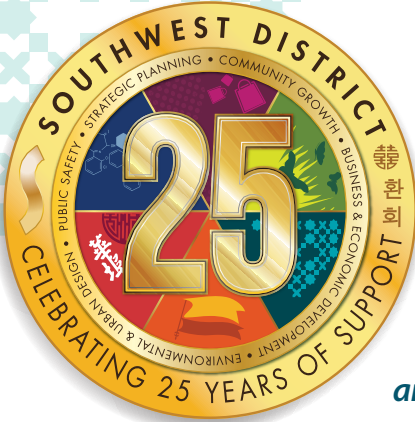




# BUSINESSIMPROVEMENT GRANT

*The board of directors for the Southwest District (SWD) has established and funded the Business Improvement Grant to provide funds for commercial property owners within the district's boundaries, in support of revitalization on a case-by-case basis. Grants are available on a 50/50 basis with a \$10,000 cap per grant. Approved projects must complement the color and character of surrounding businesses and must meet the City's Code of Ordinances.*

- The **Business Improvement Grant** is a one-time payment reimbursement for approved projects to Southwest District commercial property owners, and in some situations, tenants.
- Annual funding cycles begin January 1st and end on December 31st. Grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis until cycle funds are depleted.
- Properties are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per budget cycle. Additional applications must differ in scope from previously awarded grants.
- No grant will be awarded for work already done or that which is covered by insurance.
- All submitted work must be reviewed and approved by the SWD board before any eligible work begins.
- Any deviation from the approved project may result in total or partial grant withdrawal.

*\* Projects within common areas of multi-tenant buildings must differ in scope from any previously approved projects completed within such common areas of the building. Each HCAD address is limited to \$10,000 in grant funds per budget year.*

## projects include but not limited to:

- Façade Renovations (visible to public)
- Awning Installation
- Exterior Painting
- Landscaping
- Power Washing

## applications reviewed for:

- Basic Eligibility Requirements
- Potential to diversify the economy
- Effect and support of other businesses
- Consistency with local redevelopment

*\*\* SWD board, staff and their families are not eligible.*

## QUESTIONS? Call Us!

**512-658-4985 | 832-638-2545**

Applicants are encouraged to attend our meetings. Visit our website for times. Failure to attend when required shall be cause for application rejection.

## GRANTRECOGNITION

subscribe for updates, meetings,  
business classes, events and more  
**swdistrict.org**



Upon project completion, we will provide a sign which must be prominently displayed in a storefront window for a minimum of three months in order to officially recognize the SWD BIG program.

You, your company, and project will also be recognized as a program recipient with the before and after photos displayed on our website, e-news and social media platforms.



Business Improvement Grant

# Eligibility

**QUESTIONS? Call Us!**

**512-658-4985 | 713-724-3862**



*subscribe for meetings, business classes and more*

**SWdistrict.org**

## Guidelines & Requirements

### **Complete & Sign this Application Form.**

#### **Provide Drawings:**

All applications must include a scale drawing of the proposed work with the name of the project manager or contractor. Support documentation and informational material must be included.

#### **Provide Estimates:**

Obtain itemized estimates on all project work from contractors. Self-contracted work will be reimbursed for legitimate expenses, excluding labor.

#### **Provide Construction Bids:**

Bids shall be submitted on the contractor's or project architect's letterhead with their name, address, phone number, and be dated no earlier than 90 days prior to the request. Bids must be itemized in a manner that shows bid components and authenticity.

#### **Provide Color Samples:**

The SWD does not dictate color choices, however they must be consistent with the surrounding buildings and properties.

#### **Provide Project Site Photographs:**

As part of the application request we require before work begins and after the construction is completed, high-resolution jpgs as a condition of final funding.

### **Approval & Eligibility Process:**

There is no proprietary right to receive grant funds.

Only completed applications with all required information will be considered. Applications not meeting these requirements will be returned.

Projects must meet building standards and codes, including permit requirements. Applicant is required to obtain applicable City permits and approvals for construction.

