



FREMONT

Michigan

"NOW AND ALWAYS - A Fine City • A Great Community"

April 14, 2022

RE: Fremont Façade Improvement Program

Dear Downtown Property Owner/Tenant:

The Fremont Downtown Development Authority (DDA) established the Downtown Fremont Façade Improvement Program in 2007 to promote economic development within the City of Fremont by creating an attractive downtown; to increase property values; to improve the marketability of space within the buildings and to attract businesses and residents to the area. For the past fourteen years, the Program, which has been administered by the DDA's Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee, has provided grant funding to downtown property owners, to assist them in making exterior building façade improvements. The Program provided a 50/50 match, up to \$8,500.00 per façade, on buildings in Downtown Fremont. Many buildings have benefited from this Program over the past decade and will continue to do so with a slight alteration to the Program in 2022.

At the end of this past year, the City was graciously approached by a private donor who realized the benefit that the Façade Improvement Program has had on Downtown Fremont over the past decade and who wished to be a part of further efforts. This donor has agreed to assist in funding future façade improvements. In coordination with this donor, the City and DDA Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee have proposed to alter the original Program to now provide a 50/25/25 match (Donor / DDA / Property Owner-Tenant). In other words, the property owner/tenant would be responsible for only 25% of the total cost of façade improvements to their building. Property owner sign-off will be required for tenants who choose to participate.

Once anticipated total project cost is established from bids, property owners/tenants will submit 25% of the cost as a down payment to the City. Any leftover funds post project completion will be reimbursed. The City of Fremont also has a Revolving Loan Program which may be used in coordination with this Façade Program to help fund the required owner contribution.

Revolving Loan Program Terms and Conditions:

- Loan size can range from \$500.00 to \$25,000.00.
- 1% fixed interest rate
- Repayment terms up to 5 years

This new Façade initiative is planned for 2022 with the goal of making the largest impact on the Downtown as possible by maximizing involvement in the Program. Property owners who participated in the Façade Program from years past will be eligible for this new initiative as well. Below is a list of eligible façade improvement items that will be included in this program. The Program will focus on Main Street facing façades. Building with front doors on a side street or alley will also be included.

Eligible Items Will Include (Primary Items):

- Awning cleaning.
- Awning replacement.
- Installation of new awnings and/or decorative valances where a building does not currently have such.
- Minor exterior repairs including replacement/restoration of trim work etc.
- Painting.
- Exterior building cleaning.
- Addition of exterior electrical outlets.

The above items will be the main focus of this 2022 Project. The intent is to begin work on the above items in July. Depending on project involvement and available funding, additional items (**Secondary Items**) may also be considered. The City and DDA are sending this letter to secure interest in the Program and to begin coordinating construction sites and timelines.

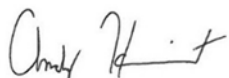
Those who are interested in participating in the Program are asked to complete the attached form and return by mail, email, or drop off at the City of Fremont offices by **Friday, May 6, 2022**.

City of Fremont
101 E. Main Street
Fremont, MI 49412
231-924-2101
Attn: Andy Harrington, Community Development & Zoning Administrator
(zoning@fremontmi.gov)

On behalf of the DDA and Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee, we strongly encourage you to participate in this excellent opportunity. New and improved façade elements will continue to enhance the aesthetic quality of our wonderful Downtown. The more participation, the greater the impact will be.

Note that future funding of the Façade Improvement Program will likely be reserved for new building owners and tenants only, as the goal of this new initiative is to the maximize involvement in the program for 2022. Please feel free to contact Andy Harrington, the City's Community Development Director at 231-924-2101, or via email, if you have questions or comments relating to this Program.

Sincerely,



Andy Harrington
Fremont Community Development & Zoning Administrator

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2022

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Relationship to Building (Please Circle): Owner or Tenant

Project Address: _____

- Please List / Describe all Primary Façade Items you would like addressed through the Program:

- If additional funding is available, please list which Secondary Façade Items you would like addressed:

- Are you interested in the Revolving Loan Program to assist in funding the building owner contribution, or wish to get additional information about the Program? (Please Circle): Yes or No

- Additional Comments or Questions relating to the Façade Improvement Program for 2022:

Thank you for your interest in the Façade Program! Once received, City Staff will contact you to go over the information provided in this form.