

CITY OF NEW LONDON
Downtown Retail Business District
~ 2024 Building Façade Improvement Grant Program ~
\$4,000 Maximum Grant Funding
Updated: February 2024

INITIAL GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE: FRIDAY, MARCH 29th, 2024 AT 11:00 AM

INTRODUCTION

The Building Improvement Grant Program has been established by the City of New London and may be utilized alone, in conjunction with the Waupaca County Economic Development Corporation, Retail Revolving Loan Fund Program or with any other private financing.

PURPOSE/MISSION

To improve the retail business climate, encourage the development and maintenance of buildings and improve the front and rear facing facades in downtown New London.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Property owners and businesses in downtown New London are eligible for up to \$4,000.00 in matching grant funds for exterior facade improvements made to their buildings. As a matching grant program, the City will reimburse the property owner for up to 50% of the expense, up to a maximum of \$4,000 (\$4,000 grant funds matched by \$4,000 private funds). The City reserves the right under this program to exceed the maximum grant amount of \$4,000 or number of grants in a year on a case-by-case basis. Grant applications are due by 11:00 am on the last Friday in March for the identified program year. Initial applications will be ranked with priority given to façade improvement projects that can be directly seen from the sidewalk and are located on the following streets as to encourage improvements with upcoming street reconstruction projects:

- North Water Street (between Shawano and Pearl),
- Pearl Street (between the Wolf River Bridge and Waupaca Street)
- State Street, Lincoln Court, St John's Place

Grant applicants are eligible for one grant within a five (5) year time frame, except for properties with an address on the above identified streets in correlation with street reconstruction project zones. Façade improvements must not conflict with public street or sidewalk construction efforts. Street/Sidewalk construction takes priority. If proposed façade work conflicts with any street construction work, grant award may not be approved or may be voided if previously awarded.

Initial grant awards will be announced by the end of April of program year. Other applicants can apply for any remaining funds for identified program year based on a first come first serve basis.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The Business Improvement Grant Program is available to any New London retail business property owner lying in the downtown district as indicated on the included eligibility map. The program is also available to tenants of such buildings given the property owners written consent.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Exterior Façade renovations
- Signage
- Awnings
- Code Enforcement
- Structural Exterior Repair
- Exterior Building Infrastructure (e.g. plumbing, electrical, roofing, cabling, etc.)
- Exterior Lighting
- Leasehold Improvements (requires consent of property owner)

PROCESS

- a. Applications and questions can be submitted to the following:

City of New London City Administrator's Office
215 Shawano Street, New London WI 54961
920.982.8500 x116

- b. Completed applications are reviewed by the City Administrator who has complete discretion over the program. The Finance and Personnel Committee or Economic Development Committee may be asked by the City Administrator for clarification of matters regarding implementation of the program at his discretion.
- c. The City will attempt to provide notification of approval/denial to the applicant by the end of April for the initial application process or within 30 days of applications received after the initial deadline. Note that the project must be approved PRIOR to any of the work taking place. The city will NOT allow backdating of grants for work performed before the grant is awarded.
- d. Appropriate documentation, such as invoices, must be submitted to the City for fund reimbursement upon completion of the project. **Note that all projects must be completed and reimbursement paperwork submitted by November 1st of the grant program year. Failure to submit complete reimbursement paperwork by this deadline may jeopardize grant payment.**

APPLICATIONS

- a. Letter of Intent, addressed to the City of New London, which should briefly outline the scope, size, intention, timeline and objective of the project in question.
- b. Completed Building Improvement Grant Program application form (attached)
- c. Completed Release of Information Letter (attached)

DESIGN GUIDELINES

All applicants shall utilize the design standards set forth below as guidelines for designing improvements to buildings located in the City of New London downtown area.

1. PURPOSE & INTENT

It is the general intent of the City to renovate, preserve and maintain properties in the City of New London through a process of design review in order to:

