

**Overview:** Main Street Gettysburg was awarded a grant for a Design Challenge program from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, on behalf of the Borough of Gettysburg. This program allows qualified commercial property owners and tenants within the town's Historic District to be reimbursed for specific sign, paint, design and storefront facade projects.

In contrast with the ongoing Zero Interest Loan Program for facade and code improvements currently administered by Main Street Gettysburg, the Design Challenge program offers a one-time payment, not a loan, to approved applicants as an incentive to invest into eligible projects. Reimbursements will range from \$500 to \$5,000 per project, with a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 per commercial property, and must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the applicant.

**Projects must (be):**

- Used only for commercial properties and purposes, not residential or rental housing.
- Located within the boundaries of Gettysburg's Historic District.
- Matched on a minimum 1:1, dollar-for-dollar, match.
- Reviewed, approved and in compliance with all requirements of the Borough's Code Enforcement, Historic Architectural Review Board, and the Main Street Gettysburg.
- Conform to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
- Projects begun or completed prior to application are ineligible
- Have two independent, detailed estimates

**Payment will be:**

- A direct reimbursement, not a loan, to the commercial property owner or tenant.
- Made after the satisfactory and timely completion of the project (within 4 months of applicant's approval).
- Made after complete and appropriate documentation of applicant expenditures, including paid receipts and color photos of the completed, eligible project.
- Limited to a maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 per property.

Project funds are limited and may not be kept reserved for an applicant's project beyond four (4) months of an application's approval, unless an extension is granted by Main Street Gettysburg

**Eligible Projects:**

- Up to \$2,500 to bring existing signs into conformance with the Borough's design guidelines & sign ordinance.
- Up to \$5,000 to restore/repaint historic wood siding instead of covering with vinyl siding.
- Up to \$2,500 to use appropriate wooden replacement windows, doors or shutters rather than vinyl.
- Up to \$2,500 to repaint/replace historic brick with appropriate lime mortar and bricks.
- Up to \$500 per sign project - such as upgrading a basic sign to a more attractive or historic looking one.
- Up to \$750 per design project - such as hiring an architect, especially when one might not have been used.
- Up to \$3,500 per paint project.
- Up to \$5,000 per storefront facade project.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Degree to which project will improve the applicant's building facade and/or correct physical deterioration of the structure.
- Use of an acceptable design professional. For example, it would generally be anticipated that an architect, a landscape architect, a professional engineer or design professional of similar credentials would be involved in a larger or more extensive project.
- Degree to which project adheres to the Gettysburg Design Guide, published by the Gettysburg Historic Architectural Review Board and available from the Borough of Gettysburg.
- Degree to which the proposed project will encourage reuse of an underutilized structure or retention of an existing business.
- Degree to which the proposed project meets the required 1:1 match.

## A Complete Application Packet Includes:

- Five copies of the Application Form, including attachments describing total and eligible projects.
- **Applicant** must secure two independent estimates and submit 5 copies of each written estimate from contractors for eligible work.
- One copy of all approved applications & permits as may be required by the Borough of Gettysburg's Code Enforcement and or Historic Architectural Review Board.
- One signed Certification and Release form.
- One set of color photos of existing conditions, including both building facade and project area.
- One set of acceptable sketches or drawings of proposed improvements, if appropriate to project.
- One copy of property deed cover page showing legal name of owner(s), if owner is the applicant.
- One copy of the property owner's letter of permission/approval for project, if tenant is the applicant.
- \$25.00 non-refundable application fee as check/money order payable to Main Street Gettysburg, Inc.

**Applicants** must deliver the completed application packet to Main Street Gettysburg, 571 W. Middle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Complete application packets are reviewed by Main Street Gettysburg within 30 days of receipt.

### Documentation Required for Reimbursement:

- One copy of all paid receipts for eligible work.
- Two signed copies of Confirmation of Payment.
- One set of color photos of completed project.

Main Street Gettysburg reserves the right to request additional documentation and/or to deny reimbursement if project is not completed in a satisfactory and/or timely manner.



## Design Challenge Program

A financial incentive program to rehabilitate commercial buildings in the Historic District of Gettysburg

### Participating Partners:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
The Borough of Gettysburg  
Main Street Gettysburg

Main Street Gettysburg, Inc.

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Applications are reviewed by Main Street Gettysburg, Inc. No person shall be excluded from participation, denied program benefits, or discriminated against because of color, religion, sex, nation origin or handicap.