



# GRITTY TO PRETTY PLACEMAKING PROGRAM

## FAÇADE LIGHTING GRANT 2026 Eligibility, Criteria, and Application Form

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Gritty to Pretty consists of three grants: the Mural Grant, the Façade Lighting Grant, and the Open Grant. The Mural Grant and Open Grant are each offered in General and BIPOC streams. Together, these funding grants support the Downtown Halifax Business Commission’s (DHBC) strategic placemaking goals by fostering vibrant, engaging, high-quality public art installations throughout Downtown Halifax.

The Façade Lighting Grant awards a limited number of grants for exterior façade lighting projects located in Downtown Halifax. This funding program aims at improving the architectural street-wall lighting of buildings on main commercial streets in the Downtown Business district. The nature of the lighting is meant to focus on improvement of the overall urban experience rather than highlighting business and tenants (i.e., it is aimed at a macro-architectural level).

### GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARY

The Downtown Halifax district is defined as: the geographic area between the waterside of Brunswick Street to the Halifax Waterfront and from the Cogswell Interchange to the south end of Barrington Street.



Figure 1: DHBC Boundary Map

### REQUIRED SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

1. **Application Form** – Complete and sign the application form attached to this document.
2. **Project Description** – Include comprehensive descriptions, details, and logistics of the proposed project.
3. **Visual Representation** – Include coloured sketches/renderings of proposed project demonstrating quality and detail in design plans.
4. **Budget** – Submit a detailed budget for the project.
5. **Schedule** – Include a schedule for proposed work, including a start and end date and detail on all key stages, including development, implementation, and delivery.
6. **Site Photos** – Provide photos of proposed project site and physical surroundings.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- April 13:** Completed application proposal and supporting materials submission to DHBC by email: [jonathan@downtownhalifax.ca](mailto:jonathan@downtownhalifax.ca) or by mail: Jonathan Goldson, Placemaking Manager, Downtown Halifax Business Commission, 1546 Barrington Street, Suite 104, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3X7.
- May 18:** DHBC notification to applicant of acceptance or decline.
- June 1:** Project implementation including final design, permissions, implementation, and installation timeline.
- July 2:** Mid-project status report to DHBC.
- August 15:** Completion of placemaking project and notification to DHBC. Completion may happen before this date.
- September 1:** Submission of final report and receipts to DHBC.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Grant recipients are responsible for all materials and equipment on site.
- Grant recipients may require \$2 million (\$2,000,000) general liability insurance, depending on the project. If you require insurance, we recommend [www.palcanada.com](http://www.palcanada.com).
- Grant recipients are required to always maintain a clean and safe working environment.
- Grant recipients are responsible for all required permits.
- If the proposed location is a Registered Heritage Building, HRM Heritage Staff must be contacted prior to submission of proposal.
- Grant recipients are responsible for ongoing maintenance of the project to maintain the working order of the lighting infrastructure as specified in the grant application, the original permit standards, as well as maintaining a structurally sound and safe area.
- Grant recipients are responsible for producing the project as described in the application and must not alter the project without written consent and agreement from DHBC.

### ACTIVITIES NOT FUNDED

- Travel and accommodation.
- Projects outside of the DHBC boundary.
- Projects that include political messages or parties or sectarian or religious facility or activity.
- Capital works, facility maintenance, and improvements.
- Parking or other infringement fines.
- Illegal activities.
- Projects that do not have prior written permission from the landowner/developer.
- Ongoing running costs.
- Items of equipment or clothing of a personal nature.
- Purchased and/or maintenance of vehicles, such as cars, vans, minibuses, etc.

- Provision of meals and snacks.
- Social events and parties.
- Retrospective proposals, e.g., installations that have already begun or where equipment has been bought or ordered.

### **FUNDING**

- Funding for 50% of hard costs for hardware and installation of lighting. Applicant will match the other 50% of these costs.
- The exact amount depends on the project and is at the sole discretion of the selection committee. Grants awarded are between a few hundred dollars up to \$10,000. Funding for larger grant requests may be considered. Funding is limited, and each grant is subject to a cap.
- Funding up to \$1,000 may be paid to a registered architect or professional engineer with lighting experience for design input/guidance.

### **GRITTY TO PRETTY JURY**

Your application will be considered by DHBC's Gritty to Pretty Jury. This jury is a diverse collection of individuals from different professional backgrounds ranging from placemaking, public art and urban planning. They possess extensive expertise in managing and producing public art installations within urban environments.

### **PAYMENT**

DHBC will issue the grant money in installments by cheque. Vendor/supplier invoices will be required before grant cheques are issued. Receipts and an expense report with HST breakdown will be required within 30 days of completion of the project.

### **OTHER FUNDING PARTNERS**

Other funding partners are allowed and encouraged to increase the quality and feasibility level of the project. All other funding partners and contributing dollar amounts should be included in the budget submitted to DHBC.

### **OVER-BUDGET PROJECTS**

The grant amount awarded at the time of acceptance is fixed. No additional funds will be granted to the applicant by DHBC through the Façade Lighting Grant for that particular project. Expenses above and beyond the amount awarded by DHBC are the sole responsibility of the applicant or other partners, if applicable.

### **OWNERSHIP**

DHBC does not own any project or project assets made possible through the Façade Lighting Grant program. The applicant will retain ownership, unless arrangements are made with the other partners, i.e., the developer/ property owner, HRM (if on public land), or other funders. Ongoing maintenance or repairs for all aspects of the installation will be the responsibility of the applicant.

### **PROJECT RECOGNITION**

A Gritty to Pretty plaque, provided by DHBC, must be visibly placed on the building, or displayed in the window of the building. "Downtown Halifax Business Commission" must be recognized as a "Funding Partner through the Gritty to Pretty Façade Lighting Grant Program" when the project is referred to in print, online, or in media releases. Other funding partners, if any, will be recognized at the discretion of the project organizer/ owner.

**APPLICATION FORM SECTION 1 – CONTACT INFORMATION**

Submission Date:

Project Name:

Project Organizer or Organization Name:

Project Organizer Main Contact Name:

Contact Phone Number:

Contact Email:

**SECTION 2 – PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Description of project, including relevant history (max. 3,000 characters):

Project location/venue(s):

**SECTION 3 – GRANT REQUEST DETAILS**

Total dollar amount requested (including HST breakdown):

Full project budget breakdown, including confirmed funding partners, professional services, hardware, and installation (max. 2,000 characters):

**SECTION 4 – PLACEMAKING GRANT CRITERIA**

**Project Effectiveness**

- a. Describe the conditions of the site and why it requires lighting. Include site photo (max. 2,000 characters):

- b. Describe how the lighting will beautify the proposed site. If possible, please include a sketch or rendering showing the new lighting (max. 2,000 characters):

**Project Feasibility**

Discuss the feasibility of the project as proposed, including any ongoing maintenance and how it will be handled and who will be responsible for maintaining the quality of the project (max. 2,000 characters):