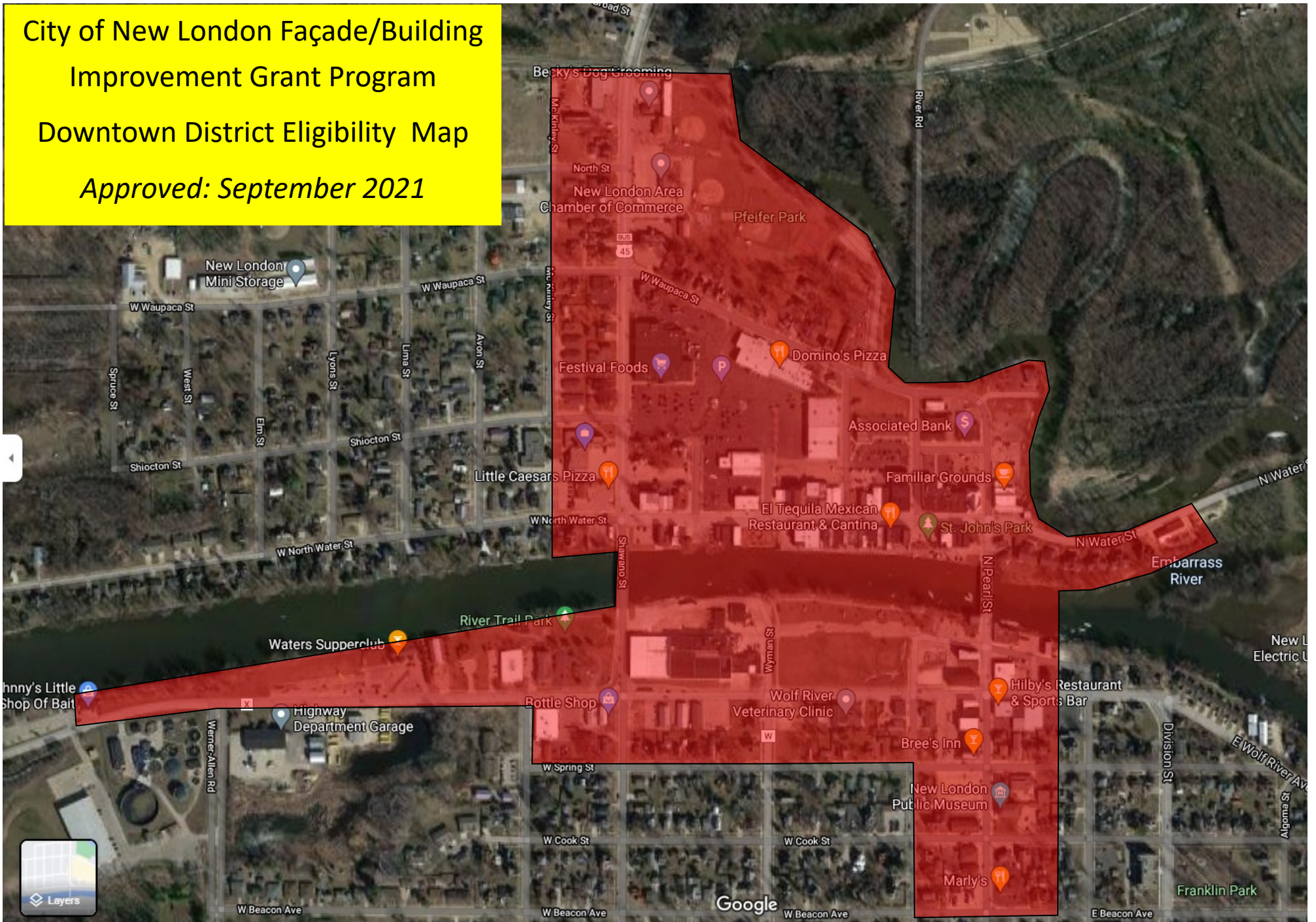
- Encourage urban design excellence
- Integrate urban design and preservation of New London's heritage into the process of redevelopment.
- Enhance the character of the New London business community.
- Improve the appearance of the downtown City properties.

2. APPLICABILITY

- *Context:* The facility is designed in a manner that is mindful of and complementary to the existing building and natural environment.
- *Harmony:* The facility uses materials, forms and colors that serve as unifying elements with the surrounding buildings and natural environment.
- *Compatibility:* The facility should be compatible with nearby buildings' architectural scale, color, rhythm and proportions.
- *Building Design:* All buildings shall be designed with attention and sensitivity to the historical, architectural and physical context in which they are located.
- *Facades:* Facades should exhibit rhythms similar to those found in adjacent structures.
- *Colors:* Color selection of exterior surfaces, materials and equipment should not detract from the surrounding area. Neon and fluorescent tones are discouraged.
- *Awnings:* If provided, they should be designed as an integral component of the building façade.
- *Signage:* Placement of signs shall not unduly obscure or interfere with sight lines to other properties. Signs should comply with City regulations, be architecturally compatible and contribute to the character of the area through the incorporation of tasteful presentations.
- *Historic preservation:* Preservation of unique historic or architectural landmarks is encouraged.

Note: All improvements, including signage, awnings, and lighting, must comply with all zoning and building code requirements of the City of New London. Contact the City Building Inspector at 920-982-8500, ext. 112 for assistance.

City of New London Façade/Building Improvement Grant Program
Downtown District Eligibility Map
Approved: September 2021



City of New London
~ Building Improvement Grant Program – Application ~

Applications missing any materials will be returned for completion.

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Name of Business/Property: _____

Property Address: _____

Property Use: _____

Property owner, if different than applicant: _____

Owner address: _____ Owner Phone: _____

Project Summary:

Brief Project Summary: _____

Total Project Cost: \$ _____

Total Grant Request: \$ _____
(50% of the Total, \$4,000 Maximum Grant)

Required attachments:

- Letter of Intent, addressed to the City, which should briefly outline the scope, size, intention, timeline and objective of the project in question.
- Release of Information Letter (attached)
- Current photo(s) of property
- Project plan(s), if applicable, drawn to 1/4-inch scale. I fully understand how this plan relates to my building and the work I am proposing to do and I will be in compliance with the design guidelines for the City of New London Building Improvement Grant Program and City Zoning regulations.
- Example Paint color(s) or material sample(s), if applicable

Submit application form and attachments to:

City of New London City Administrator's Office
215 Shawano Street, New London WI 54961

To be completed by City staff only:

Date application received: _____

Application reviewed for completeness by _____ (initials). Date: _____

City of New London
~ Building Improvement Grant Program - Release of Information Letter ~

Date: _____

To: City of New London City Administrator's Office
215 Shawano Street, New London, WI 54961

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby authorize the City of New London to share all application materials with City Council members who may be reviewing my application. I acknowledge that information provided to the City may be released upon request in compliance with open record laws.

Signed,

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____