

**Schertz Main Street Area
Preservation Incentive Program
City of Schertz**

Section 1.1 Purpose

The City of Schertz finds that promoting the enhancement and perpetuation of structures of historical importance and significance are necessary to promote the economic, cultural, educational and general welfare of the public. The area around Main Street in Schertz once served as commercial and social hub of the community. The City seeks to improve the image of the area around Main Street through historic restoration and rehabilitation of structures in the Main Street area to serve as a commercial, social, cultural and tourism hub of the City. The program is intended to:

- a) Protect, enhance, and preserve the historic resources and landmarks which represent distinctive elements of Schertz' historic, architectural, economic, cultural, and social heritage by providing property owners and incentive for protecting their property;
- b) Stabilize and improve property values;
- c) Foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past, and to promote the use of the historic structures for the culture, education, and general welfare of residents, and;
- d) Strengthen the economy of the city by protecting and enhancing the attractiveness of the Main Street area to residents and visitors, as well as provide support and stimulus to businesses.

In order to facilitate the preservation of historic structures to promote the economic vitality of the Main Street area as a tourist destination, the City of Schertz is offering incentives that will serve to improve existing properties and businesses within this area.

Section 1.2 Administration

The program will be administered by the City of Schertz Building Inspections Division.

Section 1.3 Eligibility Criteria

All of the following eligibility criteria must be met:

- a) Structures must have been constructed more than 50 years prior to the date of application.
- b) Property must be located within the Main Street Incentive Area or have received a Schertz Historic Preservation Committee Landmark Property Designation. See attached map.
- c) All taxes and government fees must be current on the property.

Section 1.4 Types of Grant Assistance

Funding for this program is generated by the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds.

- a) Program assistance is available to owners of structures used for commercial purposes who make verified exterior improvements (however limited to comprehensive maintenance and rehabilitation painting, roof, windows, foundation, façade restoration including replacing windows, wall repairs, brick re-pointing, replacing and exposing transom windows; and improvements necessary to stabilize a structure) consistent with applicable codes, or who make verified interior improvements to upgrade interior systems to current building codes (however limited to sanitary sewer lines, fire, HVAC, insulation, electrical, plumbing, or a combination of interior or exterior improvements) and which are approved in advance by the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee and City Council. Grants are available with a cap of \$20,000 per property.
- b) Program assistance is available to owners of structures used for residential who make verified exterior structural or aesthetic modifications/improvements including but not limited to the roof, foundation, and wall repairs including brick re-pointing. Grants are available with a cap of \$20,000 per property.
- c) Site Improvement Grant – grants are available for properties without a structure that are not intended to be developed for a single family residential use. Site improvements that help add visual appeal and functional use of the property. Qualifying site improvements include: landscaping, exterior lighting, sidewalks and driveway improvements, parking lot improvements, and outdoor seating areas. Site Improvement Grant recipients may receive up to \$20,000 per property.
- d) Grants will not be provided for work already completed or which is begun prior to approval of the grant application.
- e) Funds will be provided on a 50/50 matching basis. In kind contributions may be counted toward the match requirement.

Section 1.5 Grant Application Procedures

At the start of the fiscal year, the city will promote the amount of funding available. Applications will be received throughout the fiscal year, subject to the availability of funds.

- a) Property owner submit an application along with any required supporting documentation (i.e. drawings, total project cost estimate, photographs, contractor bids, tax certificates, etc.). Applications will be reviewed by the Building Inspections Staff for completeness.
- b) After submittal of a grant request, a preliminary site visit will be made by the Building Inspections Staff along with the Chairperson of the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee.
- c) Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee. The Committee will evaluate the application based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for review and approval.

- d) City Council will decide which entities qualify for assistance based on the architectural value of their proposed projects to the City of Schertz, the compatibility of the proposed projects with the Main Street Area, and the cost effectiveness of the proposed project in relation to the proposed amount of the grant.
- e) The property owner and City will execute a Grant Agreement detailing the obligations of the grantee, the method and timing of reimbursement, and outlining the scope of work eligible for reimbursement.
- f) Work must be completed within one year from the date of execution of the Grant Agreement, however; the Historical Preservation Committee may grant an extension of up to one year.