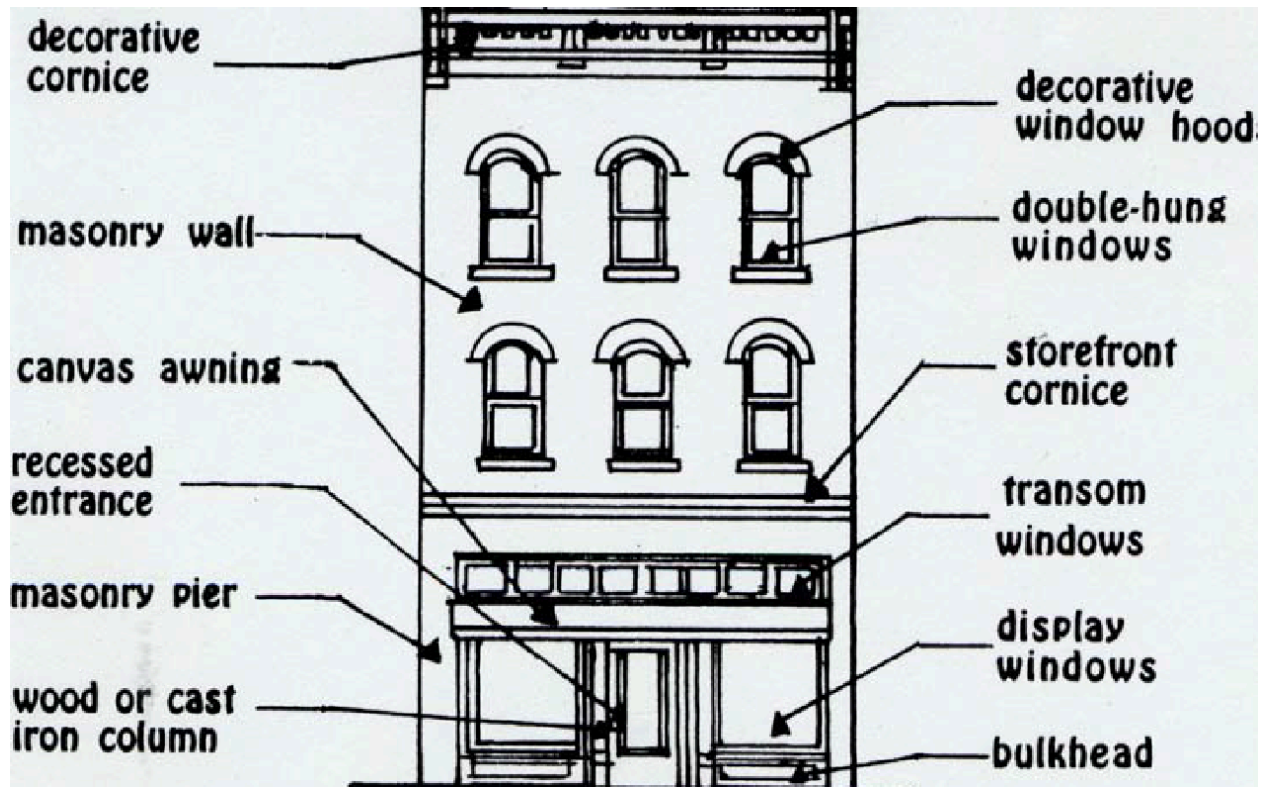


Façade Grant Program



For more information, contact:
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 (336) 667-7129
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Purpose of the Façade Grant Program

The Downtown North Wilkesboro Façade Grant Program was created to encourage private investment in facade renovations, promote good design that will serve as examples of quality restoration and rehabilitation, and preserve the architectural character that is unique to North Wilkesboro.

The Design Committee of the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership encourages business and property owners to update and maintain their awnings, painting, and basic signs, as well as repair and restore properties through our matching Façade Grant Program.

WHAT IS A FAÇADE?

A façade is a building's exterior, which may include its front, side, or rear portions.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?

This program is made possible through the Town of North Wilkesboro and is contingent upon renewal of the funding each fiscal year. Grants are awarded based on a July to June fiscal year. Grants are awarded to eligible applicants until all funds for that fiscal year are expended.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

1. Any property owner or tenant of a building located within the Town of North Wilkesboro's Historic Downtown is eligible to apply for funding. (Please see the attached map.)
2. Owners or tenants may request grant funds; however, tenants must submit the owner's written permission.
3. Applicants/Properties are eligible to receive one grant per fiscal year (July 1- June 30).

FUNDING INFORMATION

Grants are awarded on a 60 - 40 matching basis (the applicant will be reimbursed 60 percent of the total facade rehabilitation cost, with a maximum reimbursement amount dependent upon the size of the building). Grants are awarded per building, not per tenant. Logos or business names on awnings are not eligible for façade grant funding; street numbers are appropriate.

- Up to \$4,000 for the first twenty-five linear feet of building width fronting a public street, plus \$100 per additional linear foot fronting the public street with a maximum of \$7,000 per building. The total allocation for building facades meeting the above descriptions may be combined for front, rear, or side façade improvements when made to more than one side.
- Any parking lot or improvement other than a building (for example, a retaining wall) may receive a maximum grant of up to 50% of the total cost or \$2,000, whichever is less.

2 Adopted by the Town of North Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners October 2, 2012. Additional wording/clarification added July 2014, October 2015 and February 2016. Reviewed February 2016, minor wording changes made. Reviewed August 2024 for grammatical corrections, minor wording changes and an increase in maximum reimbursement amounts.

