



# Economic Recovery Program Guidelines

## Beautification & Patio Grant

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### Purpose

In the wake of economic hardship caused by COVID-19 and low oil prices, the City of Grande Prairie has developed the Beautification and Patio grant for building and streetscape improvement projects. The grant and the projects it creates are intended to act as an immediate economic driver by providing local employment and business for local trades and suppliers.

### The program will focus on beautification of the City, which will include the following components:

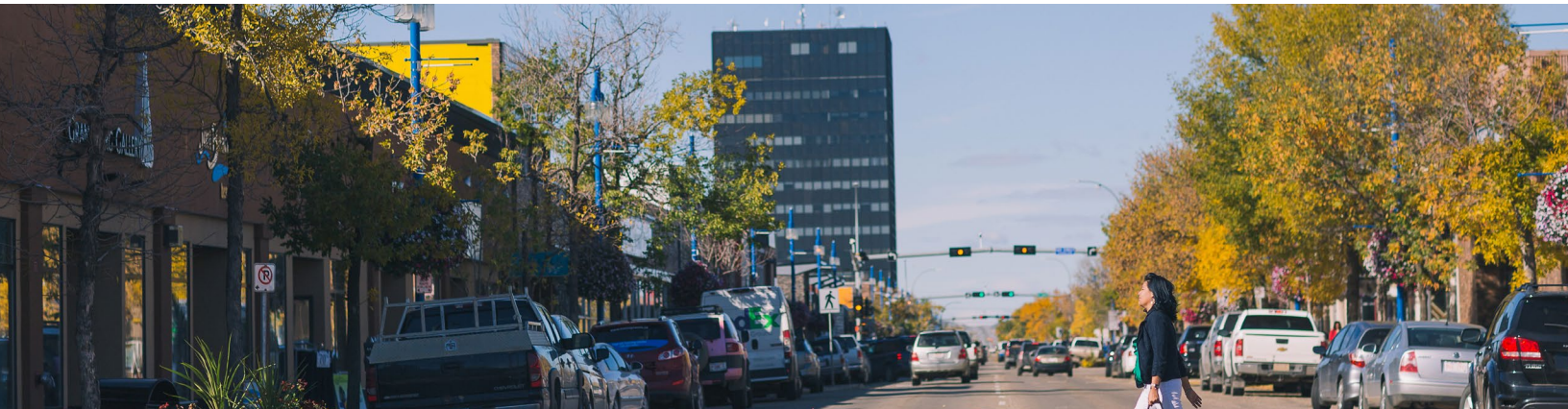
- Façade improvements to commercial businesses to improve aesthetic appeal, accessibility and safety;
- Landscaping to enhance the exterior of businesses; and
- Patios to create vibrancy by placing activities outside and connecting businesses to outdoor spaces.

Overall, the grant will allow business owners to enhance the appearance and impact of their building's frontage, contributing to the beautification and vibrancy of the city as well as providing an economic stimulus for local trades and suppliers.

### Program Funding

The Beautification & Patio Grant will pay 50% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of \$15,000 for Façade improvements, Landscaping and Patio projects. The grant will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis and will remain open until funding is allocated.





## Program Criteria

**Only projects that can meet the following criteria will be considered for a grant:**

- The project must be located within the municipal boundaries of the City of Grande Prairie;
- The property taxes for the property are current;
- Only work conducted on the first three storeys of the dwelling is eligible;
- Must not have applied to the Downtown Incentive Grant for the same/similar project within the last 3 years;
- Achieve a minimum of three (3) of the design goals outlined below; and
- All required information and documentation have been submitted with a completed application form.

