

TAMPACRA

COMMERCIAL DESIGN GRANT





Overview

The goal of the Commercial Design Grant is to reduce the barriers of upfront development costs faced by owners who ultimately deliver completed projects, as defined in the Grants & Funding Policy Section II.2.1, of properties within the City of Tampa's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Redevelopment Areas by encouraging the use of design guidelines and incentivizing small to medium scale improvement projects (total project cost at or under \$750,000). It is designed to increase property values by encouraging improvements that exceed the requirements of the City Code of Ordinances and spur private investment within the Redevelopment Areas.

The grant is a non-matching grant providing 100% funding of eligible services cost for eligible projects up to a maximum of 20% of the overall project budget, not to exceed \$150,000. The Commercial Design Grant will foster retained development activity and property activation by helping property owners determine the scope and feasibility of proposed improvement projects. However, these Commercial Design Grants must be fully repaid to the CRA if: 1) within twenty-four (24) months of the design completion, an approved redevelopment project has not been approved and commenced before that date; or 2) if an approved redevelopment project has been found in default of its completion date by the CRA, and the project has been terminated by the CRA. The terms of repayment of Commercial Design Grants found to be in default under this provision is within thirty (30) months of the date the CRA finds that the terms of the Commercial Design Grant are in default.

What can the grant pay for: This is a 100% direct pay grant for technical assistance, consulting, design and engineering services to assist in planning for aesthetic development improvements and preparation of construction and permit ready documents including, but not limited to, site plans, construction plans, etcetera. All services will be provided by pre-qualified firms contracted directly by the CRA.

Who Can Apply:

Property or business owners, who hold a commercial lease, within CRA area boundaries. The property owner(s) must execute a Grant Agreement and Restrictive Covenants applicable to the maintenance of the improvements and future use of the property for a period of five (5) years commencing upon the disbursement of the grant funds. The Restrictive Covenants will be recorded in the Public Records of Hillsborough County.

- No applicant, owner or lessee may have more than one active Commercial Design Grant at any time.

How to apply:

Prospective applicants must schedule a pre-application meeting with the Economic Development Division prior to submitting a grant application. Appointments may be requested by calling (813) 274-8325 or by submitting an online request on the CRA website

(<https://www.tampa.gov/cras/community-redevelopment-areas>). **No grant application shall be accepted for review until after a successful pre-application meeting with the Economic Development Division has occurred.**



Applicant/Property Eligibility

1. Project site must be located within the boundaries of a Redevelopment Area.
2. Applicant, property owner(s) and property must be current with all mortgages, business and property taxes.
3. The site's current and future use must be allowable by the City's current Code of Ordinances.
4. Business owners (tenants) applying on their landlord's behalf must submit an Owner's Affidavit executed by all owners with their completed application (affidavit will be provided at the preapplication meeting).
5. Mixed-use buildings, considered 'storefront/residential' per City Code, must include a floor area of commercial use equivalent to at least 20% of at least one story.
6. Project must require the development of signed and sealed plans by a licensed professional and the issuance of building permits from the City of Tampa.
7. Applicants are eligible for one Commercial Design Grant per location.



Ineligible Applicants/Properties

1. Properties not located within a CRA.
2. Governmental entities and non-tax-generating properties. In the event the property is sold or transferred to a governmental or tax exempt entity within five years of the disbursement of grant funds, the grant recipient shall reimburse the CRA the grant award as outlined in section II.1.1 of the Grants & Funding Policy.
3. Single-Family Residential, Multi-Family developments and Mixed-Use Commercial with less than 20% commercial use in a single-story.
4. Design of interior only projects unless improvements address interior code non-compliance or violations.
5. New construction unless to support ADA required improvements except as allowed under Florida Statute Chapter 163.370(2).
6. Properties in foreclosure, delinquent on mortgages, or delinquent in business taxes and property taxes.
7. Adult Uses, bars, lounges and nightclubs as defined by the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances.
8. Projects commenced prior to review and approval of the grant request by the CRA.

The CRA reserves the right to deny funding to Applicants in its sole and absolute discretion including Applicants delinquent on payments of City fines or fees, Applicants with unresolved Code Enforcement issues that will not be resolved with the proposed project and Applicants in default of the terms of a CRA grant award.

Application Requirements

1. Completed/Executed Application Form
2. Proof of Ownership
 - Recorded warranty deed.
 - If tenant: executed commercial lease between the property owner(s) and the business owner(s) and an executed Owner's Affidavit.
 - If Applicant is a corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company: Sunbiz information evidencing that the entity is active and listing the registered agent and authorized persons for that entity.
3. Consent to Restrictive Covenants.
4. Selection of Architectural and/or Engineering Firm from the list provided by CRA staff based on the firm's availability and expertise.
5. Digital photographs of the existing building (exterior/interior) and the proposed project area.
6. Photographs of favorite architectural style.
7. Project Budget Amount.

All CRA grants, with the exception of Special Projects Grants, may be stacked, up to a maximum of three grants. A single expense will only be reimbursed from a single grant.

