



Beautification Grant Program

Selah Downtown Association (SDA) launched the first annual Downtown Beautification Grant Program in 2017. SDA invites any downtown building or business owner or community group to apply for matching grant funds for beautification projects and improvements in downtown Selah.

SDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and member of the Washington State Main Street Program. SDA's mission is to develop and promote downtown Selah as the community's social, cultural and economic center. The Downtown Beautification Grant Program is administered by the SDA Design Committee in order to enhance the appearance of the downtown district.

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply?
 - a. The Downtown Beautification Grant Program (hereinafter "grant program") is open to building owners, business owners and 501(c)(3) non-profits organizations (hereinafter "applicants") for costs associated with beautification projects. Preference is given to businesses in the "First Street Corridor," between Selah Avenue and Fremont Avenue, extending west to 3rd Street and east to Jim Clements/Wenas.
 - b. If a property is owned, leased or currently under contract by a party other than the applicant, all parties included on the deed, lease or contract must agree in writing to the proposed project.
 - c. Applicants may apply for grant funding for projects at multiple downtown locations.
 - d. Applicants who have already started projects 30 days prior to the grant application deadline filing period may be grandfathered into applying. Receipts must be dated within that window frame. Completing or starting your project early however does not guarantee that you will be awarded the funds.
2. What type of projects are eligible to receive grant funding?
 - a. Projects intended to permanently improve the outward appearance of a building or other area in downtown Selah visible from the public right-of-way will be considered.
 - b. Eligible projects may include building design improvements, landscaping, painting, the restoration of buildings or other public spaces, murals, public art installations, or similar projects. Business sign improvements will not be considered.

Grant Funds Available

1. The total amount of funding available through the grant program will be determined on an annual basis by SDA and may fluctuate from year to year. Funding may be awarded to multiple applicants.
2. Applicants may receive funding through the grant program up to 50% (matching) of approved project costs to an amount awarded not to exceed \$5,000.00. The most common amount awarded to a single applicant through the grant program will be \$1,000.00.

Requirements

1. The applicant has 30 days from the date of acceptance of the grant award to commence work on the approved project.
2. Projects must be completed within 90 days from the date of the award of funding. SDA may choose to withdraw funding from projects not completed within 90 days, in which case the applicant would forfeit any right to reimbursement for project expenses. Project extensions will not be considered except in extraordinary circumstances and when such extension is requested formally and in writing.

3. Any changes in the project plan without written approval from the SDA Design Committee renders the award void. In such a case, the applicant forfeits any right to reimbursement for project expenses and bears the full cost of the project.
4. All construction materials, design features and other items or products associated with the project must be delivered to the project site, i.e. the physical location of the building or business receiving grant funding, in downtown Selah.

Application Period & Schedule

1. The grant program application deadline is **Sunday, March 31st**. Applications and required documentation may be emailed to selahdowntownassociation@gmail.com, or mailed or delivered to: Selah Downtown Association, 8 N. 1st, Selah, WA 98942. Applications will be reviewed by the SDA Design Committee on April 5th, and all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within a week after.
2. Application process:
 - a. Applicants are encouraged to contact SDA to discuss project details prior to submitting a grant application.
 - b. After the application period closes, the SDA Design Committee will make a final decision on the number of grants and amount of funding awarded to selected projects. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application no later than April 12, 2024.
 - c. Successful applicants must sign a final Program Agreement Form that includes the amount of funding awarded.
 - d. Within 15 days of completion, applicants must submit photographs of the project, including "before" and "after" photographs, as well as photographs documenting the project at various stages of work. Photographs may be submitted by email to selahdowntownassociation@gmail.com.
 - e. Within 15 days of completion, applicants must submit copies of all receipts associated with the project to confirm payment of project expenses. The Design Committee will review the receipts and make a recommendation for payment of the approved amount of funding to the SDA board of directors.
 - f. Upon approval by the SDA board of directors, a reimbursement check will be presented to the applicant equal to 50% of the approved project expenses up to the amount of funding awarded. The reimbursement check will be addressed to the applicant(s) named on the grant application form and presented in person.
 - g. SDA, by and through the Design Committee, is responsible for administering the grant program. SDA is solely responsible for overseeing the review of all applications, awarding grants, and authorizing the final disbursement of funding to selected applicants assuming their compliance with the rules and regulations stated herein.

Application Requirements

The complete application package submitted for consideration must include the following forms and documents:

1. Completed Downtown Beautification Grant Program application form
2. A detailed description of the proposed project and intended impact.
3. "Before" photographs of the building, business or area of the proposed project.
4. Cost estimates of materials needed. 3 different contractor bids are encouraged.
5. Bank statement or balance sheet from the bank to show funds available for the project.