**Applications must meet a minimum of three design goals in the following four categories:**

### 1. Innovative and Artistic Design

- Features Unique Architectural Elements
- Utilizes sustainable building design
- Incorporates Texture, Pattern, Shapes, Colours and Materials to Create a Unique Design
- Features a Public Art Element

### 2. Safety

- Territoriality
- Natural surveillance
- Lighting

### 3. Winter Conditions

- Maximizes sun exposure
- Provides Protection from Wind and Snow
- Provides Landscaping that has Colour and Texture in the Winter
- Uses slip resistant materials

### 4. Pedestrian Realm

- Building has connection to the pedestrian realm
- Colourful Greenery
- Accessibility
- Human scale design

## Eligible Costs

**Examples of eligible costs may include material and labour for the following:**

- Architectural & esthetic features
- Doors & windows
- Exterior lighting
- Signage
- Painting, siding or refinishing of exterior
- Landscaping
- Costs related to building/enhancing a patio

## Deadlines

Applications for the Beautification & Patio Grant will remain open until grant funding has been allocated.

## Requirements

Projects are required to meet all legal requirements including those in the Land Use Bylaw, Building Codes and any other applicable regulations. The applicant is required to arrange any necessary agreements with Engineering Services and the Transportation Department. The Applicant must meet all legal and legislative requirements prior to commencing construction. Applicants must determine property ownership for proposed project sites and obtain owner permission to complete the project prior to applying for funds.



### Application Process

#### HOW TO APPLY

1. (Optional) Meet with the Program Coordinator to discuss your project and the application process.
2. Prepare a design that meets all legal requirements and considers the program's Design Goals.
3. Submit a completed application along with project quotes to the Program Coordinator.

#### WHAT TO SUBMIT

- Completed Application Form**
- Preconstruction Photos** – Photos shall show the current site and its context including adjacent structures, roadways, sidewalks, and landscaping.
- Project Description** – A complete description of the project which will include how the design achieves the Design Goals.
- Project Drawings** – Drawings should show the proposed design. Construction drawings are acceptable.
- Project Quotes** – At least two separate quotes that indicate the cost of the project. (NOTE: Reimbursement will be based on the actual Project Costs)

#### THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Program Coordinator will bring completed applications to the Economic Recovery Program Committee for review. The Committee will review each application and vote to approve, approve with conditions or deny the application. Approval with conditions will be given in cases where the proposed project only requires minor changes to meet the program requirements. The Program Coordinator will notify applicants of the Committee's decision.

#### FUNDING DISBURSEMENT

1. The funding available for an applicant's project will be determined based on the quotes provided. The reimbursement amount will be based on actual Project Costs.
2. The Program Coordinator will prepare a Reimbursement Agreement that will indicate the terms of the grant. The agreement will be signed by the applicant and the City of Grande Prairie. Only work commenced after the agreement has been signed is eligible for reimbursement.
3. The applicant is required to obtain all necessary building permits, development permits and any others that apply to the project.
4. Once construction is complete, contact the Project Coordinator to arrange a post-project inspection.
5. Submit a letter requesting reimbursement including copies of all paid invoices.
6. The Program Coordinator will process the request and prepare a reimbursement cheque consistent with the terms of the Reimbursement Agreement.

## Appendix — Design Goals

The Design Goals are intended to be utilized as a toolkit and example of what the program’s priorities are. The goals are not meant to dictate style, but to indicate the type of projects the program intends to support and fund.

**Project must follow at least three of the following design goals in four broad categories:**

### Pedestrian Realm



*"Temple Bar, Dublin, Nov 2010" by Flickr user M. King. CC Attribution 2.0 License*

#### BUILDING HAS A CONNECTION TO THE PEDESTRIAN REALM

The building frontage is adjacent to the sidewalk and access is at ground-level. Pedestrians are able to easily access the building. There are no obstructions to the entrance, such as parking or stairs.

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*In this example, the building has a strong connection to the pedestrian realm. The entrance has unobstructed access from the sidewalk and there are benches built into the façade.*

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#### HUMAN SCALE DESIGN

The design features improve how the building is experienced from a pedestrian’s perspective. The façade includes stylistic variation, rather than large blank walls. The signage is designed to be appealing to people on the street, rather than super-sized for vehicles passing by.

