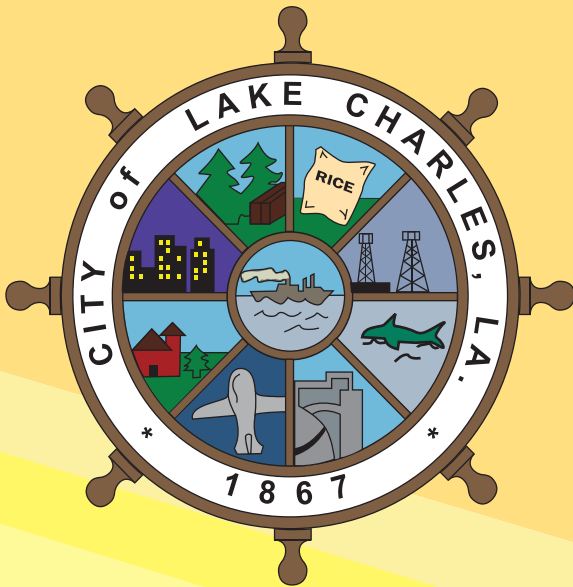


# CITY OF LAKE CHARLES EXTERIOR FAÇADE BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM



## CITY OF LAKE CHARLES EXTERIOR FAÇADE BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- The City of Lake Charles is available to assist new businesses or established businesses located within the City's economic development districts and businesses located within the downtown development district with available incentives.
- Incentives are provided in the form of matching grants to encourage beautification of corridors and retention and recruitment of business to targeted areas within the City of Lake Charles' Economic Development and Downtown Districts.

### BUSINESS FAÇADE GRANT

Eligible businesses can receive up to 75% of the total project cost (Only eligible costs will be considered), with no single grant exceeding \$5,000.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

In general, the intent of the guidelines is to restrict funding to visible improvements of the exterior façade for commercial buildings.

The following exterior improvements are eligible, but not limited to:

1. Installation or rehabilitation of doors or windows.
2. Signage for new or existing business.
3. Repainting that is consistent with approved color scheme.
4. Installation or replacement of fabric awnings.
5. Architectural assistance for exterior design improvements.

Applicants may be required to obtain renderings of proposed improvements (depending on the extent of the project) to be submitted as part of the application process. Renderings by design professionals paid for by the applicant may be reimbursed if the Façade Grant Review Committee approves the project.



## INELIGIBLE PROJECTS INCLUDE

(BUT NOT LIMITED TO)

1. Roofing, unless such work is minor in nature and is necessitated by the specified façade improvement design.
2. Inappropriate cleaning methods, repairs, replacements, or alterations.
3. Overpowering signs- (all exterior signage must comply with City sign standards).
4. Improvements that are not in scale with both the existing structure and neighboring structures.
5. Alterations that have the effect of decreasing accessibility for people with disabilities.
6. Work which has been performed or which has been placed under contract prior to approval of the application.

## LIMIT ON ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

- No applicant may receive more than \$5,000 over the entire life of the project.
- Individual properties may receive multiple allocation of funds for new tenants. (However, there is a two-year limit between tenants.)
- Properties with multiple tenant space may apply for funding based on individual tenant spaces.
- Tenants seeking funds for exterior upgrades to leased/rented properties must have documented proof from the property owner identifying his or her approval.
- Grant funds will be paid as a reimbursement once final project is inspected and approved by the façade team.

## TARGETED BUSINESS LIST

(BUT NOT LIMITED TO)

- Cultural Attractions
- Home Décor
- Home Gifts & Jewelers
- Art & Music Galleries
- Stationary & Flower Shops
- Clothing & Apparel  
(Professional / Upscale Men's & Women's)
- Sporting Goods  
(Bicycle / Outdoor / Golf)
- Book Stores
- Wine Lounge and Bistros  
(Not liquor stores)
- Full Service Restaurant  
(Lunch / Dinner)
- Coffee Shops
- Sandwich Shops
- Ice Cream Shops
- Grocery / Food Market
- Dry-Cleaner
- Nutritional Shop

## NOT ELIGIBLE

(BUT NOT LIMITED TO)

- Drive Thru Businesses
- Convenience Stores
- Vape Stores
- Pawn Shops
- Gun Shops
- Night Clubs

The City of Lake Charles fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act, and related statutes, executive orders, and regulations in all programs and activities. The City operates without regard to race, color, national origin, income, gender, age, and disability. Any person who believes him/herself or any specific class of persons, to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI/Americans with Disabilities Act may by him/herself or by representative file a written complaint with the City of Lake Charles. The City's Title VI Coordinator/ADACoordinator may be reached by phone at (337)491-1440, the Mayor's Action Line at (337)491-1346, or contact the appropriate Department Head.

For questions or inquiries please contact:

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