- Signs are eligible for facade grants of 50% of the project cost up to \$250, whichever is less. Backlit signage is not eligible for Downtown North Wilkesboro Façade Grant funding.

TYPES OF PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

- Removal and installation of awnings
- Repairing cornices, painting trim
- Tuck-pointing of brick or re-building of brickwork
- New business signs, either hanging from overhead or window signs that are painted or applied with a decal.
- Guttering replacement
- Removing false facades and other inappropriate additions
- Paint removal from brick surfaces by chemical and water wash methods only (see EPA standards)
- Repair/replacement of windows and doors with compatible materials and design
- Reconfiguration and landscaping of parking lots
- Replacement or restored windows with historically accurate forms and materials
- Removal of inappropriate features that detract from the original period appearance
- Awnings and signs
- Landscape modifications where permanent changes will be made, such as trees or shrubs. Annual plants and mobile planters are not eligible. Grants for landscape modifications may be received every five years.

OVERALL GUIDELINES

1. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation will be used as guidelines for awarding grants. <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/rehab/stand.htm>
2. Rehabilitation of a structure in the Historic Downtown should be considered a contemporary solution which respects the architectural and historical integrity of the entire building while retaining those elements that enhance the building.
3. All rehabilitation design proposals must conform to the code requirements of the Town of North Wilkesboro.
4. Improvements made through the Facade Incentive Grant Program may not be removed for five years without written approval from DNWP.
5. All applications must be received and reviewed by the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership Board of Directors **PRIOR TO BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION**. Special consideration will be given to projects started under extenuating circumstances, such as improvements that need to be made before a new business opens.

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6. All projects must be completed within the agreed time. A one-time extension beyond the completion date may be requested by the applicant in writing prior to the deadline. This extension may be granted or denied by the Design Committee.
7. Facade grants may only be used to finance exterior improvements.
8. Upon completion, the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership will inspect the improvements to determine compliance with the application and the Board of Directors' approval.
9. For replacement awnings and signs, we require property or business owners to submit a claim for insurance payment when damaged by weather or vandalism. If the insurance coverage is denied or there is a shortfall, DNWP will work with the owner to meet the difference where possible.
10. Proposals for architectural improvements, signs, landscaping, and parking enhancements will be evaluated in terms of compliance with existing ordinances, innovation, context with the surrounding environment, scale, size, horticultural value, technical merit, and any other criteria that relate to the project and the impact on the visual and functional improvement of the district.
11. For buildings with multiple tenants, projects and/or grants are considered for the entire building. Maximum funding is awarded based on the building, not individual applications. One application should be submitted for the building.
12. Graffiti removal through a method which is sensitive to the age of downtown buildings may be approved by the Design Committee.
13. Applicants may not apply for the same project on the same property within 5 years.

Applying for and receiving a grant:

Grant applications may be submitted to the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership at any time.

STEP 1. CONTACT

Contact the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership **prior to beginning any work**, for assistance with the application and design guidance. Many properties have had or are eligible to have design renderings completed at no cost to the applicant. The Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership and the Design Committee can also assist with locating qualified contractors and professionals familiar with the special needs of older structures.

STEP 2. APPLY

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Submit a completed grant application, photographs, drawings, plans, specifications, and contractor cost proposals or estimates. **The package must be complete to qualify for funding.** Do not begin construction until the project has been approved.

STEP 3. COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Present his/her project to the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership Design Committee, if necessary. The applicant shall have the opportunity to discuss the project and answer any questions at that time. Once the Design Committee has reviewed the project, the applicant will be notified of the status of the application.

STEP 4. GRANT AGREEMENT

If approved, the Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership and the applicant will execute a grant agreement. After the agreement has been signed, the applicant may begin work on the project.

STEP 5. REIMBURSEMENT

Applicant must submit invoices and receipts showing proof of payment (copies of cleared checks or paid invoices) within 90 days of project completion. Following the Design Committee's inspection of completion, the applicant can expect to receive reimbursement in approximately two weeks.



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received: ____ Requested: \$ ____
 Reviewed: ____ Approved? Y / N
 Notified: ____ Contract Signed: ____
 Inspected: Y / N Reimbursed: ____

FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION

Property Address: _____

Current Use and Proposed Use: _____

Applicant: _____

Owner Tenant* (***Written consent of the property owner must be attached.**)

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Type of Façade or Landscape Improvement Proposed Please describe the proposed improvements in 50 words or less. Indicate materials and/or color choices as applicable.

Total Estimated Cost For Façade (Planning, Materials and Labor) \$ _____

Total Project Cost (if facade work is part of a larger rehab or reno) \$ _____

Estimated Time to Complete Façade Improvement _____

Please include the following with your application submission:

- Drawing/sketch/rendering
- Written estimate/proposal with project description and date
- Color photos of the current condition
- Paint chip and/or awning swatch (if applicable).
- *Written consent of property owner (if applicable).
- Site survey, if improvements involve landscaping.

- I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Façade Improvement Grant Guidelines and Application procedures of the Town of North Wilkesboro and Downtown North Wilkesboro Partnership. I agree to comply with all outlined requirements.
- I understand that this project will need to be presented to the DNWP Design Committee **and** DNWP Board of Directors for independent review and/or approval.
- I understand that the incentive grant must be used for the specific project and scope of work described in the application.
- I have attached project plans and specifications or other appropriate design documentation, as well as adequate cost estimates and proposals from those performing the work.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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