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*Babylon Village Launches Facade Improvement Program to support Downtown Businesses*

Babylon Village, NY - The Village of Babylon is officially kicking off its new Facade Improvement Program, a community investment initiative designed to help local businesses enhance the appearance of their storefronts while preserving the unique character and charm of the Village's downtown business district.

The Program, administered by the newly appointed Facade Improvement Board, offers matching grant opportunities for eligible exterior improvements including awnings, lighting, signage, landscaping power-washing, painting and other facade enhancements. Applications are now being accepted through the Village of Babylon. The Facade Improvement Program was initially developed through the efforts of Mayor Mary Adams and Deputy Mayor Frank Seibert. Earlier this year, the Facade Improvement Board was created by a resolution unanimously passed by the Village Board of Trustees.

To raise awareness about the program, the village recently produced and released a promotional video highlighting the benefits of the initiative and encouraging business owners to apply. The Facade Improvement Board is also partnering with the Babylon **Village** Chamber of Commerce to promote the program throughout the business community and will be attending upcoming chamber meetings and the Village's **Block Party series** to meet directly with business owners.

A dedicated Facade Improvement Fund has been established by the Village to support the program. Funds are generated through development related **improvement** fees and are reserved exclusively for the facade enhancement grants within the Village.

"The appearance of our downtown is one of the things that makes Babylon Village such a special place," said Charles Torres, Chairman of the Babylon Village Facade Improvement Board. "This program is about helping businesses invest in themselves while strengthening the overall look and appeal of our commercial **district**. We want business owners to know that these funds are ready to be accessed.

The Facade improvement Board was created earlier this year by an act of the Village **Board of Trustees**. **The Facade Improvement Board** reviews applications and grants awards to qualified projects. The Board meets monthly and includes professionals, with backgrounds in design, construction, environmental review, planning, business, and leadership.

"The Chamber is excited to help spread the word about this important program," said Tom Vitale, President of the Babylon Village Chamber of Commerce and member of the Facade Improvement Board. "Our downtown businesses are the heart of Babylon Village. By helping property and business owners improve their storefronts, we are investing in the long term success, vibrancy, and attractiveness of our downtown community."

Village Trustee, Jeff Szabo, who serves as liaison to the Board said, "The initiative represents another step in the Village's ongoing commitment to supporting local businesses and maintaining high quality appearance of the downtown.

For more information contact Village Hall at 631-669-1300



## **Application for the Façade Improvement Grant Program**

Please complete the following information, attach design plans or a rendering, and return to the:

Village of Babylon, 153 West Main Street, Babylon, NY 11702.

All selected proposals must meet Village requirements and the Façade Improvement Guidelines.

The Façade Improvement Board will review applications for the selection of grant recipients. The Village of Babylon will notify applicants of approval or denial of application. If the application is approved, an agreement between the applicant and the Village of Babylon must be signed BEFORE any work begins. Grant monies will be disbursed after completion of work, submittal of cost documentation and inspection of the façade.

**General Information:**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Property to receive grant funding: \_\_\_\_\_

Application submitted by: Property owner \_\_\_\_ Business owner \_\_\_\_

Applicant must be property owner or tenant. If application is not the property owner, the owner must give consent and sign the application.

Business name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Business owner name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business owner address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business owner phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Property owner name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property owner address: \_\_\_\_\_

Property owner phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of tenancy: Own \_\_\_\_ Lease \_\_\_\_

Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time at this location: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of lease time remaining (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Building Characteristics:**

Exterior wall construction: Masonry \_\_\_\_ Hardie Board \_\_\_\_

Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of stories \_\_\_\_

What are the functions of the stories above the first floor:

\_\_\_\_\_

Occupancy of the first floor: Fully Occupied \_\_\_\_ Partially Occupied \_\_\_\_

Present use of the first floor: Retail \_\_\_\_ Medical \_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_

Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**Façade Improvement Project Plan:**

What type of exterior improvements are to be made? Please describe in detail. (Include plans or a rendering.)

Please provide a detailed Scope of Work along with a cost estimate for each job item. (Example: Exterior Painting \$1,000)

Total estimated cost of your façade improvements: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that the Village of Babylon is obligated only to administer the grant procedures and is not liable to the applicant, owner or their parties for any obligations or claims of any nature growing out, or arising out of, the project or application undertaken by the applicant and/or owner. There is no principal/agent or employer/employee relationship between the Village of Babylon and the applicant.

I acknowledge that this application must be accepted and all prerequisite rules and regulations must be complied with before any rights insure to applicant owner.

I have attached project plans, specifications, cost quotes and any other appropriate design documentation.

I understand that the incentive grant must be used only for the project described in this application.

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner (if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**All applications must contain the following information:**

- Completed application
- Photographs of existing façade.
- Plans and/or rendering of proposed improvements.
- List and/or description of materials to be used.
- Detailed cost estimates/quotes for proposed improvements.
- If applicant is property owner: proof of property ownership or if applicant is not property owner: Owner Consent Form.
- Applicants must be in good standing with the Village of Babylon in regard to permits, fees and any outstanding fines.