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*This streetscape exemplifies human scale design. The first level of the buildings has a distinct appearance to create a distinct pedestrian level appearance. There is stylistic variation and no long monotonous faces. Further, the signing is designed to address pedestrians.*

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**Pedestrian Realm**



"kiwanja\_brighton\_shops\_10" by Flickr user Ken Banks. CC Attribution 2.0 License

**ACCESSIBILITY**

The design improves accessibility, such as by providing a ramp for access, providing an entrance wide enough to accommodate people with mobility devices or installing handrails. Some typical standards are: doors 915mm (3') or wider accommodate people with mobility aids, mats level with floor using mat sinkages to reduce tripping hazards and thresholds that are bevelled and no higher than 13mm (1/2") to allow wheelchairs to pass more easily. Refer to the Barrier-Free Design Guide at [safetycodes.ab.ca](http://safetycodes.ab.ca).

*The entrance to this shop is easily accessible. There is a ramp with a very gently slope to address the slight change in grade and the entrance is large enough to accommodate mobility aids.*



"P80500311-Westminster" by Flickr user Gail Frederick. CC Attribution 2.0 License

**COLOURFUL GREENERY**

The design incorporates greenery to add visual interest and colour. This can be achieved by using planters or by having planting beds, if there is sufficient space. Planters can provide a seasonal element, such as the added colour of flowers in the summer.

*The planters on the building above provide a variety of colour and create visual interest.*



**Public Safety**



"Bookmarc" by Flickr user Mike G. CC Attribution 2.0 License

**NATURAL SURVEILLANCE**

The design improves natural surveillance by allowing for a clear view from the interior to the exterior of the building. This can be achieved by incorporating larger windows and reducing obstructions to the line-of-sight. This discourages crimes by increasing the likelihood that someone will be able to see what is happening.

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*The large windows on the front of this shop allow people in the store to easily see out onto the sidewalk and allows people outside to see in. This discourages criminal activity as it increases the likelihood of witnesses.*

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"Ottolenghi" by Flickr user THOR. CC Attribution 2.0 License

**TERRITORIALITY**

Territoriality means using features to clearly differentiate between public, private and semi-private spaces. This discourages trespassers. It is more appropriate for uses with specific user groups, such as offices and residences. This can be achieved by using a different ground treatment to indicate private/semi-private space, using low fencing or vegetation to frame the space without obstructing visibility or by using a sign to indicate appropriate users.

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*The shop pictured above utilizes low fencing and vegetation to keep people from the display window. This reduces opportunities for vandalism by indicating a space where people aren't supposed to be. Appropriate user space is marked by the seating to the left of the entrance.*

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## Public Safety



### LIGHTING

The design features improved lighting, which eliminates dark areas where people could hide. This discourages crime by eliminating dark areas with poor visibility.

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*The restaurant in this photo utilizes lighting to improve public safety. The outdoor lighting illuminates the public realm and the increased visibility discourages crime. Further, lighting on the stairs reduces tripping hazards.*

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**Winter Conditions**



*"salonred kids" by Flickr user Lee Coursey. CC Attribution 2.0 License*

**MAXIMIZES SUN EXPOSURE**

The design reduces shadows on the pedestrian realm providing greater sun exposure. This can be achieved by removing large overhanging elements, such as awnings. This can also be done by reducing the height of the cornice line to allow for more sunlight on the opposite side of the street.

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*The business in the center maximizes sun exposure by limiting obstructions that would block sunlight from the sidewalk. It also allows more natural light into the coffee shop by using glass blocks along the top of the first level.*

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*"Nelsons – 21 Staithe Street, Wells-next-the-sea – Nelsons Coffee Shop Ltd" by Flickr user Elliott Brown. CC Attribution 2.0 License*

**PROVIDES PROTECTION FROM WIND AND SNOW**

The design features an alcove or space where pedestrians can take shelter from wind and snow temporarily. This will allow visitors to prepare for entering or leaving the business by knocking snow off their shoes, closing or opening an umbrella or similar activities. This can be achieved by providing alcoves or wind breaks. They should be designed in a way that does not obstruct visibility.

