



DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Rapid City, South Dakota



Dear Downtown Rapid City Property Owner,

The Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) was created in 2010 for the primary purpose of funding the construction and operation of Main Street Square. It was imagined the success of Main Street Square would lead to more people, events and activity in the entire downtown business community. Main Street Square is now in its seventh year of operation and has demonstrated how an active downtown center contributes to a vibrant community.

The BID continued to support the ongoing operational expenses of Main Street Square in 2018. This year the BID Board will also direct additional BID funds to a competitive grant process for projects within the District that broadly support economic development as allowed by South Dakota State Law (SDCL ch. 9-55). We will select 6 projects to receive up to \$15,000 each.

Specifically, the **purpose** of the 2019 grants is to stimulate projects that:

- Encourage economic development within the District.
- Improve public places within the District.
- Encourage activities that result in people spending more time downtown.
- Continue to strengthen downtown's position as the center for arts & cultural expression.
- Contribute to the creation of a stronger connection in the physical, economic and programming linkages between downtown and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

To be **eligible** to apply for grant funding:

- The project must be proposed by the property owner, or have the written support of the property owner if the project is proposed by a tenant business owner.
- The property owner must be current on their property and BID taxes.
- The project must be within the boundaries of the District as identified in the enclosed map.

In 2019, the BID Board may award grants up to \$15,000 per selected project.

Consider this **project criteria** before applying:

- The proposed project must clearly respond to one of these five priority areas: encourage economic development within the District; improve public places within the District; encourage activities that result in people spending more time downtown; continue to strengthen downtown's position as the center for arts & cultural expression; and/or contribute to the creation of a stronger connection in the physical, economic and programming linkages between downtown and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.
- Improves a public place or facility within the district area
- Projects may be capital in nature, but is not required to be. Good examples of non-capital project may be found at: <https://www.curbed.com/2016/9/22/13019420/urban-design-community-building-placemaking>
- Projects must have the written support of at least three other businesses within the district
- The project has a plan to be sustained or maintained without additional BID funding.



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- Requests for ongoing operational expenses will not be considered.

Please review these project requirements before applying:

- Applicant acknowledges they are fully responsible for the management of the project.
- The project must be completed within one year of receiving funding.
- If the project requires permits, those **permits are secured** prior to application.
- The awarded grant may account for up to 50% of the total cost of the project.
- The applicant must demonstrate the remaining funding needed for the project is secured and available.

The application process for BID grant funding is:

- Application forms are accepted from December 15, 2018 to February 28, 2019.
- Completed applications must be submitted either electronically to DowntownBID@rcgov.org or via mail to the Rapid City Attorney's Office at 300 Sixth Street, Rapid City, SD 57701
- The BID Board will review all applications and may request additional information from applicants prior to making decisions.
- Applications will be scored by a committee of the BID Board based on how well they respond to the project criteria and their perceived positive impact on the District.
- The BID Board Grant Selection Committee will make recommendations to the full BID Board to vote on funding.