



# 2023 Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program

## Deadline: Thursday, May 04, 2023

Note: Subject to funding availability, applications will be accepted until Thursday, May 4, 2023 or when funds are expended, whichever comes first. Applications are considered on a first in, first reviewed basis.

Please submit application **only by email** to: Michael Saunders, Economic Partnership Advisor  
Economic Development & Culture  
Business Growth Services – BIA Office  
Tel: 416-392-1005  
Email: [Michael.Saunders@toronto.ca](mailto:Michael.Saunders@toronto.ca)

Please use your business email address to communicate with us.

## Program Grant Funding

This program is available to owners and tenants of buildings used for commercial uses and of multiunit strip plazas. Eligible façade improvements are on outside walls facing a public road or a laneway.

Under the program the City funding is equal to one-half of the costs of approved improvements to a maximum grant of \$12,500 for a minimum of \$25,000 of improvements. A minimum of three eligible improvements must be made.

In addition, for multiunit strip plazas under single ownership or adjoining buildings on separate properties under one ownership, the applicant will be eligible for an additional matching grant of up to \$2,500 per unit or building, improved to a maximum grant of \$25,000 including the \$12,500 "base" grant. A minimum of three eligible improvements must be made to each unit or building.

For accessibility improvements such as the installation of ramps, handrails and other exterior accessibility devices which meet AODA design standards, the applicant will be eligible for up to \$2,500 in bonus matching grant funding in addition to the \$12,500 "base" grant for façade and property improvements.

Applications for work totaling less than \$5,000 are ineligible.

For assistance in calculating the maximum potential funding for your project, please call 416-392-1005.

The façade improvement grant program is not a maintenance program to fix broken windows or signs, remove or clean bird droppings from signs and window ledges, or replace ripped awnings etc. The intent of the program is to change the appearance of the front and rear of the commercial building (or the side of a building facing a public road on a corner property) and the appearance of multiunit strip plazas properties.

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## Applicant Business Information (please print)

Property Address (Street Number, Street Name, Suite/Unit Number, City, Province, Postal Code)	
Registered Property Owner and Mailing Address: (Street Number, Street Name, Suite/Unit Number, City/Town, Province, Postal Code)	
Applicant Name (First, Last)	
Corporation Legal Name (if applicable)	
Applicant Business Mailing Address (Street Number, Street Name, Suite/Unit Number, City/Town, Province, Country, Postal Code)	Business Telephone Number
	Business Mobile Number
	Business Email
	Please select <input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Property Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Both
Assessment Roll No	

## Program Guidelines

Please read the Guidelines below carefully and direct any questions to the Economic Partnership Advisor at 416-392-1005 or email to [Michael.Saunders@toronto.ca](mailto:Michael.Saunders@toronto.ca). Decisions regarding eligible work and grant amounts, and other program considerations, are subject to final decision by the Manager, BIA Office.

- 1) The Commercial Façade Grant Program is available only to improve the front building façade (face) of commercial properties (and the side of a building façade facing a public road for corner properties), the rear building façade on a laneway with public access, and multiunit strip plazas. The program is not to cover maintenance costs of existing building façades.
- 2) Eligible properties must have a commercial use at grade at the front of a building facing a public road or the rear of a building fronting onto a laneway with public access.
- 3) Places of worship, institutional buildings, not-for-profit commercial and residential buildings are ineligible for the program.
- 4) Properties with outstanding infractions and or work orders from City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards are ineligible until all outstanding infractions and work orders are resolved

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- 5) Stucco work, door and window banners, door and window decals, sidewalk cafes or patios, and painting of brick are ineligible and should not form part of the submitted application.
- 6) The cost of an accredited design professional (architect or architectural technologist) may be included as a component of eligible grant expenses. Reimbursable expenses for these design services will not exceed \$2,000 of the total eligible grant.
- 7) Applications must include a minimum of three (3) of the eligible façade and or accessibility improvements listed below:

## Building Façade

- a) Brick cleaning treatments such as power washing
- b) Re-pointing of brick masonry
- c) Exterior painting (not including painting of brick) as part of other façade improvements
- d) Replacement of doors or windows (on any level on the front facade of the building)
- e) Replacement or repair of cornice, parapets and other architectural features
- f) Installation or replacement of awnings or canopies
- g) Installation and improvement of signage
- h) Installation or upgrading of exterior lighting features
- i) Storefront redesign

## Accessibility

- j) Installation of wheelchair ramps, handrails and other exterior accessibility devices which meet AODA design standards

## Other Improvements

- k) Other improvements as agreed to by the Manger, BIA Office.

