

Rome City, Indiana

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT & SIGNAGE GRANT PROGRAM

Objective

The objective of the Façade Improvement & Signage Grant Program is to remove blight by assisting businesses and commercial property owners with improving building appearance and by bringing grandfathered signs into conformance with current codes.

The program provides 50% reimbursement to businesses or commercial property owners for eligible architectural renovation expenses with a maximum grant amount of \$2,500.00 for Facades and \$500 for Signage updates. Buildings within Rome City's TIFF District should apply to the Redevelopment Committee prior to applying to Advance Rome City for Funds.

Project Criteria

Grant funds must be used for projects meeting the following criteria:

1. Projects must be appropriate for the particular building and contribute to the success of its current business use.
2. Projects must enhance a building's façade, creating an aesthetically pleasing and appropriate design.
3. Proposed projects must, where possible, preserve the architectural integrity of the structure and restore, when feasible, the original building façade or create a "lake community" vibe.
4. Signs eligibility includes rebranding as well as signs that have been part of an accident (human or act of God).
5. Be in accordance with all Rome City codes, ordinances and guidelines.

Eligible uses of grant funding only pertain to exterior improvements to buildings within the Mixed-Use District, and will be limited to the façade ONLY. Facades are defined as the front, street-facing, elevation of a building. Grant monies will be given to the following improvement projects: exterior painting, canopies and awnings, lighting, exterior walls and materials, structural stabilization, restoration of original and/or historic façade, masonry cleaning, replacement and/or uncovering of significant architectural features, and replacement of non-historic storefronts/building.

Ineligible use of grant funding, or ineligible projects include: security systems, personal property/equipment, interior lighting, gutters and downspouts, interior window/door treatments, interior improvements of any type, general maintenance (other than painting), and yard improvement such as landscaping, etc.

Application

Applications must be submitted to the Advance Rome City, PO Box 14, Rome City, Indiana 46784 along with a \$10 application fee. Checks should be made payable to the Advance Rome City. An application from a tenant must include a copy of the lease and written approval from the owner. Applications must include photographs of the facades to be improved.

Awards

Facade grants are reviewed by the Design Committee of Advance Rome City. Grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis as funds are available throughout the fiscal year. Project must be completed one year from the date of approval; extensions can be given on projects that are actively under construction. This is a yearly program and funding maximums may be revised at the beginning of the fiscal year – January 1.

Property to be improved: _____

Funding requested for (check all that apply):

- Repair to exterior facades
- Cleaning of exterior facades
- Exterior painting (please note that we require one base coat and at least two finish coats of exterior grade paint for buildings)
- Repairing, replacing and/or adding cornices, entrances, doors, windows, decorative detail lighting, awnings, window boxes or other beautification project
- Sign removal, repair or replacement

Applicant Name _____

Applicant Address _____

Applicant Phone _____ Applicant email _____

Do you own or lease the property? own lease _____ (term of lease) Copy attached

Property Owner Name (if different from applicant) _____

Property Owner Phone _____ Property owner email _____

Age of property (approx.) _____

Is the first floor of the building to be improved currently occupied? yes no

Name of Business: _____

Type of Business: Retail Restaurant Service Professional

Number of employees _____ Telephone _____

Is the second floor of the building to be improved currently occupied? yes no

Total cost of façade project _____

Amount of grant request _____

Anticipated timeline for completion of project _____

Is this property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (either individually or as a contributing building in the National Register District?) yes no unsure

Will your 50% include "In-Kind" Labor? Calculate at \$10 per hours _____

Photos attached? yes no

Submitted by _____ Date _____