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*The storefront features an alcove where visitors can seek temporary refuge from the elements.*

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## Winter Conditions



*Snow2.Downtown.WDC.9dec05" by Flickr user Elvert Barnes. CC Attribution 2.0 License*

### PROVIDES LANDSCAPING THAT HAS COLOUR AND TEXTURE IN THE WINTER

The design incorporates vegetation that maintains its form and colour in the winter months. This can be achieved by using evergreens, rather than deciduous plants.

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*The planters in this picture contain shrubs that hold their colour in the winter months, adding to the façade's appearance all year round.*

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*"Non-Slip Sidewalk Tile" by Flickr user born1945. CC Attribution 2.0 License*

### USES SLIP-RESISTANT MATERIALS

The design utilizes slip-resistant materials to reduce hazards during wet or icy conditions. There are several non-slip options such as specially designed metal grating, ceramic tiles or concrete finishes. Many options are designed to withstand snow removal equipment.

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*The image above shows a slip-resistant tile that could be used to make an entrance safer in the winter conditions.*

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## Innovative and Artistic Design



### FEATURES UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

The design has elements that are distinct and set the building apart from typical designs. This can be done in a variety of ways such as a unique cornice line or distinctive trim.

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*The bakery in the picture above features unique architectural features such as its distinct cornice line and trim. The features work together to create an aesthetic theme of old-time America that matches the business' brand.*

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### UTILIZES SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN

The design incorporates sustainable practices to reduce the building's environmental impact. This can be achieved in a variety of ways. One example, is to use low impact materials. Another, is to incorporate a green-wall or a solar-wall. Businesses can also accommodate active transportation by providing bike racks.

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*This building features a green wall. It provides the environmental benefits of vegetation while helping to insulate the building and create visual interest.*

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## Innovative and Artistic Design



### INCORPORATES TEXTURE, PATTERN, SHAPES, COLOURS AND MATERIALS TO CREATE A UNIQUE DESIGN

The design utilizes texture, pattern, colour or material to create a distinct appearance. This can be done by using a combination of colour and pattern that creates visual interest, or by using materials in a creative way to create a distinct appearance. This can also be done by simply using several colours or materials.

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*The shopfront in the picture above uses a variety of colours to highlight architectural features and make the façade more interesting.*

