

Bowdon Main Street

2018/19 Façade Grant Program

The Bowdon Main Street Façade Grant Program is designed to encourage exterior improvements to the commercial properties in our Main Street district footprint; to preserve the unique character of these historic buildings, to enhance the overall look of downtown Bowdon, and to stimulate business growth.

Program Requirements:

- The grant is for commercial property only. It is not offered for residential improvements.
- All improvements must comply with the City of Bowdon building codes and ordinances.
- Applicants must be building owners; however, tenants and owners may apply jointly. Grant applications for signage only (separate application) may be applied for by business owner only.
- Property must lie within the confines of the Bowdon Main Street district footprint or a special request may be considered for commercial properties which lie outside of the district boundaries.
- Work must commence within 30 days of acceptance into the façade grant program and completed within 180 days.

Restrictions:

- The **MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE** starting the project.
- Façade grants will not be permitted for routine maintenance or damage covered by insurance.

Design Assistance:

- The Georgian Trust for Historic Preservation and the Department of Community Affairs provide a design consultant at Georgia Main Street cities to help plan project renovations. For a nominal fee the design experts can provide you with a rendering that will best fit your building and enhance the surrounding properties.

Funding:

- Grant money will be awarded on a 1:1 basis for eligible project expenses. Each building may be awarded a maximum of \$1,000 per project, *as funds are available*. (Refer to your accountant to discuss possible tax implications for receiving a grant.)
- Grants are limited to one grant per building during any 12 month period, excluding additional funds awarded for signage.
- Grant money will be paid:

- After work has been completed and all receipts and paid invoices have been turned in to Bowdon Main Street staff.
- After representatives of the Main Street Board and Codes Enforcement have inspected the property and reviewed and approved all invoices, receipts, and canceled checks.
- Contracted projects must provide proof of final payment.

Eligible Projects:

- Painting, cleaning and repair of exterior structure.
- Repair or replacement of architectural features, doors, and windows.
- Signs (Separate application available)
- Awnings
- Installation, repair, or replacement of exterior lighting fixtures
- Installation of new awnings and frames
- Exterior improvements may include front, side, or back of building as long as the façade faces a public street or parking lot.

Ineligible Projects:

- Removal of historically or architecturally significant features
- Sandblasting of brick or masonry surfaces
- Improvements made prior to the approval of grant application
- Roof repairs
- Construction of new buildings
- Interior improvements
- Purchase of property and/or buildings
- Operating capital or inventory
- Properties with past due city taxes, utilities, or business licenses

Criteria for Grant Approval or Denial

- First come, first served basis
- Availability of funds
- Historic or architectural significance of the property
- Compatibility with other downtown improvement projects
- Potential impact of the project on the downtown
- Overall cost of the project
- Quality of the project improvements
- Incomplete Application

Grant Deadline:

- Completed grant application must be submitted to the office of the Main Street Program Manager at Bowdon City Hall, in person, or by mailing to Bowdon City Hall, Attn: Main Street Manager, 136 City Hall Avenue, Bowdon, GA 30108

- Applications will be evaluated as soon as possible, no later than six weeks after receipt
- No work may commence prior to written approval by the Bowdon Main Street Applications may be obtained from City Hall, office of the Main Street Manager, or from the www.bowdonmainstreet.com website.

Applicants must submit designs to the Main Street Manager for review before submitting for approval of the Design Committee and final approval of the Board. The Main Street Manager may offer suggestions for design assistance, improvements, color selections and other recommendations.

Application Checklist:

- ✓ **Rendering of proposed improvements**
- ✓ **Plans describing the type and scope of work**
- ✓ **Sample of proposed paint colors**
- ✓ **Sample of proposed lighting, if applicable**
- ✓ **Three bids from all trades providing new materials (i.e. awning company, stone mason, painter)**
- ✓ **“Before” photographs of the façade to be improved, one hard copy and one digital**
- ✓ **Detailed budget for the overall project**
- ✓ **Signed and completed grant application, including signature page**

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a façade? An applicable façade is the front or rear face of a building, or an exposed side that faces a public street or parking lot.

Why are grant funds limited? There are limited funds available and limits have been set to encourage use of funds by as many applicants as possible.

What guidelines will be used to judge the aesthetic, historical, and architectural acceptability of an application? The Design Committee will be guided by the Georgia State Historic Preservation Plan. Copies are available on the web at www.bowdonmainstreet.com.

What color(s) may be used? Colors recommended by the Design Guidelines (cited above) or a historic color palette available from the Main Street Manager are acceptable.

May a grant be used for a residence? No, only for properties which are commercial or mixed use properties (commercial on the ground floor.)

What area of downtown is included in the Main Street district? A map is available on www.bowdonmainstreet.com. You may also request a copy from the Main Street Manager.

Bowdon Main Street
Contact: Jan Gibbs
Bowdon City Hall
136 City Hall Ave.
Bowdon, GA 30108
77.0-258-7399
jjgibbs@bowdon.net

To complete your application, please sign the attached signature page, and include it with your application. Applications are not complete without the signature page, and will not be considered.

I have read the guidelines and policies related to the Bowdon Main Street Façade Grant Program. I understand that if I fail to comply with these guidelines and policies, I may become ineligible for grant funds.

Business Name: _____

Signature Applicant

____ Applicant Printed
Name

____ Date