

Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce LLC  
108 S 2ND ST.  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
6/17/2025  
Subject: Grant Application

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to submit an application for funding through the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency's Commercial Façade Grant Program for a vital improvement project at our commercial property located at the address above. The scope of this project includes installing a hurricane impact glass door and window set at the entrance to the alcove at 108 S. 2nd St., as well as replacing two upper-story windows, all of which pose a safety risk during hurricane season. These enhancements will protect the structure while contributing to the aesthetic and economic revitalization of downtown Fort Pierce.

1. Financial Need and Importance of Funding: This project represents a meaningful but costly investment, especially for a small business like us, working within tight budget constraints. Modern impact-rated glass is essential in our hurricane-prone region, but the cost of high-quality, code-compliant installations is significant. Grant assistance is necessary to move forward with this initiative, which otherwise may be postponed or scaled back — leaving the property vulnerable and undermining broader redevelopment goals.

2. Impact on Neighborhood Appearance and Blight Reduction: Focusing on blight, this location has become a frequent site of loitering, panhandling, and unauthorized camping of unhoused individuals. The area has also been subjected to repeated incidents of urination and human defecation against the door, contributing to unsafe and unsanitary conditions. By enclosing the space, we aim to remove this blight and prevent future trespassing. Additionally, the existing doors and windows are inefficient in the event of destruction from a hurricane or major storm, which would detract from the streetscape's overall appearance. Replacing them with updated, secure, and visually coordinated materials will bring new life to the building's frontage and contribute directly to eliminating signs of age.

3. Design Appeal and Long-Term Improvements: The replacement units will reflect a contemporary yet context-sensitive design, chosen to align with the architectural character of neighboring structures. The upgraded door and windows will use durable, hurricane-rated glass and energy-efficient materials, ensuring both longevity and environmental responsibility. The project has been thoughtfully designed to improve function and security, creating a unified and attractive exterior that will stand the test of time.

4. Community Enhancement and Broader Benefit: This upgrade will not only strengthen the property itself but also contribute to the vitality of the entire block. A more attractive and resilient façade encourages foot traffic, boosts curb appeal, and helps foster a more inviting downtown atmosphere — key to drawing both residents and visitors. It sets a positive example for reinvestment in the community and supports local economic activity.

5. Alignment with the FPRA Plan: This project supports several core objectives outlined in the FPRA Redevelopment Plan, including bolstering disaster resilience, enhancing property conditions, promoting economic opportunity, and encouraging reinvestment in underutilized commercial spaces. The improvements we're undertaking directly support the agency's vision for a stronger, more vibrant Fort Pierce.

We appreciate your consideration of our application and the continued support the FPRA provides to property owners committed to improving and protecting downtown Fort Pierce. Please don't hesitate to reach out if further details are needed.

Sincerely,

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