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- 8) Façade Improvement Grants are allocated on the basis of individual property ownership, with one grant per property parcel owner. Adjoining business premises under the same ownership are eligible for only one grant. For example, if there are two or more adjacent or attached store fronts which are owned by the same owner or company, under the Program this is considered as one property, and is eligible for one grant. If needed, please refer any questions to staff on this or other grant details.
- 9) Under the program, a corner property must be located immediately adjacent to the intersection of two public roads, a public laneway and a public road, or a publically accessed private laneway and a public road.
- 10) To obtain grant approval and commence work under the Program, the property owner must receive, sign and return the “Letter of Understanding” issued by the Manager, BIA office. Work already begun or completed on the property prior to this occurrence is ineligible.
- 11) Two quotes covering each component of the proposed work must be submitted with the application. Applicants are permitted to submit two quotes from each of two contractors that cover all components of the work. (Using one general contractor for all the components of the work can be more effective and efficient because the contractor assumes responsibility to organize and coordinate the different trades and components of the work).
- 12) Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- 13) Applications received after the deadline, or when there are no longer any funds available, will not be reviewed.
- 14) The owner of a property that was the subject of the maximum façade or property improvement grant in the previous 10 years and their tenants, are ineligible to apply for the same building or on the same property.
- 15) Applicants must determine if the property is listed in the City of Toronto Heritage Register. (See page 8).

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## Estimated Cost of Proposed Façade Improvements

Attach either two independent detailed contractor estimates for each component of the work, or two general contractor estimates covering all of the components of the work. The quotes must be for the same scope of work. Funding will be awarded on the basis of the lowest bid.

Name (First, Last) of the Contractor/ Subcontractor with lowest bid:	
Amount	\$
Name (First, Last) of the Contractor/ Subcontractor with 2 <sup>nd</sup> lowest bid	
Amount	\$

**Please attach copies of estimates to this page.**

## Permission to Photograph or Video Building Façade

I/We authorize and hereby grant permission to the City of Toronto to photograph and / or videotape the subject building façade, and / or to use and / or permit others to use information from the aforementioned images and videotapes in educational and promotional activities of the City of Toronto without compensation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner(s) Name (First, Last)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner(s)

Date (yyyy-mm-dd) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Description and Scope of Proposed Improvements (bullet form)



### **Please attach a photograph of existing façade to accompany application**

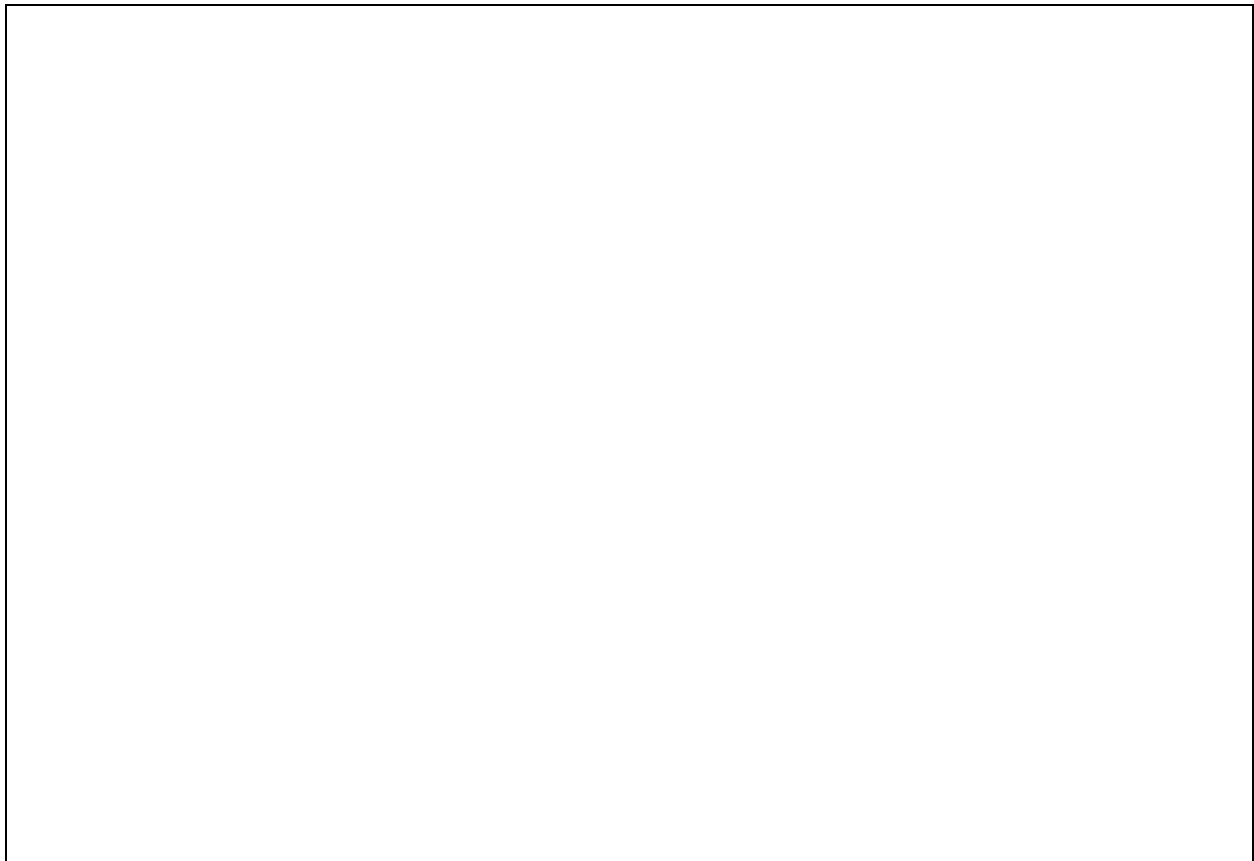
Please do not include any private individuals in the photograph.

