

Gifford Park Association Architectural Grant Program

The Elgin Historic District is fortunate to have a rich and extensive architectural heritage. Preserving, improving and enhancing that heritage are among the goals of the Gifford Park Association. Funds have thus been set aside for an Architectural Grant Program to encourage and incentivize property owners to improve and enhance their buildings by replicating and replacing important architectural elements which have been lost. The following guidelines and descriptions are intended to guide the GPA and property owners in making decisions with regard to participating in this program:

- This program is a 50/50 matching grant up to **\$2000**.
- Eligible projects are those in which **missing, original, exterior** elements are replicated and reconstructed.
- The property must be of **residential use**, including both owner-occupied and non-owner-occupied. There is no limit on the number of living units within a building.
- The structure must be located within the **Elgin Historic District**.
- Participants shall not be disqualified on the basis of **income level**.
- Property owner is responsible for all **permits** and **Certificates of Appropriateness** associated with their project.
- This grant may be combined with **other grants**.
- GPA will set aside a limited grant budget each year for this purpose. In order to participate in this grant program, property owners shall submit an **application** on forms provided by the GPA by the **deadline** established by the GPA. All projects will be evaluated, compared, and prioritized to determine which will be awarded grant money. This determination will be the responsibility of the grant committee.
- Some projects and proposals may necessitate a **site visit** by or discussions with the GPA grant committee.
- Property owner must provide a **minimum of two** contractor's quotes or **one** materials list costs. **Labor performed by the property owner** or any members of their household is not eligible for grant reimbursement. However, projects performed with owner/household labor are eligible for materials reimbursement. **Tools** are not eligible for grant reimbursement.
- Project work must begin **after** grant approval. Participants shall have **one year** after grant approval to complete their project. Extenuating circumstances may be appealed to the grant committee.
- Current GPA board and grant committee members shall **not be eligible** for grants.
- Properties are limited to one \$2000 grant per year.
- Grant application shall require proof of ownership.
- Any proposal which involves reconstruction of architectural elements being attached to unstable, rotted, or inappropriate non-original features may be ineligible for a grant.

- All wood elements replicated as part of this grant shall be painted to match the existing exterior paint scheme.
- Missing elements due to violations of the Preservation Ordinance will not be eligible for a grant.
- Grant **reimbursement** shall occur upon satisfactory completion of proposed project in a workman-like manner using materials designed for exterior use, along with submission of all paid receipts and waivers of lien from all contractors and sub-contractors. This determination shall be the responsibility of the grant committee.
- Exceptions to the above guidelines shall be approved by the GPA Board.