

Galleria at Downtown Fort Pierce LLC
100 S. 2nd St..
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
6/16/2025
Subject: Grant Application

Dear Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency Committee,

I am writing to respectfully request funding consideration through the FPRA Commercial Façade Grant Program for a critical improvement project located at our commercial property on the second story of the address above in downtown Fort Pierce. Our goal is to replace the existing outdated and vulnerable windows with high-quality impact glass, a necessary upgrade to protect the property and surrounding area from hurricane-related damage and enhance the visual and structural integrity of the building.

1. Need for Financial Assistance: As a small business/property owner, the cost of retrofitting our building with impact-resistant glass is a significant financial undertaking. Given rising construction costs and the essential nature of this improvement for public safety and building preservation, we are seeking financial assistance to make this project feasible. Without this support, we risk further exposure to potential storm damage, which could result in more costly repairs or structural compromise during a major weather event. The grant funding is critical to the timely and successful completion of this project.

2. Contribution to Elimination of Slum and Blight: Our building is located in a key corridor of downtown Fort Pierce, an area poised for revitalization and economic growth. The current windows are outdated, inefficient, and detract from the building's aesthetic appeal. By replacing them with new, energy-efficient impact glass, we aim to significantly improve the building's appearance and safety. This enhancement not only elevates our property but also contributes to reducing visual blight in the area, aligning with the FPRA's mission to revitalize and restore vibrancy to the district.

3. Architectural Enhancements & Sustainable Improvements: The proposed design incorporates clean, modern lines that complement the traditional architecture of the surrounding neighborhood. The impact windows will be framed to match the building's historic character while introducing a sleek, updated look. These improvements are not only visually appealing but also sustainable — impact glass increases energy efficiency, reduces noise pollution, and offers long-lasting protection, reducing the need for future repairs and maintenance.

4. Community Benefit & Public Outcomes: Upgrading our façade will have a positive ripple effect throughout the community. Visually, it will contribute to a safer, more attractive downtown environment, encouraging foot traffic, supporting local commerce, and potentially inspiring neighboring property owners to invest in similar improvements. Most importantly, enhancing storm resilience protects the public by minimizing debris risk during severe weather and supporting quicker recovery post-disaster.

5. Alignment with the FPRA Plan: Our project aligns closely with the goals outlined in the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Plan, particularly in supporting community resilience, preserving historic structures, and stimulating private investment through public-private partnerships. The improvement reflects a commitment to sustainable urban development and revitalization consistent with the vision of a vibrant, economically strong, and safe downtown Fort Pierce.

We are excited about the opportunity to partner with the FPRA on this impactful project. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. Should you require any additional information or documentation, we are happy to provide it promptly.

Sincerely,

Emily Fingerhut
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