Signage/Façade Program

BACKGROUND:

The Signage/Façade Grant program is developed by the City of Marcus in conjunction with the Marcus Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO).

PROGRAM PURPOSE:

This grant program was created to encourage private investment in facades and signs by providing financial incentives. Historically sensitive rehabilitation and dramatic improvement of facades and signs in Marcus will encourage good design that will serve as quality examples to preserve the architectural character that is distinctive to Marcus. By improving the appearance of the building facades and signage the Program helps to improve the economic viability of our business areas, both on Main Street and in the Business Park.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

This program is funded by the City of Marcus and MEDCO. The number of projects receiving grants in a fiscal year is based on program budget, with a new funding cycle beginning July 1st. Grants will be awarded on a first approved, first funded.

PROGRAM PROCESS:

Applications are submitted to the Marcus Business Signage/Façade Program Design Committee for initial review. The Design Committee will then recommend projects to the Marcus City Council, who makes all final grant funding approvals.

PROGRAM TARGET AREA:

The target area for the Marcus signage/Façade Incentive Grant Program is for any new or existing Marcus Business District owner wanting to improve their business appearance thru façade/signage updating.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

1. Owners of commercial buildings in the Marcus Business Districts, used for commercial purposes, and conforming to zoning use are eligible to apply for grant funds.
2. Applications for projects must be approved by the Committee prior to commencement of rehab work. Any application submitted after work has begun will be ineligible to receive a grant.
3. Tenants of eligible buildings may request grant funds if they submit a notarized letter of permission from the property owner with their application.
4. No building shall receive more than one grant in any three year period unless applicant has been pre-approved for a phased project.

ELIGIBLE GRANT PROJECTS:

1. Exterior brick or wall surface cleaning.
2. Re-pointing of brick mortar joints.
3. Patching and re-painting of façade walls.
4. Window and/or door repair or replacement.
5. Cornice repair or appropriate replacement.
6. Areas to be considered in signage Projects include but are not limited to: size, color, shape, content, should complement the building and add the overall look of the area.

FUNDING GUILDLINES:

1. Grants will reimburse 50% of eligible project costs up to the following maximums:

FAÇADE $1000.00

SIGNAGE $500.00

1. All rehabilitation projects must meet City of Marcus zoning and building codes.
2. Any grant for surface cleaning must ensure that gentlest means of cleaning is used and environmental permits are obtained if lead-based paints or paint materials are to be discharged down the City’s Storm Sewer.
3. Projects funded by the Grant program must be completed within one year of application approval date.
4. All applicants must have all real estate taxes paid to date.
5. It is recommended that applicants be member in good standing with the Marcus Chamber.

No grant funds will be released until 100% of the approved façade or signage work is done and in place. A final inspection will be performed to show that this work is satisfactorily completed. This grant is awarded on a reimbursement basis with funds released upon provision of adequate proof of payments to contractors and waivers of lien.