

NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY HISTORIC FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Façade Improvement Program purpose is to provide façade design and/or construction assistance to eligible property owners, tenants, and/or business owners with rehabilitating commercial, institutional, or residential properties located within the City of Norwalk. Preference will be given to projects located within the Urban Core and Martin Luther King Drive Corridor (see the attached maps). Exterior improvements have a positive visual impact, stimulate private investment and complement other community development efforts. The Grant program is intended to assist projects that are typically too small to generate historic tax credits.

The *Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* establishes a benchmark for improvement project design and construction that is a widely accepted standard to guide work on local historic buildings. These guidelines have been updated recently to accommodate buildings constructed with newer materials and are adapted to current building codes as well to address resiliency and sustainability. The *Standards* are set up as recommendations allowing for consideration of the economic and technical feasibility of each project. The purpose of the *Standards and Guidelines* is to provide guidance to owners, tenants, architects, contractors and project reviewers on project design, specified materials, colors, etc. prior to the start of work. In addition, the *Standards and Guidelines* assist and direct the recommendations of preservation professionals and/or third party reviewers.

The 2017 Capital Budget awarded the Redevelopment Agency Façade Improvement Program funding in the amount of \$90,896, the 2020 Capital Budget awarded \$125,000, and the 2021 Capital Budget awarded \$150,000 for a combined total of \$365,896 to be used to support grant allocations to property owners or tenants with an owner's permission that are:

Properties listed individually on the State or National Register of Historic Places; as contributing buildings to a Local, State, or National Historic District; or in the Norwalk Historic Resource Inventory;

Exterior property improvements visible from the public street;

Proposed project design and/or construction that address preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and/or reconstruction;

Proposed improvements that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing historic Buildings as published by the US Department of the Interior National Park Service 2017;

All projects funded with Façade Improvement grants will require design review by NRDA Staff or a third party design reviewer qualified in historic preservation;

These Façade Improvement Program Guidelines have been developed in collaboration with the Norwalk Historical Commission.

Up to \$50,000 in grant funding may be available for eligible project applicants.

It is recommended that nonprofit applicants consider one or more of the following programs:

Connecticut SHPO Survey and Planning Grants –

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Grant-Opportunities/Survey-and-Planning-Grants

Connecticut SHPO Historic Restoration Fund Grant -

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Grant-Opportunities/Historic-Restoration-Fund-Grants

Preservation Connecticut Maintenance and Repair Grant -

<https://preservationct.org/current-funding>

It is recommended that for profit applicants consider one or more of the following programs:

Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits -

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Tax-Credits/Federal-Historic-Preservation-Tax-Credit

Connecticut State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit -

https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Historic-Preservation/02_Review_Funding_Opportunities/Tax-Credits/Historic-Rehabilitation-Tax-Credit

Residential property owners are encouraged to look into the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency's

Residential Façade Improvement Grant Program -

<https://www.norwalkct.org/1612/Residential-Facade-Improvement-Grant>

Owners of commercial storefront businesses are encouraged to look into the City of Norwalk's

Storefront Improvement Program -

<https://www.norwalkct.org/DocumentCenter/View/15126/Storefront-Improvement-Program-Application---Guidelines>

If you are interested in applying for a grant, learning more about the application process, or finding out if your project is eligible to participate in the program, please reach out to our Norwalk Redevelopment Agency Staff:

Jonathan Hopkins

jhopkins@norwalkct.org

(203) 854-7810 ext.46787

Stephen Ivan

sivan@norwalkct.org

(203) 854-7810 ext.46784

City of Norwalk – Urban Core Map

NORWALK'S URBAN CORE

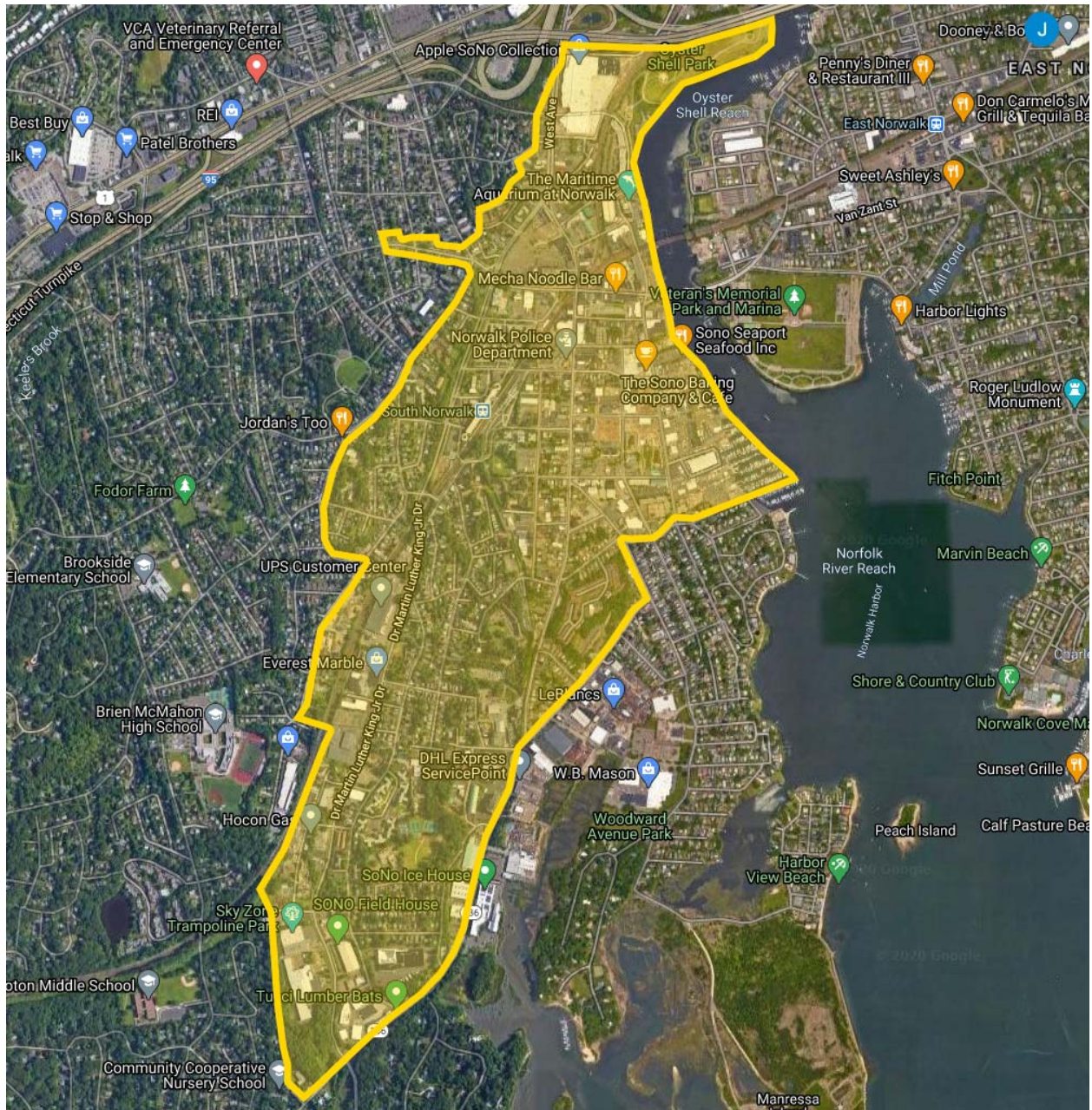
This map depicts the geographic jurisdiction of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency.



Map of Norwalk's Urban Core



City of Norwalk – Martin Luther King Drive Corridor



Map of Norwalk's MLK Drive Corridor

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1FpL6pQgGtE2dfrywl_QFzFaZXrBvlo0T&shorturl=1&ll=41.090319331642704%2C-73.43088987124021&z=15