



DIVISION-MIDWAY STOREFRONT REVITALIZATION

WHAT IS THE STOREFRONT MINI GRANT PROJECT?

In 2015, the Division Midway Alliance for Community Improvement's (DMA) Capital Improvement Committee developed the Storefront Mini Grant program to help district businesses and property owners improve their storefronts.

Three district businesses participated in the 2015 Storefront Mini Grant program.

- Mailroom Plus replaced its interior lighting with energy efficient LED lighting
- Casa Del Sol installed an outdoor patio and replaced its Drive-thru sign
- Pizza Baron is replacing the flooring behind its front counter area.

Through community outreach the committee learned the community's vision for the Division Midway area. That vision includes:

- more landscaping and/or greening effects
- new business signs with landscaped bases
- exterior painting
- new awnings, windows and more.

In response, the committee developed a set of visioning standards for Storefront Mini Grants.

Last year's grants were 50% matching improvement grants for TIF eligible projects for between \$500 and \$5000. This year's program includes the following guidelines adjustments:

- will offer grants up to \$6,000 with a sliding scale match between 25% and 75% depending on the degree of visioning standards met in the project.
- Storefront Mini Grant program will provide approximately \$30,000 in matching grants to business and commercial property owners in the Division Midway district.
- Each applicant is eligible for funding between \$500 and \$6,000 to support the storefront improvement project.
- Division-Midway Capital Improvement Committee will administer the funding, with applications made available to businesses beginning April 2016 for projects.
- Grant applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis until grant funds are expended.
- Design assistance is available to businesses in DMA's program area.
- Eligible projects include projects that improve the look and feel of the business district located along SE Division Street between 117th & 148th Avenues.
- Once approved, each project will have one year to complete.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE STOREFRONT MINI GRANT?

DMA is working to support and strengthen business and property owners. It encourages exterior improvements that create a unique and attractive image for each business and building.

This grant will fund improvement projects that increase the visibility and street presence of the business. Eligible projects include paint improvement, sign installation, and awning replacement and/or removal, landscaping improvements, and improved storefront lighting. Interior projects that are “sticks and bricks” (i.e. stay with the building) are also eligible for funding as well, such as lighting, painting, and flooring.

Division-Midway supports mini-grant projects that achieve these goals affordably so that business and property owners are benefitted rather than burdened by the revitalization projects.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Any building owner or tenant with lease authority and authorization from the property owner can apply for funding. The project site must be located in the Division-Midway target area (along Division Street from SE 117th to SE 148th and along 122nd from SE Sherman St. (North) to SE Clinton St. - see the attached map). **Tenants must have a minimum of two years remaining on their lease or an option to renew.**

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

Examples of possible projects include but are not limited to:

- Exterior Lighting and Interior Lighting
- Street Trees
- Awning removal or improvement
- Tree Well Improvements
- Planters
- Exterior Paint or Interior Paint
- Unique Bike Racks
- Door/window replacement and weatherization
- Signage (not including A-Boards)

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE INELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

The Mini Grant Program is not intended to cover the costs of extensive deferred maintenance, such as power washing, or major redesign and structural work. For example, while a small grant may cover the cost of new light fixtures and installation, it is not appropriate for major redesign and structural work, if that is necessary to hang the fixture. The grant is not intended to cover the cost of installing or replacing objects that will not stay with the building, such as moveable landscaping pots, interior seating, fixtures, and display cases.

ARE THERE DESIGN GUIDELINES OR OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA?

Projects must conform to the Portland Zoning Code, be in alignment with the Portland Main Street Design Handbook and be approved by the Division-Midway Design Committee.

The Division-Midway Design Plan prioritizes projects that:

- Improve pedestrian safety and experience
- Increase visibility of business
- Increase green space
- Include a plan for ongoing maintenance
- Integrate sustainability (economic, environmental & social equity), i.e. energy efficient lighting
- Utilize local vendors
- Reflect the diversity of the district
- Improve customer experience

HOW IS THE MONEY AWARDED?

This is a matching grant program, which means that the applicant pays a portion of the improvement and Division-Midway pays a portion.

