

## **Laurel Main Street Façade Grant Overview**

Laurel Main Street's mission to revitalize Downtown Laurel, Mississippi includes helping improve the visual appeal of the buildings within the Central Business District (CBD), bounded at the north by 5th St., south by Carroll Gartin Boulevard, east by Front Street and west by Leontyne Price Boulevard.

The Façade & Amenities Grant Program will provide awards up to \$5,000.00 per project for exterior improvements to buildings within Downtown Laurel. The improvements include: store signage, lighting, awnings, windows, building fronts, entries, planters, and other expenditures. The Laurel Main Street Façade Grant Program reimburses the building or business owner, so all awards are given once the project is completed and final receipts submitted.

*Laurel Main Street also intends to increase awareness of federal historic tax credits for commercial rehabilitation projects, so, if you think you might be eligible, contact **Todd Sanders** at Mississippi Archives and History at **(601) 576-6950**.*

### **Here's some things to know before you begin:**

1. All Laurel Main Street Façade Grant projects shall be for properties within the CBD. The basis for awards shall be first come, first served with priority given to those projects that have a significant visual and economic impact and that show dedication to preservation of the historic integrity of the building.
2. Applicants must be current members of Laurel Main Street at the Business Level or above.
3. Grants are awarded after the project is completed and final receipts are submitted, so funds cannot be used for the refinance of existing loans, working capital, or for purchase of inventory or interior beforehand.
4. Grants will be made to a maximum of \$5,000.00, matching \$1.00 to every \$2.00 invested by the applicant. So, if you spend \$3, we'll give you \$1 back.
5. Because funds are limited, the LMS Board will show considerable preference to applicants who secure adequate capital for the total project cost BEFORE the start of the improvements and submit documentation in writing to Laurel Main Street that demonstrates this.
6. The grant does not need to be paid back.
7. Approved projects shall be underway within 60 days of contract execution and shall be completed within (4) months of the contract date.
8. All projects shall be done by contractors who meet all licensing requirements of the City of Laurel. Project owners and/or contractors shall acquire all necessary permits.

## **Let's Get Started: Your Step by Step Guide to Applying**

1. If the building is in the historic district or a designated historic structure, the Historic Commission must approve the plan prior to beginning the project. A permit for any permanent signage must be secured from the City Inspection Office.
2. Meet with the Laurel Main Street Executive Director to view the proposed project and discuss preliminary plans.
3. Submit the following print documents and information to Laurel Main Street for review:
  - a. Complete plans and specifications – Laurel Main Street reserves the right to require plans and specifications to be prepared by an architect for structural improvements.
  - b. Cost estimate
  - c. Proof of insurance
  - d. Proof of ownership – If applicant is not the owner, written approval of the building owner must be sent to Laurel Main Street.
  - e. Completed application and consent form by property owner and tenant (if applicable).
  - f. Current photographs of building's exterior
4. After this, the application goes to the Design Committee for preliminary approval. Should the design be rejected, the committee will suggest changes or improvements. If the applicant complies with the changes, the design will be submitted to the LMS Board.
5. Approval of the application is left to the sole discretion of the Laurel Main Street Board; there is no guarantee of approval.
6. Pending Board approval, move forward with the proposed improvements and notify Laurel Main Street upon completion of work.
7. Submit receipts of eligible costs paid by the applicant and photograph(s) of the completed project.
8. Laurel Main Street will inspect the improvements. Upon approval of the work performed, a check will be drawn for payment of eligible costs.

# LAUREL MAIN STREET FAÇADE GRANT APPLICATION

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone / Fax Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

Description of work to be done (attach detailed work descriptions, plans and photos)

---

---

---

---

Total cost of work \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be paid by owner/tenant \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am the owner of the above property, have read and will comply with Laurel Main Street's Façade Grant Program's requirements, guidelines and procedures and understand that I will not be reimbursed for the work on this property until the project is completed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner/Tenant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Mailing Address of Owner (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

FOR LAUREL MAIN STREET USE:

Application received date: \_\_\_\_\_

Laurel Main Street Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Laurel Main Street suggestions:

Project approved by:

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Main Street Board President: \_\_\_\_\_

Final payment date: \_\_\_\_\_ Final amount: \_\_\_\_\_



## Community Façade Grant Program - Laurel

**Purpose:** Encourage existing property owners and tenants to upgrade the facades of buildings facing public streets. Enhancements of building exteriors increase property values and improve the overall appearance of the community, making it more attractive to consumers and investors.

**Program:** Grants will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis for amounts up to \$1500. Priority may be given to those projects with significant economic impact.

### Eligibility:

- Building must be in Mississippi Power service territory, with electric service provided by Mississippi Power (MPC)
- Building must be located within Laurel city limits
- Applicant must have current business license, operating a retail business, restaurant, service company, or offices, and employ fewer than 50 people
- Improvements must begin within 30 days of receipt of grant payment and be complete within one year of receipt of grant payment
- If applicant is not the building owner, he/she must have written permission from the building owner, signed and notarized
- Applicant must comply with all state and local laws and regulations pertaining to licensing and permits.

### Application Process:

- Complete Community Façade Grant Program Application in its entirety
- Attach supporting documents, including copy of business license, estimate(s) for work to be performed, detailed description of improvements to be made, and current photograph(s) of the façade to be improved
- Submit to Laurel Main Street (LMS) by email at [judi@laurelmainstreet.com](mailto:judi@laurelmainstreet.com) or deliver to 409 Oak Street, Suite 204, Laurel, MS 39440
- Application for the grant gives permission for LMS and/or Mississippi Power staff to visit the business for evaluation
- The application must be approved by the Laurel Main Street Design Committee
- The decision of the grant committee will be final
- The grant recipient will photograph their business before and after the project is completed for the purpose of documenting grant expenditures. These photographs will be provided to LMS and MPC and may be used without restriction.

### Community Façade Grant Program Policy

The grant committee will determine eligibility of all applicants. Grants are awarded at the discretion of the committee. If approved, applicants understand that all work performed is subject to development standards, building and property codes, and permit requirements.

Applicant agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Laurel Main Street and Mississippi Power, its successors and assigns from and against any and all third party claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, including reasonable legal fees and expenses arising out of or related to Recipient's use of the grant funds and any other obligations and representations under this Agreement.



# Laurel, MS Community Façade Grant Program Application

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City, State Zip Code

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City, State Zip Code

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired Façade Improvements:** Describe improvements in detail. Photographs, sketches, and additional pages may be attached. Your estimated total project budget must be included, along with a copy of your business license.

**Examples:**

- Overall Cleaning
- Awnings
- Signage
- Lighting
- Ornamental Elements
- Painting
- General Maintenance

---



---



---



---

By submitting this application, I, the undersigned, certify that the information in this application is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree to begin work within 30 days of receiving the grant payment and to provide photographs of the completed work to Laurel Main Street within 30 days of completion. Above improvements shall be completed within one year from receipt of grant payment. Failure to meet these terms will result in forfeiture of the grant.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_