

**Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority
2015 Facade Improvement Grant Program**

The Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority (URA) Facade Improvement Grant Program provides a financial incentive for improving the facades of buildings within the Urban Renewal Area of Manitou Springs. The Urban Renewal area of Manitou Springs includes properties on the east end of Manitou Avenue from the east arch to the Highway 24 overpass. The goal is to improve the appearance of individual buildings, as well as the overall look of the business area.

Grants are available up to \$2000 of the total cost of an improvement project and must be matched by the applicant. Grants are for exterior improvements only and may be applied to a front, side, or rear facade, provided said facade faces a public street, public pedestrian way, or public parking area.

Grants are awarded based on the availability of funds. This is a pilot project of the Manitou Springs Urban Renewal Authority, based on a total allocation of \$10,000. This program is not retroactive. Facade improvements made prior to approval of an application will not be funded by this program.

Matching Requirement

The grant program requires the applicant to match at least 50% of the total project cost. Matching funds may be cash or in-kind contributions. In-kind matches may include services, materials and/or equipment documented in a letter from the donor and submitted with the grant application.

Eligible Applicants

Commercial and non-profit property owners or tenants within the targeted site area may apply for matching grants. Tenants are required to have written approval from property owners to participate in the program.

Application Process

Applications will be submitted to the Manitou Springs Planning Department, Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. When an application clearly meeting the criteria is submitted and includes all of the required information as determined by the Planning Director, the application will be approved. Applications requiring Board interpretation for approval will be presented to the Urban Renewal Authority Board for consideration at its next regular meeting.

Project Time Period

Applicants must submit a detailed project schedule with the grant applications.

Eligible Activities

- Exterior painting (colors appropriate to Manitou Springs)
- Restoring or improving exterior finishes, including masonry and wood
- Exterior door repair or replacement
- Window repair or replacement
- New or repaired signage
- New or repaired gutters and downspouts
- New or improved outdoor seating
- Repair of exterior cracks
- New or repaired external lighting
- New or repaired flower boxes or pots
- Awnings or canopies
- Landscape materials, where applicable
- Other site improvements which are determined to improve the public realm

If any proposed improvement is deemed inappropriate (loud or garish colors, inconsistent with public safety, offensive or in bad taste) the Urban Renewal Authority reserves the right to not fund any such application.

Additional Requirements

While not an historic preservation program, properties within the Historic District will be required to comply with applicable Historic District Design Guidelines.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

Disbursement of grant funds will be made upon completion of the project and submission of all receipts to the Manitou Springs Planning Department and approval thereof.