



West 7th / Fort Road Federation

395 Superior Street

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www.FortRoadFederation.org

Revitalize West 7th 2026 Program Guidelines

Purpose:

The purpose of the Neighborhood STAR grant is to assist owners or lessees of small businesses to apply for funds to improve the exterior of their building and to improve the public right of way and private open spaces including but not limited to benches, public art, long-term landscaping, permanently affixed garbage receptacles, etc. *All capital improvements must be permanently affixed and plan to last seven or more years.*

Boundaries:

Commercial properties and public right of way located in District 9, the West 7th/Fort Road Federation neighborhood are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to businesses that have not received STAR funds in the past. Consideration will be given to businesses that increase job opportunities.

Objectives:

- To encourage business improvement and development by offering grants to businesses and property owners
- To stimulate private investment for projects that enhances the appearance of commercial buildings and businesses
- Grow economic vitality of the neighborhood
- Enhance local destinations for shopping, dining, art, and entertainment
- Invest in improvements that demonstrate the vibrancy of the neighborhood both private and public
- Consideration will be given to projects that may face barriers to traditional loans, revitalize vacant spaces, create new local jobs, and bring or enhance the vitality of West 7th.
- To support business owners who wish to adopt green building standards for new buildings and use energy saving equipment.

Eligible Uses/ Guidelines:

Funds can be used for exterior improvements or public right of way, public areas, and private open spaces (such as a patio). The maximum award for a single application is \$10,000.

Public Benefits:

- Support business nodes in the West 7th/Fort Road Federation District
- Improve the visual attributes of commercial buildings
- Consistency with neighborhood plans
- Improve the visual quality of the neighborhood
- Revitalize vacant spaces

Site Control:

Applicants need to have site control of the property through ownership or lease of at least seven years. Applicants who are tenants must have a signed lease and property owners written approval.

Selection Process:

Applications will be submitted to the West 7th/Fort Road Development Team for recommendation. W7FRDT utilizes a scorecard to rank individual applications. If recommended the project moves to the West 7th/Fort Road Federation Board of Directors for final approval. This is a first come first serve opportunity and there is no guarantee a project will be funded.

Project Administration and Compliance:

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation (District Council 9) will administer the grant. Staff will assist applicants with all compliance requirements.