- The amount of the match will range from 25% to 75% - the applicant pays \$1 and Division-Midway pays \$.25 to \$1.33 depending on the degree of visioning guidelines met.
- There is a maximum grant contribution by Division-Midway of \$6,000 per address.
- Work completed prior to letter of commitment is not eligible for funding.
- Grant funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis and won't be issued until the project has been completed.
- Before a check is cut, applicants must submit an invoice for payment, W-9 form, proof of payment for completed work and two high resolution, high quality 'after photos' (JPEG or PDF preferred) of the completed project.
- Division-Midway will review the completed project to determine that the work performed was the work approved.
- An applicant that applies in the first round may also re-apply for the second round (2016-2017).
- Projects will be based on funding available and will be awarded on a first come/first served basis.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO MEET THE MATCH?

Division-Midway is committed to helping applicants meet the matching requirement for the grant. We will work with you and support your efforts to identify a source for the match.

HOW DOES THE APPLICATION PROCESS WORK?

- 1) Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an informational meeting with DMA staff or at April or May's Business Mixers.

- 2) Applicants are required to schedule a one-on-one application assistance consultation with a designated Division-Midway staff member, board or Capital Improvement Committee member BEFORE submitting their application. The full application requires a detailed description of the project, architectural drawings if appropriate, color samples and cost estimates. (Two bids are required)
- 3) The Capital Improvement Committee will review the applications and recommend projects to be moved forward for funding.

HOW ARE PROJECTS SELECTED FOR FUNDING?

Applications will be reviewed and selected based on their compatibility with the vision and goals of the Division-Midway, their impact on the district and the feasibility of the project.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A PROJECT IS SELECTED?

- Projects selected for a matching grant can begin immediately
- Projects must be completed the within one year from committee approval, unless extended by Division-Midway.
- The applicant is responsible for obtaining all building permits and any other required permits for the work to be done.
- The applicant is responsible for conformance with all applicable safety standards and conditions.
- The applicant also agrees to take on full maintenance of the project.
- Division-Midway may promote an approved project including, but not limited to, displaying a Division-Midway sign at the site, during and after construction, and using photographs and descriptions of the project in Division-Midways' materials.

DESIGN SERVICES OVERVIEW

The Division-Midway Capital Improvement Design Committee is available to provide basic design assistance and support to applicants. The committee recommends that the applicant work with an architect or other design professional if they require significant design work and support.

Applicants are not required to use an architect for their personal property improvements. The architect does not dictate design direction; rather their role is to advise property owners on the design strategy for the district. If a property or business owner wishes to hire an architect for additional services they may do so independent of the services being provided through the Division-Midway Mini Grant Program.



DIVISION MIDWAY ALLIANCE STOREFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

APPLICANT - *Person authorized to sign the grant (Please complete a W-9 and submit it with this application)*

Name: *(Applicant)* _____
Business Name: _____
Applicant Mailing Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Project Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Cell Number: _____ Fax Number: _____
Email Address: _____
*City of Portland Business License #: _____ *State of Oregon Registry #: _____
*You are required to have a City of Portland Business license or proof of exception and a State of Oregon Registry Number

PROJECT INFORMATION - **Building/Business To Be Rehabilitated**

Project Name: _____
Project Address: _____
Briefly describe the proposed project & construction timeline:

PROJECT BUDGET & SOURCE OF FUNDS

Is other work being proposed in addition to the above description? YES NO
Estimated cost of the storefront improvements: \$ _____
Estimated cost of other work (if applicable): \$ _____
Total estimated cost of all work: \$ _____

List all sources of public and private funding that will be made available to support the total estimated cost

Owner/Company Contribution \$ _____
Bank Loan (estimated) \$ _____
Other (please specify) \$ _____

PROPERTY OWNER - *If applicant is not the owner of the property, DMA Programs require additional authorization. The property owner will need to co-sign the Storefront Application.*

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone Number: _____
City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

DESIGN

Do you have an architect working on the project: YES NO

If yes, please provide the architect's name and contact information:

FOR MORE INFORMATION - *If applicant has any questions, concerns or issues with the information requested on this application, contact staff in any of the following manners:*

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