Scope of Services

Through contracts that the City of Tampa/CRA has with consulting, engineering and architectural design firms, eligible property owners will receive the following services:

1. The selected consultant will help to explore possible uses permitted on the applicant's property.
2. The selected consultant will provide in-person consultations, with the owner, to evaluate the project (discuss needs, desires and possible overall budget). The assigned Economic Development Specialist must be present at all meetings.
 - The number of consultations will be determined by CRA Staff based on the complexity of the project, but all projects will have a minimum of two one-hour consultations.
3. After the consultations, the consultant will provide:
 - Rendering concept of building elevation showing suggested changes, preliminary colors and possible signage.
 - Conceptual project site layout
 - Proposed overall project scope
 - Preliminary project budget

The selected consultant or additional consultants may provide the following additional services as required:

1. Schematic Project Designs
2. Detailed Design Development (basic services for architectural/structural/mechanical/electrical/plumbing/security/IT)
3. Landscaping, civil, site control planning (surveying will be determined by project scope of services)
4. Working Construction Drawings (for final revisions).
5. Permit Ready Construction Documents (signed and sealed by a registered architect or other applicable professional).



Process

Grants will be awarded on a first-qualified, first-awarded basis while fiscal year funds are available. Applicants may utilize the maximum allowable grant across each Redevelopment Area. Any work, including pulling permits, must begin after the issuance of a Finding of Project Completion is issued. Failure to follow the process will render your application ineligible for grant funding.

Approved grant requests will require:

1. Execution of a Grant Agreement within 10 business days after it has been provided to the Applicant for execution, and prior to obtaining permits and commencing any work to be funded by the grant.
2. Granting reasonable access to all documents pertaining to the planning, construction and financing of the project as may be reasonably required to assure compliance with the terms of the Grant Agreement.
3. Granting the CRA ownership and right of use of all work-products and plans produced from the grant funds.

CRA staff will provide an application, and any other necessary forms, following a successful preapplication meeting. Within ten (10) business days of application receipt, CRA staff will review applications for completeness and accuracy and notify the applicant regarding any deficiencies or issues with the application; additional information may be requested. Applications are considered submitted once all required documents have been received. Incomplete applications will only be held open for a maximum of 60 days after initial submission. After 60 days, if the application remains incomplete, it will be withdrawn by staff. Thereafter, an Applicant will have to reapply for a grant by submitting an entirely new grant application for the project, including any documents originally submitted by the applicant in connection with its initial application.

The CRA will issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) prior to the start of each phase of the Commercial Design process. If the project scope changes to the extent it no longer qualifies for CRA funding, staff reserves the right to terminate the grant and the amount provided to the Grantee will be immediately repayable to the CRA. The CRA will be the

owner of any plans, documents, permit applications or work product of any kind or nature produced and paid for from a Commercial Design Grant from the CRA (“Commercial Design Work Product”). The Owner/Applicant will have a revocable license from the CRA to use the Commercial Design Work Product in connection with the development of the property subject to the Commercial Design Grant. This license may be revoked if: (a) an owner or applicant fails to develop the awarded property subject to the Commercial Design Grant within a time-frame prescribed by the CRA in any agreement for the Commercial Design Grant; or (b) if the property is developed for a non-commercial purpose or for a “bar”, “tavern”, “lounge” or business involving the sale of alcohol or an “adult use” as those terms are defined in the City’s Land Development Code.





Selection Criteria

CRA staff shall review all complete applications and score them based on the grant award criteria and issue an approval or denial letter.

Scoring Criteria

Criteria	Points
Areas of Improvement	25 total maximum points
Façade, Interior or Site Only	10
2 or more	25
Location	25 total maximum points
Collector Roadways	5
Arterial Roadways	10
Corner Property	15
Historic Preservation	10 total maximum points
Historically Contributing Structure	10
Potential Enhancement	40 total maximum points
Building with Limited Site Area	10
Cultural or Historic Significance	15
Public Benefit	15
Bonus Points	55 total maximum points
Horizontal Mixed Use	5
Legacy Property Owner	5
Preservation of buildings 50 years or older	5
Utilizing Commercial Exterior & Interior Grants	10
Using a certified SLBE Contractor	15
Vertical Mixed Use	15
	100 points total (before bonus)

Applications must score at least 60 out of 100 points to be approved. Applications that score less than 60 points shall be denied. Written notification of the approval or denial shall be provided. Applications that are denied may be appealed (see section II.3.9 of the Grants & Funding Policy) to the CRA Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The applicant shall be notified in writing of the Board's decision within five business days.

Disbursement of Funds

The CRA will issue payment directly to the professional firm upon receipt of all invoices. Final payment will be issued to the professional firm upon a finding of project completion. Finding of project completion will be made once the CRA has received and reviewed the following items:

1. Written notification that the project is complete.
2. Copies of all deliverables as outlined in the scope of work.
3. Itemized invoice for payment from the professional service firm

Grant funds are provided at the discretion of the CRA Board and the findings within the recommendation do not create an entitlement to funding.

TAMPACRA

**Request a Commercial
Grants Pre-Application
Meeting**



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(813) 274-8325



tampa.gov/CRAs

The Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency prides itself in working closely with residents, local businesses, community stakeholders, and the private sector to be a leader in redeveloping and sustaining all communities located within our CRA boundaries.

JUNE 2026