator  
519-741-2310  
[sandy.curzon@kitchener.ca](mailto:sandy.curzon@kitchener.ca)

or

Cory Bluhm  
Manager of downtown community development  
519-741-3400 ext. 3375  
[cory.bluhm@kitchener.ca](mailto:cory.bluhm@kitchener.ca)



Economic Development, City of Kitchener  
200 King St. W., PO Box 1118  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7  
[www.downtownkitchener.ca](http://www.downtownkitchener.ca)

