



FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM

Background

The Façade Grant Program facilitated by Athens Main Street and funded by local investors was established to provide financial assistance for persons within the Athens Main Street District wishing to improve their building façade or storefront, including but not limited to construction improvements to their building storefronts (such as windows, doors, awnings, etc.), signs, painting the front façade of their building, and improving/establishing a sidewalk dining area. (With respect to painting, the applicant will also be eligible to apply for Sherwin Williams 40% Off Program open to Main Street Grant participants (subject to Sherwin Williams guidelines and approvals).

Grant

Grants are available for cost of the improvement up to \$20,000, upon approval by the Athens Main Street Design Committee. Funds are distributed upon completion of the improvement.

Project Guidelines

1. No work should begin until authorized by Athens Main Street. However, if work has already commenced at the time of the application (but the project has not been substantially completed at the time of the application), then Athens Main Street may allow an exception to this rule upon the applicant's agreement that the applicant is willing to make any construction or design revisions/modifications that are required by Athens Main Street as a condition of the grant.
2. Funds shall be allocated on a first come basis and they are subject to availability of funding for the grant program.

3. If the proposed project includes a sign, then the applicant must also complete an application for Athens Main Street's Signage Grant Program.
4. Tenants may qualify upon receipt of written consent of the building owner.
5. All improvements must adhere to City of Athens ordinances and regulations.
6. All projects must constitute an improvement to the façade or storefront of a building within the Athens Main Street District.
7. Improvements to historical or architecturally significant buildings must not, in the view of Athens Main Street, detract from historical or architecturally significant features. All improvements must, in the view of Athens Main Street, contribute to the unique and historical design aesthetic of the Athens Main Street District.
8. All improvements must be completed within 12 months of grant approval from Athens Main Street.
9. Creative but appropriate use of paint on historic buildings can lend interest and liveliness to the streetscape. Buildings that are architecturally or historically significant, however, should be painted colors that are somewhat understated to allow the building to be the primary visual element. Color is a matter of personal preference but avoid using colors that clash with the historic building.
10. No grants will be made to government owned properties or to tenants in government owned properties.

Approval Process

1. Grantee will fill out the Façade Grant Application and the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement (see below) (and the Sherwin Williams Credit Application, where painting is involved). Grantee will complete and submit to the Athens Main Street Design Committee.
2. Design Committee will review the application request and determine merit and suitability. Please note that the Design Committee and Athens Main Street reserves the unqualified right to deny any request they deem unsuitable for historic downtown Athens. This is an inherently subjective process, as the Design Committee and Athens Main Street must judge the applicant's proposal (and contrast it with other applicants' proposals) based

on a number of factors, to determine whether a grant should be awarded and if so, the amount of the grant, including but not limited to: (a) the project's positive or negative impact on historical building features, (b) the extent to which a building is in need of rehabilitation/revitalization and the extent to which the project addresses that need, (c) the extent of enjoyment and use of the improvement by the general public, (d) adherence to any design guidelines adopted by the Design Committee or Athens Main Street, and (e) the project's compatibility with other nearby buildings in the Athens Main Street District.

3. Grantee (merchant or building owner) will obtain pricing and submit to Design Committee.
4. Design Committee will submit package to the Athens Main Street Board for approval (and where it relates to painting, then to Sherwin Williams for addition to their national database).
5. If the grant funding to be utilized was provided by the City of Athens, Athens Main Street will notify the City Council of the award, and seek its additional approval.
6. If approved, the Design Committee will notify Grantee of approval to begin expending funds for the project and the Façade Grant Reimbursement amount approved.
7. Grantee is responsible for obtaining permits from City of Athens Engineering. Cost of permitting, or other costs of governmental approvals, will not be part of the grant.
8. Grantee is responsible for obtaining contractor to perform the work (and, where applicable) purchase the paint from Sherwin Williams. Any store within the state of Alabama will have the information on the Grantee from their credit application.
9. Grantee will submit a paid bill for reimbursement together with an affidavit from the contractor certifying the work, as submitted, is complete. Any unapproved changes will void the grant. If the Grantee decides to change the project after approval, they must contact the Design Committee.
10. Design Committee will request check for reimbursement upon completion of the project.

Note that Athens Main Street and the Design Committee expressly reserve the right to deny any applicant's application and deny any funding for façade grant at any stage of the process prior to issuance of the check to the Grantee, for any reason that Athens Main Street and the Design Committee determine to be appropriate, including but not limited to the Applicant or Grantee's failure to cooperate with Athens Main Street and/or the Design Committee, the Applicant or Grantee's failure to adhere to the design approved by Athens Main Street and/or the Design Committee, or a withdrawal or failure of the funding necessary to support this program.