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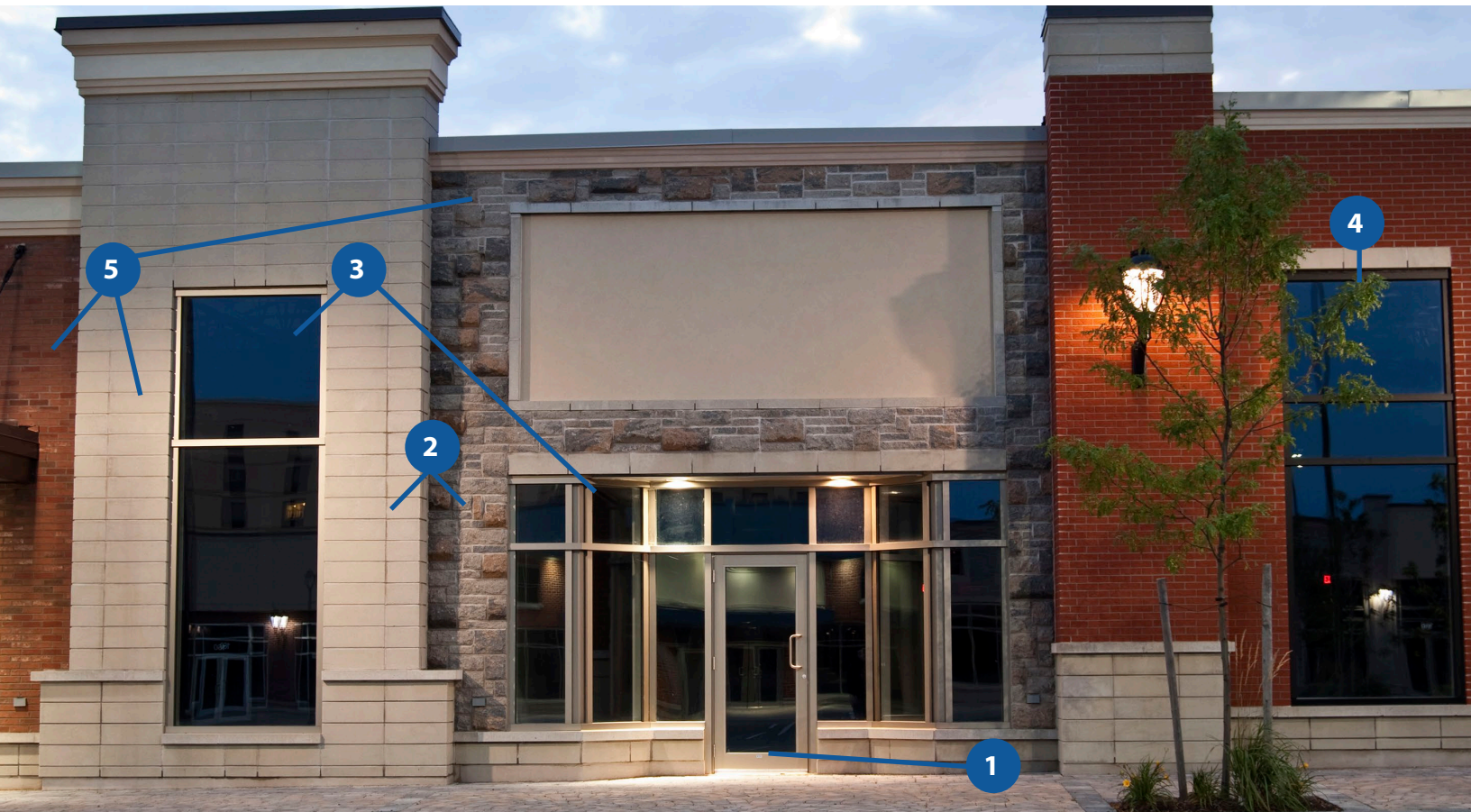
### FEATURES A PUBLIC ART ELEMENT

The project incorporates an element of public art such as a mural or sculpture. This is useful for creating visual interest on an otherwise blank wall. A mural or sculptural element could have the added effect of indicating the type of business.

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*The mural on this coffee shop makes the building more interesting and also gives passersby an indication of the type of business inside.*

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## Examples

### EXAMPLE 1

#### Example 1 achieves 5 of the Design Goals:

1. Connection to the pedestrian realm. The business has unobstructed access from the sidewalk at ground level.
2. Human scale design. The façade employs materials to create stylistic breaks to create stylistic diversity along a long building frontage.
3. Natural surveillance. Windows across the front provide visibility.
4. Maximizes sun exposure. The high windows maximize natural light. Also, the façade does not have excessive protrusion that would block sunlight.
5. Incorporates materials to create a unique design. The façade features a variety of materials in an attractive way that creates a distinct appearance.



## Examples

### EXAMPLE 2

#### Example 2 achieves 7 of the Design goals:

1. Connection to the pedestrian realm. The business has unobstructed access to the pedestrian realm at ground level.
2. Human scale design. It has a unique character at ground-level, has visual interest and provides human scale signage.
3. Greenery. The building has vegetation growing on the façade that provides colour.
4. Natural surveillance. The large windows allows patrons to see out onto the street.
5. Lighting. The business provides exterior lighting.
6. Maximizes sun exposure. The higher windows allow natural light to enter the space.
7. Incorporates colour and materials to create a unique design.