***If a grant is denied the applicant is not eligible to re-submit for a minimum of six months from the date the prior application was declined.***

Construction must begin as described in the application within sixty days of the grant being awarded. If the applicant is unable to commence construction within sixty days of the date granted, or complete construction within six months from the date granted, the applicant must submit a written request for an extension. The extension request **MUST** be made prior to the sixty days or six month time limit. The SWD board is not obligated to allow extensions but may do so for good cause.

An extension, if granted, will be for the terms and conditions determined exclusively by the SWD board. An extension denial is final and cannot be appealed.

As a condition of this grant, and in consideration of the opportunity to apply for a grant, applicant consents to allow City inspections to determine if the building follows the codes and ordinances applicable to the construction outlined in the application.

The SWD board will recommend grants based on:

- (1) amount requested
- (2) grant funds available
- (3) condition of building involved in project
- (4) other grant requests
- (5) type and nature of construction
- (6) compatibility
- (7) streetscape objectives
- (8) overall revitalization of the district

The SWD board shall consider any application within its discretionary authority to determine what grant amount will be in the best interest of the program.

When the grant project has been completed and reviewed, the applicant will present the SWD board with copies of paid invoices, canceled checks and/or credit card receipts, for a single payment reimbursement of the approved funding.



Business Improvement Grant

# Application



email or send this completed form with all required items by

**12PM (noon) on the**

**FIRST BUSINESS DAY OF THE MONTH**

Grant1@SWDistrict.org or send to

Southwest District Office

PO Box 22167 Houston, TX 77227

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Building/Property Owner (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Building Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Building Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Type of Work - check all that apply:

power washing\_\_\_ exterior painting\_\_\_ awning/canopy\_\_\_ façade repairs\_\_\_ landscaping\_\_\_ other\_\_\_

## Provide Details of Planned Improvements: (attach additional paper or in email if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost of Proposed Project: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Eligible Business Improvement Grant Requested (50%, up to \$10,000 max): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## checklist of items to attach:

attached original proposals\_\_\_ attached construction bids\_\_\_ attached estimates\_\_\_

attached list of colors to be used\_\_\_ attached photographs (jpgs) of proposed project site\_\_\_

## Applicant's Signature & Date:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## DATES TO REMEMBER AFTER FINAL APPROVAL:

- Work must commence within sixty (60) days
- Work must be completed within six (6) months

## Box Reserved for SWD BOARD ONLY

Recommended: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Rejected

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Business Improvement Grant

# Agreement



email or send this completed form with all required items by

**12PM (noon) on the**

**FIRST BUSINESS DAY OF THE MONTH**

**Grant1@SWDistrict.org or send to**

**Southwest District Office**

**PO Box 22167 Houston, TX 77227**

## REMEMBER AFTER FINAL APPROVAL:

**Work must commence within sixty (60) days and be completed within six (6) months**

I (applicant name)\_\_\_\_\_ have met with (names) \_\_\_\_\_

and understand the SWD *Business Improvement Grant* program. I will utilize these funds for the renovation project(s) in support of the SWD revitalization efforts. I have not received, nor will I receive, insurance monies for this revitalization project. I also understand that the intentional deception or misuse of this program for financial gain is fraud and will be reported to authorities.

I understand that if I am awarded a *Business Improvement Grant*, any deviation from the approved project can result in withdrawal of the grant. Further, I understand the materials and processes involved, and have been given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the grant program. If the project site is altered for any reason within six (6) months of construction, I will be required to reimburse the SWD immediately for the full amount of any grant funds.

Should SWD find that grantee has not maintained the required commercial status of the property in accordance with the terms of this agreement or should SWD find that grantee has breached any other term of this agreement; the grantee agrees to repay all grant monies that have been disbursed by SWD to grantee as remedy for the default.

Repayment shall be made by grantee within 30 days of receipt of a written demand from SWD. Failure to timely repay the grant shall constitute a breach of this agreement.

## APPLICANT

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## BUILDING / PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE (if different from applicant)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SWD BOARD

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_