NOTE: The photograph of the property attached to this form may be reproduced in City of Toronto publications/ material, including marketing and promotional materials and the City of Toronto official website.

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## Description and Scope of Work of Proposed Improvements

- Provide notes on the drawing or photo to show what areas of the façade(s) are to be cleansed, repaired, painted, rebuilt, resurfaced, etc.
- Indicate what fixtures are being replaced such as new windows, doors, signage, lighting or awnings



## Description and Scope of Work of Proposed Improvements (cont'd)

- Please attach a detailed drawing or sketch of the proposed façade or show proposed façade improvements on a building photo with a colour marker.

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## Property Heritage Status

1. Applicants must determine if the property is included on the City of Toronto Heritage Register. To determine if the property is listed or designated, first visit the web site [www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation](http://www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation) or call 416-392-1975.
2. Answer the following question by checking the appropriate box below:  
  
Is the property included on the City of Toronto Heritage Register?      Yes     No
3. If the answer to the above question is “No”, then no further action is required.
4. If the answer to the above question is “Yes”, you must contact the City’s Heritage Planning to obtain a review of the proposed scope of work prior to obtaining quotes from contractors. The scope of work for heritage buildings must include the following:
  - a. A clear description of the project including proposed conservation methods and techniques, accompanied by specifications and/or architectural drawings. (Note: an architect or an architectural technologist can prepare the scope of work/specification and the cost of this service is an eligible expense; see page 3, item 6.)
  - b. Recent photographs providing an overall view of the main façade.
  - c. Recent photographs clearly illustrating the areas of the building that are the subject of the proposed work, e.g. photographs of masonry units, windows/doors, etc.
5. To arrange a review by Heritage Planning staff of the scope of work, contact Neil MacKay at telephone number 416-338-6461 or email him at [Neil.MacKay@toronto.ca](mailto:Neil.MacKay@toronto.ca) for applications east of University Avenue, and contact Amir Nissan at telephone number 416-338-4805 or email him at [Amir.Nissan@toronto.ca](mailto:Amir.Nissan@toronto.ca) for applications west of University Avenue. Please use your business email address to communicate with Heritage Planning staff. Heritage Planning staff must sign in the space provided beneath the solid line on this page to certify their review and approval of the proposed scope of work. The Heritage Planning staff member must also initial page 7 of the application, “Description and Scope of Proposed Improvements”.
6. If required, Building Permit application drawings must also be approved and stamped by Heritage Planning staff.

### For Heritage Planning Only

The scope of work for the property with municipal address \_\_\_\_\_ has been reviewed and approved by Heritage Planning staff.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (First, Last) of Heritage Planning staff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)

The Heritage Planning staff member who reviewed the scope of work must also initial and date page 7 of the application, “Description and Scope of Proposed Improvements”.





## Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation & City Policy

Organizations/individuals in Ontario, including the City of Toronto, have obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Employment Standards Act, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the Criminal Code of Canada and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In addition, the City of Toronto also has policies that prohibit discrimination on the additional grounds of political affiliation or level of literacy, subject to the requirements of the Charter. Organizations are required to have and post policies, programs, information, instruction, plans and/or other supports, and an appropriate internal process available to their employees and service recipients to prevent, address and remedy discrimination, racism, harassment, hate and inaccessibility complaints under the applicable legislation and including the additional grounds of discrimination prohibited under City policy. Individuals are obliged to refrain from harassment/hate activity.

