

## Façade Grant Program Guidelines (FY 2019-20)

The City of Alameda’s (City) Façade Grant Program (Program) provides 50/50 matching grants to business and property owners for the completion of façade improvements on buildings in the City. This document contains information about grant amounts, eligibility, evaluation criteria, and other Program guidelines. Please contact Amanda Gehrke at 510-747-6896 or [agehrke@alamedaca.gov](mailto:agehrke@alamedaca.gov) with any questions.

### LEVELS OF FUNDING

The Program provides 50/50 matching grants. Three levels of grant funding are available:

- **Level One:** To be used for signage and awnings. The maximum grant amount is 50% of the grantee’s cost up to \$5,000.
- **Level Two:** To be used for paint and signage that is historic, large-scale, neon or marquee style. The maximum grant amount is 50% of the grantee’s cost up to \$10,000.
- **Level Three:** To be used for all Level One or Two improvements, plus the restoration/refurbishment of architectural elements such as transom windows, cornices, trim and other architectural details. The maximum grant amount is 50% of the grantee’s cost up to \$15,000.

	Maximum Grant Amount	% of Total	Grantee must spend
Level One	\$5,000	50%	\$10,000
Level Two	\$10,000	50%	\$20,000
Level Three	\$15,000	50%	\$30,000

**\*Grantees may request less than the maximum amount of the grant for any level\***

### 2019-20 SPECIAL PROMOTIONS:

#### Exterior Paint

For the remainder of the 2019-20 program only, exterior painting will be reimbursed at the 80/20 level (i.e. the City will grant up to 80% of the cost of the work, up to the maximum grant amount).

#### Restoration of Historic Facades

For the 2019-20 program only, restoration of historic facades will be reimbursed at the 80/20 level (i.e. the City will grant up to 80% of the cost of the work, up to the maximum grant amount).

Features of historic facades can include signs, doors, windows, and/or other architectural elements (transom windows, cornices, trim etc), as well as other features that contribute to the historic character of the building. The final determination of what qualifies as restoration of an historic feature will be determined on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the City of Alameda Planning Department. Please contact Amanda Gehrke at 510-747-6896 or [agehrke@alamedaca.gov](mailto:agehrke@alamedaca.gov) to determine if your project qualifies for this promotion.

**Note:** the building must be on the City's Historic Study List, and/or built before 1942 to qualify for the 80/20 promotion.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Location, Business and Property Type: The following business/properties within the City locations described below are eligible to participate in the Program:**

- Retail, restaurant, theater or service\* businesses.
- Commercial properties that include retail, restaurant, theaters or service businesses.
- Other commercial businesses/property types (cultural, office, etc.) are considered on a case-by-case basis, so long as the business or property is located within one of the following City areas:
  - Webster Street Business District.
  - Downtown Alameda Business District.
  - An Historic Station area, including: Grand, Mastick, Bay, South High St., Chestnut, Morton, Versailles, Willow, Fifth Street, Caroline, High Street North and Stanton.
  - A Gateway into the City, including: Webster Tube, Park Street Bridge, Fruitvale Bridge, High Street Bridge and the Doolittle Drive entrance area. The business property must have a front or side façade that is visible from one of the above gateways.
  - Naval Air Station Historic District.

Shopping centers and business parks are not eligible to participate in the Program.

\*Service businesses include, among others: personal and pet care services (barber shops, beauty salons, nail salons, pet grooming, etc.), repair services (auto, furniture, electronics, etc.), laundry and dry-cleaning services, caterers, hotels, and fitness centers.

**Improvements:** Improvements eligible to be made with Program funds must enhance or restore the physical condition or appearance of the building. Types of eligible improvements include, but are not limited to:

- Painting;
  - New, or refurbishment of existing, awnings;
  - New signs, and/or replacement, retrofit, or restoration of legacy signs;
  - Sign removal;
  - Constructed outdoor eating areas;
  - Window and/or door replacement;
  - Replacement or refurbishment of non-structural materials/features such as cornice bands, parapets and similar architectural features; and
  - Rehabilitation of historic features.
- Improvements must comply with:
- All City laws, including its building code, sign regulations and zoning ordinances.
  - For properties located in the Webster Street Business District, the Webster Street Design Guidelines <http://alamedaca.gov/community-development/planning/policies-regulations>.
  - City Design Review requirements.

*Applications will not be accepted for improvements that have already been completed or commenced.*

**Applicant:** A Program application may be submitted by an owner or tenant for an eligible project meeting the requirements described above. If the applicant is a tenant, the owner must also sign the Program application.

