

Gulfport Main Street Association

Façade Grant Guidelines



Gulfport Main Street Association and our partners are committed to cultivating our Main Street district's resources, including embracing and assisting our existing businesses. To that end, GMSA has activated the Façade Grant program to assist businesses with needs that will help them grow and thrive in this challenging economy. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis; not all applications will be funded. Priority will be placed upon applications where proposed projects will result in growth of the subject business and where local vendors are utilized. No expenses incurred prior to the date of grant award will be allowed.

To apply, review the guidelines below and complete the attached (or online). You must provide all requested information to be eligible. **Awards are based on a first-come basis and grants will be awarded as long as funding is available.**

Guidelines and Eligibility Checklist

1. Open to all Gulfport Main Street Association Members within the Innovation District and Historic Quarters areas. **See attached map for locations.**
2. Business must have been in existence for 60 days and the business must either:
 - a. own the building where the business resides or
 - b. have an existing lease of one year or more. Please attach documentation to this application (copy of lease, etc.)
3. Entire application must be complete and legible.
4. Business must be locally owned, not a chain or franchise.
5. Application must contain a detailed description of the proposed project to be funded.
6. Attach estimate or quote from contractor or business who will be providing the work, labor, some "sweat equity" may be allowed on a case by case basis, equipment, or signage. We prefer local contractors/businesses.
7. Attach current photos of façade/building
8. Attach renderings of work to be performed or equipment/signage to be purchased.
9. Exterior renovation, restoration, or reconstruction, may be funded, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Exterior walls of building, with priority given to street-facing facades.
 - b. Façade washing/Brick cleaning
 - c. Sign repair, if sign is integral to building façade
 - d. New signs if the proposed sign is a high-quality representation of signs displayed in the historic era generally found in downtown Gulfport
 - e. Lighting
 - f. Awnings/canopies
 - g. Window restoration and replacement

- h. Painting
 - i. Door replacement
 - j. Restoration of original architectural features
 - k. Window display area remodeling
 - l. Exterior lighting
 - m. Parapet repair
10. Architectural design fees or costs for renderings are not allowed for reimbursement
11. Exterior improvements must comply with City of Gulfport Codes and Ordinances.

Additional Information

1. Gulfport Main Street Association has the right to terminate this program at any time.
2. This is a reimbursement grant program. Funds may be paid directly to vendors or applicant may be reimbursed for approved expenditures incurred after the date of the grant award. Local vendors must be used when available.
3. Final terms and conditions of each grant award will be specified in the grant agreement upon award.
4. Grant funds will be disbursed only upon completion of the project, submission of all required documents and free of any lien waivers from all laborers and material suppliers.
5. Some (if not all) improvements and rehabilitation may require a permit to be filed with the Urban Planning Department.
6. Approved applicants will be required to complete a grant accountability certifying that the proposed project has been completed.
7. Approved applicants must agree to have a sign posted during the project stating that the project is funded in part by Gulfport Main Street Association and funding authority partners.
8. In addition, grantees must agree to allow Gulfport Main Street Association and the City of Gulfport to use their information and photographs to promote the grant program and ongoing revitalization of Gulfport.

See attached application. Please mail or email your completed application to:

Laurie Toups
Gulfport Main Street Association
P.O. Box 1780
Gulfport, MS 39502