

PRESS RELEASE

# New Façade Grant Program Created for Jacksonville

September 21, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jacksonville, AL.** –The Commercial Development Authority of the City of Jacksonville is pleased to announce the release of grant funds to assist in the restoration, renovation, and repair of commercial buildings in the Public Square Overlay District of Jacksonville. The Façade Improvement Grant Program aims to encourage private investment in the visual improvement of commercial storefronts, signs, and awnings, while restoring the original character of historic buildings and providing a catalyst for others to improve the visual appearance of their privately owned buildings. Storefront façade improvements can include, but are not limited to: signage and awnings; restoration of doors, windows, chimneys; storefront or façade rehabilitation; painting; and accessibility improvements.

The program eligible boundaries in the Overlay District include commercial properties within the boundaries of Church Avenue and Gayle Avenue as well as College Street and Coffee Street in the City's Public Square area.

Funding for the current program year will be made available to interested grant applicants on a competitive selection basis. Grant funds may be used to reimburse program participants for the costs of improving the exterior of their owned or occupied commercial building up to a maximum award of \$5,000 for each project. There are two types of grants available. Base grants for projects up to \$2,500 do not require private matching funds for program participation. Matching grants of up to \$2,500 are also available if the participant contributes their own funds to the project. Participants may apply for one of each type of grant for their project. Participants who maximize the potential of this program could have a total of \$7,500 put towards their projects (\$5,000 in grants and \$2,500 in private funds).

*"This is the first initiative that we wanted to make available to our community as we start exploring our options for stimulating commercial growth in the City of Jacksonville. The Façade Improvement Grant Program uses CDA funds, along with private dollars from business and property owners, to make economic development investments that assist in creating an even better downtown experience for residents and visitors alike,"* said Kim McCutcheon, Chairperson of the city's newly appointed Commercial Development Authority. *"The grant program has so much potential to renew a major focal point of our city. The CDA is excited to partner with downtown business and property owners to make their business visions become a reality."*

Property owners and business tenants are encouraged to apply with the Commercial Development Authority of the City of Jacksonville to take advantage of the opportunity to improve the visual appearance of their building and continue the overall effort to revitalize the Public Square Overlay District in the city.

An informational workshop will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., **300 Church Ave SE, Jacksonville, AL**. Applications may be picked up at City Hall or downloaded from the Commercial Development Authority's web page at (<http://www.jacksonville-al.org/commercial-development-authority-1/>). Interested parties can contact the City of Jacksonville at 256-435-7611.

**CONTACT:**

Kimberly McCutcheon, CDA Chairperson  
256-776-7769