Tenants and owners may apply for separate grants for the same building and/or storefront.

**Frequency:** Tenants and owners are considered separately in connection with grant applications.

- Owners: Owners may eligible to apply for and receive one façade grant every five (5) years on any individual building.
- Tenants: Tenants may eligible to apply for and receive one façade grant every five (5) years on any individual storefront. A new tenant at a particular address may apply for a new façade grant, as long as the ownership of the business has changed.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Program applications are available at (i) City Hall West, Community Development Division, 950 West Mall, Room 205 Alameda, CA 94501, (ii) the business offices of West Alameda Business Association and Downtown Alameda Business Association, and (iii) online at <http://alamedaca.gov/business/facade-grant-program>.
- See the Program application for a step-by-step summary of the application process including a detailed checklist of required materials.
- Prior to formally submitting an application, an applicant should meet with Economic Development staff to discuss the project.

## REVIEW PROCESS

**Application Deadlines:** There are two application deadlines for the FY 2019-2020 Program remaining:

- Thursday, February 27, 2020
  - ~~Thursday, April 30, 2020~~ **Deadline Extended** New Deadline: May 15, 2020
- Expedited application review may be available for time-sensitive projects. Contact Economic Development staff for more information on expedited review.

**Façade Grant Committee Review:** A committee consisting of the representatives of the Downtown, West and Greater Alameda Business Associations, and City staff from the Economic Development and Planning Departments will review the application.

In response to the application, the committee may:

- Approve,
- Disapprove
- Approve with conditions. If approved with conditions, the committee may request that the grantee make specific changes to the proposed improvements.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Program applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on the criteria listed below. Proposed improvements that meet the below criteria will be most competitive for grant funding.

- Visually improves storefronts and streetscapes;
- Enhances prominent business locations;
- Fills a previously vacant storefront; and
- Rehabilitates or replaces historic features.

## NOTIFICATION AND NEXT STEPS

**Notification:** After the committee review is completed, Program applicants will be notified via email of the committee's decision. If an address has been provided by the applicant, the committed decision will also be mailed.

**Documents:** Applicants awarded a Program grant will receive the following documents as part of the notification process:

- **Final Scope of Work:** A final Scope of Work (SOW) summarizing the approved improvements will be provided. If the application was approved with conditions, the SOW will reflect those conditions/changes. The final SOW will be attached to and made a part of the application.
- **Project Completion:** Grantee **must** complete the project in substantial conformance with the final SOW.
- **Project Changes:** Any changes made to the final SOW after the application is approved and the final SOW delivered must be reviewed and approved in writing by the committee (for example, changes to a paint or awning color, sign or architectural design, material choices, etc.). Any change to the final SOW not approved in advance and in writing by the Program committee **will not be funded.**

**Required Forms:** The grantee will be required to sign and deliver to Amanda Gehrke at City Hall West, 950 West Mall Square, Room 205 hard copies of the following **within 3 weeks** of the date the Program award is granted:

- Acceptance form which details the terms and conditions associated with the grant;
- W-9 form which enables the City to process and provide your grant funding; and
- A copy of a valid City Business License.

## PERMITS AND DESIGN REVIEW

**Permits:** All necessary planning, building and other permits must be secured before construction may be commenced. Permits can be obtained from the City Permit Center, 2263 Santa Clara Ave, Room 190, Alameda, CA 94501. The permit counter is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Last call for walk-in permit submittals is 3:00 p.m.

**Deadline to Complete Work:** The Program work must be completed:

- For Levels One and Two grants, within **three (3) months** of the acceptance of the terms and conditions.
- For Level Three grants, within **six (6) months** of the acceptance of terms and conditions.

**Reimbursement:** After the proposed improvements are completed and final permits have been issued (if applicable), the grantee must submit the following to Amanda Gehrke at City Hall West, 950 West Mall Square, Room 205 to receive reimbursement:

- Invoice(s) for work completed;
- Proof of payment for all work; and
- 

It is also recommended (but not required), that grantee obtain signed lien releases, in a form compliant with law.

**Conditions to Reimbursement:**

- New businesses **must be open** and **final permits must be issued** before reimbursement with Program funds.
- Grants are processed in the normal City accounts payable cycle of net 30 days.
- Grantee must have all City permits and fee obligations paid prior to reimbursement with Program funds.

## GENERAL

- Contracts for improvements must be between the façade grantee and the contractor.
- The Program is subject to all applicable conflict of interest rules and regulations.
- The Program and the funding of any grants are subject to and conditioned on approval of the funding by the City Council for each fiscal year.