



FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Michigan Street Façade Improvement Program

OVERVIEW

A vibrant façade improvement program is one of the many tools' neighborhoods in Grand Rapids and across the country have used to stimulate and expand the economic vitality of local business districts.

The financial assistance program described below is intended to reimburse eligible business owners for façade upgrades or alterations to building exteriors.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Enhances the facades of commercial buildings in the Michigan Street CIA.

VISION

Make Michigan Street a destination within Grand Rapids that is celebrated for its vibrant diversity, culture, history, and charm.

MISSION

Promote Michigan Street's unique identity, and help businesses thrive.

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FUNDING

Approved projects are eligible for reimbursement of 100 percent of the total façade project cost up to **\$10,000**.

Projects with an overall façade budget of more than **\$40,000** can be approved for up to **\$20,000**.

In addition, up to **\$5,000** is available per project for professional architectural planning.

Funding is provided on a competitive basis.

EVALUATION

Any building located in the MI Street Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) boundary is eligible for the MI Street CIA Business Façade Improvement Program. Submitted applications will be evaluated to determine their ability to advance the goals of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Development Plan, with a specific focus on commercial buildings. The MI Street CIA will fund project elements and enhancements in addition to what is required by the City of Grand Rapids, and which are deemed to be privately owned.

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Applications will be reviewed by the Façade Committee appointed by the MI Street CIA board. The Façade Committee will recommend projects to the board for approval. On an annual basis, the MI Street CIA Board will review the Program Guidelines to determine if changes are required to meet the ever-evolving needs of MI Street.

REQUIREMENTS

- Property must be located within the Michigan Street CIA boundary (see page 7)
- Property must contain an active commercial business or be undergoing renovations for the opening of a business within six months
- Applicants must be current on City of Grand Rapids taxes and must not owe other City fees prior to filing an application

ELIGIBILITY

- The installation of a new façade
- Major enhancement to an existing façade

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- Business owners leasing space can apply with written permission from the property owner.
- Property should not be targeted for redevelopment.

General maintenance and upkeep of the existing exterior is NOT included in this program.

PROGRAM PROCESS

- Submit application with the required attachments
- CIA Façade Improvement Committee reviews applications to confirm project eligibility and make recommendations to the board
- Agreement executed following CIA Board approval
- Project completed
- Itemized Receipts and proof of payment provided by the applicant to the Corridor Manager
- Façade Improvement Committee presents an update to the CIA Board at the regular monthly meeting
- Reimbursement issued

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PROGRAM PROCESS (CONT'D)

Applications will be reviewed monthly by the Façade Improvement Committee.

Funding is provided on a competitive, first come, first served basis based on the CIA fiscal year and program budget.

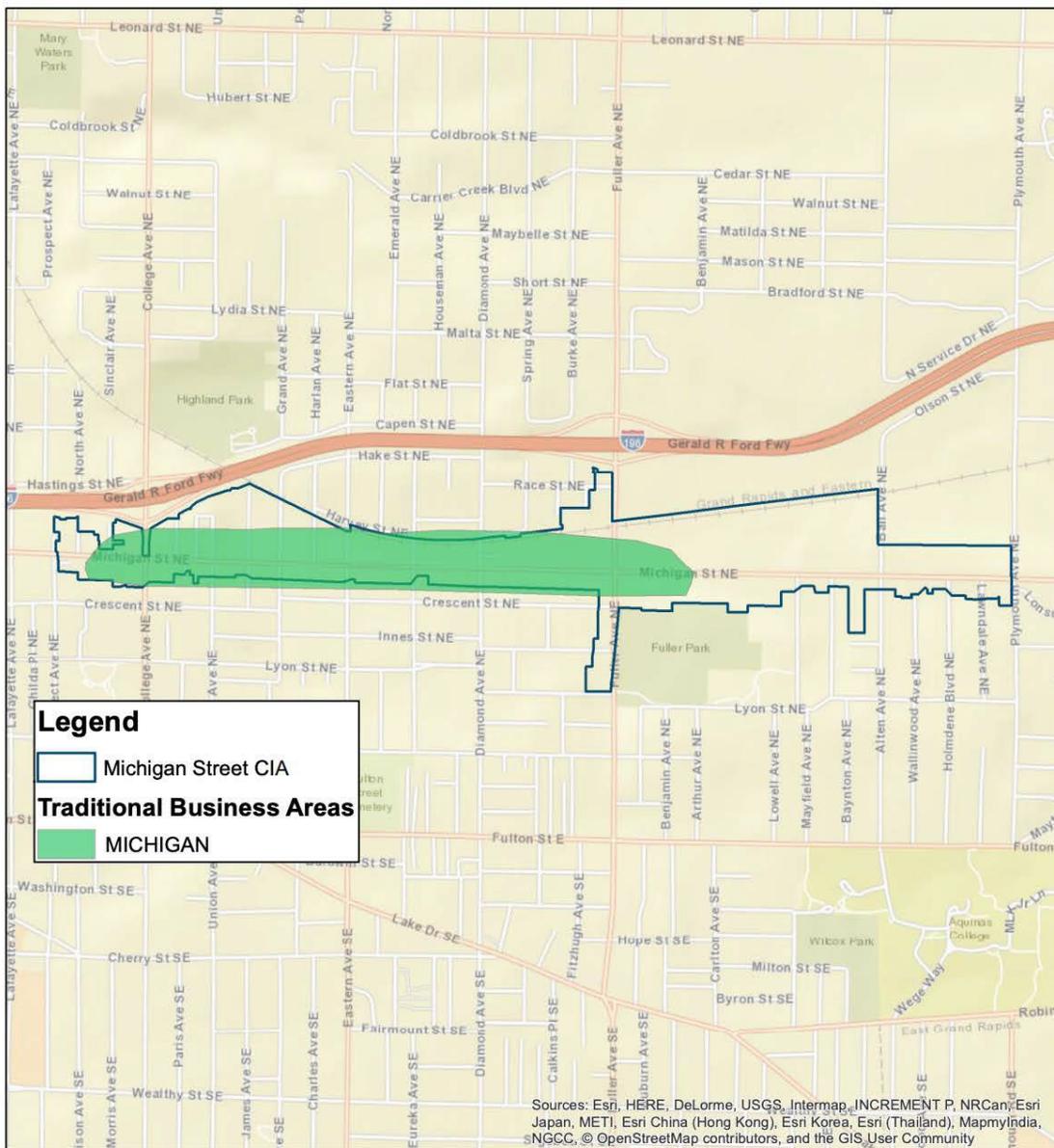
Questions? Contact Kelsey Liebenow, Corridor Manager

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Michigan Street Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA)



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Map Created by:
City of Grand Rapids
Engineering Department