The City of Toronto requires all organizations and individuals that contract with the City to sign the following Declaration of Compliance with Anti-Harassment/Discrimination Legislation & City Policy. This Declaration must be signed by your organization and submitted with the contract or Letter of Understanding. The name of your organization and the fact that you have signed this declaration may be included in a public report to City Council.

Date:

**Declaration: I/we uphold our obligations under the above provincial and federal legislation. In addition, I/we uphold our obligations under City policies which prohibit harassment/discrimination on a number of grounds including political affiliation and level of literacy.**

**WHERE LEGALLY MANDATED I/we have in place the necessary policies, programs, information, instruction, plans and/or other supports that are consistent with our obligations, and I/we have an internal process available to my/our employees and service recipients to prevent, address and remedy discrimination, racism, harassment, hate and inaccessibility complaints. I/we agree that I/we shall, upon the request of the City, provide evidence of the policies, programs, information, instruction, plans and other supports and an appropriate internal complaint resolution process required under this Declaration which is sufficient to allow the City to determine compliance. I/We acknowledge that failure to demonstrate compliance with this declaration to the satisfaction of the operating Division, in consultation with the City Solicitor, may result in the termination of the contract.**

Name of Vendor or Name of Grant Applicant (Organization or Individual):

Complete Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer or Name of Applicant (Name – *please print*): \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Authorised Signing Officer or Individual*

Multilingual Services: 311 and TTY 416-338-0889



Group/Vendor/Individual Name:

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## Letter of Application

## Grant Recipients (Organization)

**Owner:** I/We are the owner(s) of the property at \_\_\_\_\_.  
I/We attach a copy of the most recent registered deed for the property as proof of ownership.

**Or for Tenant:** I/We are the tenants of the property at \_\_\_\_\_,  
and have attached a "No Objection" letter to the proposed façade improvements from the property owner  
and the same letter from the property owner shall confirm the person or corporation receiving the grant if  
the work is approved and satisfactorily completed.

**For all:**

I/We attach a copy of the articles of incorporation of the corporation (if a corporation).

I/We apply for funding in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the purposes of improvements to the  
building and or property at municipal address \_\_\_\_\_.

I/ We agree that if program funding is approved a Letter of Understanding will be executed and returned  
to the City.

I/We certify that the building façade has been inspected and complies with the Ontario Building Code,  
City by-laws and all applicable law.

I/We will obtain all necessary permits required for or in respect of the improvements.

I/We will ensure that the improvements will be carried out in accordance with the Building Code, City of  
Toronto By-laws, and all other applicable law.

I/We will provide proof of payment to any contractors i.e. photocopies of all invoices stamped 'paid'  
relating to the improvements.

I/We acknowledge that the completed improvements are subject to inspection by the City.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (yyyy-mm-dd)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporation Name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
I/We have authority to bind the Corporation

# 2023 Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Program

## Checklist

### Deadline: Thursday, May 04, 2023

- Subject to funding availability, applications will be accepted until Thursday, May 4, 2023 or until funds are fully expended, **whichever comes first**.
- Applications are considered on a first in, first reviewed basis.

### PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION TO BY EMAIL:

Michael Saunders  
Economic Partnership Advisor  
Economic Development & Culture  
Business Growth Services – BIA Office  
Tel: (416) 392-1005  
Email: [Michael.Saunders@toronto.ca](mailto:Michael.Saunders@toronto.ca)

Documents to be submitted with the completed façade application form as attachments to an email:

- 2 estimates for proposed façade improvements from different contractors
- High resolution digital photograph of the current façade or outside property
- Sketch, marked photo and / or architectural drawing of the proposed façade
- Proof of ownership (copy of the land deed or copy of the latest property tax bill)
- If the tenant is applying for the grant, please provide a 'no-objection' letter from the property owner, stating the contact person for the file and who is to receive the grant if the application is approved and the work is satisfactorily completed

### NOTE:

- Please submit the application form to our office with the above mentioned documents.
- No work on the façade should commence prior to written confirmation of the grant.
- Incomplete or late submissions will not be reviewed.
- Confirmation of the heritage status of the property (page 8).
- Signed "Declaration of a Non-Discrimination Policy" (page 9).
- Signed "Letter of Application" (page 10).

**Please use your business email address to communicate with us.**