The Economic Impact Program was created to provide an incentive for projects that add to downtown vitality. The Development Committee was created to review and evaluate requests for funds and to make appropriate recommendations to the Downtown Knoxville Alliance (DKA) Board of Directors for their consideration. Proposals are selected based on the project’s real public benefit, removal of blight, removal of long-term vacancy, and/or historic preservation.

## Mission

The Downtown Knoxville Alliance was created in 1993 to undertake programs and services that government agencies are unable to provide. **Its mission is to enhance downtown’s existing assets and bring more people to Downtown Knoxville to work, shop, live and play.** The DKA ensures the downtown area is constantly renewed and improved so that it continues to be an asset to future generations. The special assessment district covers approximately .67 square miles or 400 acres which includes the core of downtown from the Old City to Volunteer Landing and 11th Street to Hall of Fame Drive.

## projects DKA can fund

The DKA is a 501(c)3 charged with making improvements in the downtown. Any grants that are awarded must benefit the public. The organization’s founding documents provide the direction where DKA’s funds are awarded and/or spent. These areas include:

* Promotion and marketing
* Advertising
* Health and sanitation
* Public safety
* Elimination of problems related to traffic and parking
* Security services
* Recreation
* Cultural enhancements
* Consulting concerning planning, management, and development activities
* Activities in support of business or residential recruitment, retention, and management development
* Aesthetic improvements, including the decoration of any public space
* Professional management, planning, and promotion of the District
* Design assistance

## guidelines/criteria

1. The maximum grant for each project is $50,000 with the owner contributing equal to or greater than 120% of the grant amount.
2. Applications can be submitted by the property owner or potential buyer, and not by a tenant.
	1. For requests that involve a façade grant, the grants are for façade or other publically viewed enhancements only. Facades or enhancements facing alleyways, parking lots, etc. may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

1. Requests must be approved before construction.
2. The Development Committee and Board will evaluate a project(s) based on submittals that meet the established criteria such as real public benefit, removal of blight, removal of long-term vacancy, and/or historic preservation; and projects that give the best overall return on investment to downtown Knoxville.
3. All improvements must conform to the City of Knoxville’s Building Codes, Zoning, and if applicable, the D1 or H1 Design Guidelines. For more information on zoning guidelines, contact the Knoxville-Knox County Planning at 865.215.2500 or [www.knoxmpc.org](http://www.knoxmpc.org).
4. Incentives regarding façade grants:
	1. Reimbursements of the approved grant will occur upon completion of the improvements by the application approved by DKA.
	2. Reimbursements will be made once invoices have been submitted to DKA with the façade/public domain costs separated from the total project expenses.
	3. DKA will not evaluate an application nor disburse funds on a project unless the City of Knoxville and Knox County property taxes and DKA assessments are current.
	4. Certificate of Completion and/or Certificate of Occupancy will be required before reimbursement.

## application

Name:

Project Address:

Your Mailing Address:

Phone Number: Email Address:

Requested Amount: Total Project Costs:

1. Describe the project: ☐ New construction ☐ Renovation

1. What is the request:

1. Has the project been submitted and/or approved by the Design Review Board (D1) or the Historic Zoning Commission (H1)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Do you have a financial commitment from another source(s) ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Anticipated start date: / / Anticipated completion: / /

If your project is not completed within 12 months of approval, you can come back to the Board for a possible extension.

1. Will this project increase the number of downtown residents or permanent jobs?

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, by how many?

1. Has this building received DKA funding in the past? If so, when/what?

1. How does your project help enhance DKA’s mission to make downtown a better place in which to live, work and play?

## Budget

Please complete the budget summary:

Total Cost of Project:

Land: $

Building: $

Façade/Public Domain Improvements: $

Other Improvements: $

Soft Costs: $

##### **Total Project Cost: $**

Describe what is included in Soft Cost:

Sources of Funding:

Equity:

 Cash: $

 Security: $

 In-kind: $

Financing:

 Requested from DKA: $

 Other sources: $

 Name Source of Other Financing:

##### **Total Funding: $**

## Application Checklist

☐ Provide the application and renderings of the project.

☐ Include contract estimates with the application

☐ Include a photograph of the existing building/façade.

No application will be accepted unless all requested information is included.

Return application packages to:

Michele Hummel

Downtown Knoxville Alliance

mhummel@downtownknoxville.org

If you have any questions, please contact us at 865.246.2654 or 865.806.2148