

How the MBA Façade Improvement Grant Program

Works

In an effort to stabilize and restore the historic character of businesses in Midtown, each year MBA may allocate a designated amount of money that will be used to provide grants to businesses having a need for assistance in improving the exterior physical appearance of the property.

Awards will be given in the form of a grant, up to \$1,000, depending on the project. Midtown business owners or tenants must be willing to contribute to the project.

The business must be located within the MBA boundaries and the applicant be a member of MBA in order for the grant to be approved. The applicant may join the association at the time application is made. Improvements must preserve the distinguishing original qualities or character of the building.

All work performed and all contractors hired are the complete and exclusive responsibility of the applicant.

How to Apply

Grants can be solicited in one of two ways:

- ◆ The business owner approaches MBA with a request for funds
- ◆ MBA seeks out viable candidates for façade improvement

Application Process

Businesses requesting funds, will complete an application, which will be provided to those who make contact.

The completed application will be submitted to the MBA Façade Improvement Committee for review. Those who are requesting funds may be asked to meet to discuss the details of the project.

Grant awards will be approved based on the type of request, the available funds and the degree to which façade improvement is needed.

Grant awards will be paid to the awardees following the completion of the work in the form of a reimbursement. Valid receipts must be submitted to substantiate the work.

Once the application has been approved, work must be completed within 6 months. If circumstances prevent completion within this time-frame, an extension can be requested.



Midtown Business Association Façade Improvement Grant Program

www.midtownbusinessassociation.org

History and Mission of the MBA

Established in 1980 from a group of eight Midtown business people, MBA has grown to over 180 members with a mix of small and large corporations and businesses, with both for-profit and not-for-profit members. The basic mission of the MBA is to support the Midtown business community by:

- ◆ Providing recognition of business façade improvements of existing businesses, as well as new businesses
- ◆ Providing a forum for friendship and interaction between all businesses
- ◆ Being an influential voice in city politics and Midtown civic and political decisions
- ◆ Being a driving force for business development in Midtown
- ◆ Demonstrating a sincere love and concern for the historical importance of the Midtown area
- ◆ Hosting monthly lunch meetings with speakers who bring topics of interest to the business community
- ◆ Hosting quarterly networking events at member business locations

MBA Boundaries

The boundaries of MBA are: from East to West - 1-480 and 52nd Street; and from North to South - Cuming Street and Center Street. While MBA does not exclude membership to businesses that fall outside the boundaries, only businesses within the boundaries are eligible for Façade Improvement grants.

Membership

Annual dues are based on the number of employees and covers the period from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

- ◆ 1 – 50 employees = \$40.00
- ◆ 51-300 employees = \$100.00
- ◆ Over 300 employees = \$200.00



2019 MBA Executive Board

- ◆ President - Leah Jipp, Mutual of Omaha
- ◆ Vice President - Judy Alderman
- ◆ Secretary - Karen Burbach, UNMC
- ◆ Treasurer - Dale Marples, CFO Omaha
- ◆ Grant Committee - Bob Perrin, Architect

Types of façade improvements that qualify for grant awards:

- Exterior painting, brickwork or wood repair
- Landscaping improvements, such as adding gardens or planting trees
- Improved signage
- New windows or restoration of existing windows
- Sidewalk, driveway or parking lot repairs and enhancements
- Other types of façade improvements will also be considered

Grants will not be available for the following:

- Interior improvements
- Maintenance items
- Building alterations that do not meet the design criteria set forth in the application process