

Clean & Safe Downtown

Applications are still being accepted. A number of projects have already been chosen, but funds are still available. It is strongly advised that applicants be VDA members.

Established through a City of Vancouver Community Development Block Grant and in support of Vancouver's City Center Vision, qualifying businesses and property owners can apply for a cash loan and grant mix for facade improvements. Projects are designed to increase visibility into and out of street level space and include lighting.

Business Façade Improvement

Project Priorities for Façade Improvements will be limited to the portions of the building visible from the street and sidewalk and include:

- Lighting
- Painting
- Siding Restoration
- Windows and doors

Permits

Most projects will require a permit from the City of Vancouver. Contact Johnnie Hildreth at 360 487-7896 or johnnie.hildreth@cityofvancouver.us for additional information.

All repairs are subject to both state and local codes and regulations. Securing permits for selected projects is the responsibility of the selected contractor. Contractors will be required to include current Washington State sales tax (currently 8.2%) in their bids.

Light is a mandatory component of any project accepted for Clean and Safe Funding.

Funds can be used for lighting under awnings, inside display windows and on trees adjacent to the property, or on the storefront itself. Enhancements like these will foster a cleaner and safer downtown community. Additionally, projects accepted that have adjacent street trees will be asked to cooperate in the lighting of those trees by supplying power.

How Do I Apply?

The program is easy to apply for, with minimum red tape.

- Download and complete the application and mail it to the VDA Office.
- A panel will review all applications.
- If selected VDA will connect you with the City of Vancouver's CDBG program to get started.

Program Conditions:

- The building receiving facade improvements must be located within the project area.
- The improvements must be visible from the street.
- Proposed improvements must include a lighting component.

Financing: Please contact Peggy Sheehan at 487-7952 for details regarding financing and bidding. Email is peggy.sheehan@cityofvancouver.us

- The funding is half grant half loan. Loan amounts will vary but cannot exceed \$20,000 to a property owner or business owner.
- Generally the loan portion is a 3% amortized over the term of loan. The maximum term is 5 years.
- The loan is a lien against the property, if the property is sold or refinanced within five years, the loan amount is returned to the City.

Bidding:

- All projects require sealed bidding by the City of Vancouver.
- The City of Vancouver will develop the bid specifications which will be approved by the building and business owner.
- The project will require the use of state prevailing or federal prevailing wages; whichever is higher.

The Following Are Not Eligible:

- National franchises/ for-profit corporations with multiple locations outside of Vancouver, unless the corporation is headquartered in Vancouver.
- Buildings outside of the downtown block project area. [See project map](#)
- Government offices and agencies
- Properties primarily in residential use

To Find Out More:

Contact VDA Executive Director, Lee Rafferty

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