

The Batavia MainStreet Downtown Design Enhancement Grant is a competitive funding opportunity designed to support permanent exterior improvements and public art installations that enhance the visual character and pedestrian experience of Downtown Batavia.

This program is administered by the Batavia MainStreet Design Committee and supports projects that elevate the overall appearance of Downtown Batavia by strengthening vibrancy, removing visual clutter, and revitalizing outdated or deteriorating storefront elements—creating a polished, cohesive, and inviting experience for residents and visitors alike.

A total of \$10,000 is available for this grant cycle. Award amounts will be determined at the discretion of the Design Committee based on project scope, impact, and available funds.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Applications Open:** April 22, 2026
- **Application Deadline:** First-round submissions are due May 25, 2026. If funds remain available after the first review, applications will continue to be accepted on a rolling basis through 2026.
- **Award Announcement:** Initial award announcements will be made June 25, 2026. Applications submitted after the first round will be reviewed within 60 days of submission.
- **Project Completion Deadline:** December 31, 2026

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be located within the Batavia MainStreet Special Service Area (SSA)
- Operate as a permanent brick-and-mortar business (Boardwalk Shops are not eligible)
- Be currently operating in Downtown Batavia
- Be in good standing with the City of Batavia

Eligible applicants include:

- Downtown businesses
- Property owners
- Joint applications from multiple downtown businesses collaborating on a shared project

DESIGN CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITY

Businesses and property owners who are considering improvements but are unsure where to begin are encouraged to meet with the Batavia MainStreet Design Committee prior to applying.

The Design Committee is available to:

- Provide curb appeal recommendations
- Discuss façade and storefront enhancement ideas
- Offer guidance on signage, awnings, lighting, and exterior improvements
- Connect applicants with the Batavia Public Art Initiative to help shape public art concepts.
- Help applicants navigate City zoning regulations, code requirements, and historic preservation approvals.

Consultations are intended to strengthen applications and ensure projects align with Downtown Batavia's character and long-term vision.

To schedule a consultation, applicants may contact Batavia MainStreet prior to submitting their proposal.

Email info@downtownbatavia.com

Eligible Project Types

Projects must result in permanent improvements to properties within the Batavia MainStreet Special Service Area (SSA).

PUBLIC ART & EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS

Eligible projects may include:

- Wayfinding signage
- Exterior lighting enhancements
- Streetscape experience improvements
- Creative placemaking features
- Murals
- Sculptural installations
- Interactive public art elements

Public Art Requirements:

- Must be permanent in nature
- Must receive landlord/property owner approval (if applicable)
- Must be reviewed by the Batavia Public Art Initiative
- Must receive Design Committee approval prior to installation
- Professional artists are strongly encouraged.

EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Eligible exterior improvements may include:

- Awnings (new or replacement)
- Permanent exterior signage
- Façade enhancements
- Storefront upgrades
- Window improvements
- Architectural restoration or detailing

All exterior projects must:

- Comply with City of Batavia code requirements
- Meet zoning and historic preservation requirements (if applicable)
- Receive Design Committee approval prior to implementation

Batavia MainStreet will assist selected applicants through the City approval process, including zoning review, historic preservation considerations, and permitting guidance.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated by the Batavia MainStreet Design Committee and approved by the Batavia MainStreet Board of Directors based on:

- Visual impact and contribution to downtown streetscape
- Alignment with MainStreet's mission and design vision
- Creativity and placemaking value
- Long-term durability and maintenance plan
- Feasibility and readiness to implement
- Economic and community impact
- Compliance with City codes and regulations

MATCH REQUIREMENT

No match is required for general public-facing improvements.

However, if a project includes business-specific branding (such as signage displaying the business name), a **minimum 50% financial match** from the applicant is required for the branded portion of the project. The Design Committee reserves the right to determine eligible reimbursable expenses.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

- Total Grant Pool: \$10,000
- Award amounts will be determined at the discretion of the Design Committee
- Funds will be distributed as reimbursement after project completion and submission of required documentation
- Eligible expenses must be approved in advance

Application Requirements

Apply online at downtownbatavia.com/?ff_landing=32

APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:

1. Design Enhancement Proposal Including:

- Business/Property Owner description
- Detailed project description
- Explanation of how the project enhances Downtown Batavia
- Budget breakdown (sources and uses of funds)
- Amount requested
- Indication of whether any portion includes business-specific branding
- Project timeline

2. Visual Documentation

- Renderings, drawings, or mockups
- Photos of current conditions
- Material and product specifications (if applicable)

3. Implementation Plan

- Installation process
- Maintenance plan
- Confirmation of landlord approval (if applicable)

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Terms & Conditions

- Projects must be completed by December 31, 2026.
- Funds are reimbursable upon proof of completion and submission of paid invoices.
- Any project modifications must receive prior written approval.
- Failure to complete the project as approved may result in funding forfeiture.
- Grantees agree to allow Batavia MainStreet to photograph and promote the completed project for marketing purposes.