Description of the Grant Program:

This program is designed to provide the owners of the historic properties with financial assistance in the preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of the exterior architectural features of buildings and structures on such properties.

This grant program is named after Mr. Eugene D. Funk, Jr., former president of the Funk Seeds Company and a prominent community leader, in recognition of his many contributions to the community. Each year funds may be budgeted from the City's General Fund to finance the grant program.

The grant program is administered by the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission.

The program provides funding for up to 50% of the total cost of eligible exterior projects, with a maximum grant amount of $5,000 per project. Eligibility requirements are detailed in the Eligibility Criteria section below; exclusions are in the Limitations section below.

Any one applicant may receive only one grant per fiscal year, per property, except for major restoration projects which may be considered for two. **No grant may be applied for or funded for a project which was started or completed in a previous fiscal year.**

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1 Bloomington’s fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30.
Eligibility Criteria:

1. Properties must be part of a locally designated S-4, Historic District to be eligible for funding under this program.

2. The project for which the funding assistance is being requested must be an exterior preservation, restoration or rehabilitation project to:
   a. The original structure,
   b. Historically significant features of the property such as original fencing,
   c. Architecturally compatible additions to the original structure, or
   d. A historically significant or architecturally compatible auxiliary building to the primary structure such as carriage house.

3. Roofing and Gutter Projects are eligible for consideration if:
   a. The project is a repair or replacement using historically accurate roofing materials such as slate or tile, or
   b. The project is a restoration or repair of historic, architectural features such as box or yankee gutters, or
   c. The project is a repair or replacement using modern materials which mimic historic materials in appearance, and increase durability and useful life.

4. Exterior painting and/or staining projects are eligible for a maximum of one grant per every 10 year period regardless of how much the structure is to be painted or stained. (Note: painting, staining and related-tasks will be considered as a single project per property.)

5. Project expenses eligible for grant program funds include:
   a. Professional architectural services,
   b. Materials, and
   c. Skilled labor. Grant recipients and their contractors must pay prevailing wage in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and all requirements of the Illinois Department of Labor except for owner-occupied single family residences and owner-occupied multi-family residences.
      i. Sweat equity is not eligible for grant reimbursement.
      ii. Labor costs below prevailing wage are not eligible for grant reimbursement.
Limitations:

6. No interior work is eligible for the grant.

7. Grant requests for projects which have not followed appropriate protocol by first obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission are not eligible for a grant award.

8. Grant requests for projects completed prior to the submission of a grant application will not be considered by the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission for funding. Certificate of Appropriateness and Funk Grant applications must occur in same fiscal year.²

9. Funding assistance is not available to exterior projects on:
   
a. Significant additions to the original structure which are not architecturally compatible with the original structure.
   
b. Non-historically significant auxiliary buildings.
   
c. Non-historically significant features of the property such as fences, driveways and sidewalks.
   
d. Landscaping

10. Repairs that are ordinary in nature, and do not require historically accurate materials such as an asphalt roof replacement, driveway, or sidewalk replacement are not eligible for grant awards.

11. Project expenses not eligible for grant program funds include:
   
a. "Sweat equity" labor provided by the applicant, the owner, or any other non-skilled laborer cannot be charged against the grant.

   b. Labor expenses below prevailing wages for the type of work performed except for owner-occupied single family residences and owner-occupied multi-family residences.

   NOTE: While certain projects are not eligible for grant awards, all exterior work still requires an application for Certificate of Appropriateness.

² Bloomington’s fiscal year runs from May 1 through April 30.
Other Requirements, Terms and Conditions:

13. The grant application must be submitted to:

City Planner
Community Development Department
Government Center
115 East Washington Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 3157
Bloomington, Illinois 61702

14. The grant application must be filed using the form provided by the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission.

15. The Bloomington Historic Preservation meeting occurs on the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm. Grant applications must be received by the City Planner at the above address prior to the submission deadline, approximately three weeks before the meeting. Applications received after the deadline will be added to the subsequent month’s Historic Preservation Commission meeting agenda.

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16. The Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission will attempt to deliver a decision on grant requests during the regular meeting. However, the commission may request additional information from the applicant or delay final action on the grant request for other reasons.

17. The grant application form includes an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness that must be properly completed in order to be considered for a grant. As with any application a preliminary consultation with the City Planner and/or the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission is recommended. If a Certificate of Appropriateness has already been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission for the project that is the subject of the grant request, please attach a copy of such Certificate to the application. Include photos and pertinent
information for projects already complete or in progress.

18. Prior to the release of any funds, a project completion report shall be submitted by the applicant to the Bloomington City Planner to demonstrate that such project for which the grant was awarded is 100% complete and has met the standard of care for the trades needed to execute the project. The report shall include before/during/after pictures to support that the standard of care has been met. The Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission reserves the right to have a project evaluated to determine if the standard of care has been adequately met, and may withhold funds in the event they have not. In addition, copies of all bills, receipts, and canceled checks associated with the project are to be included. The project also requires final approval from city inspectors and planner before funds will be released.

19. The Bloomington Historic Preservation will give priority to projects that:
   a. Involve the employment of a professional architect;
   b. Involve the preservation, restoration or historic rehabilitation of vacant and / or neglected properties of historic and / or architectural significance in an S-4 Historic and Cultural District;
   c. Involved sites that have a high degree of visibility from the public right-of-way;
   d. Demonstrate a large financial commitment on the part of the applicant.
   e. Priority is given first to Preservation projects, then Restoration, then Maintenance type projects.

20. The Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission reserves that right to deny any grant application or to provide only partial funding of a grant application.

21. Recipients of any historic preservation program funds must agree to observe all applicable federal, state, and local laws pertaining to the use of grant funds. Except for owner-occupied single family residences and owner-occupied multi-family residences, grant recipients and their contractors must pay prevailing wage in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and all requirements of the Illinois Department of Labor.

22. The restoration or historic rehabilitation project must be completed in accordance with Paragraph 18 within one year from the date of the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission meeting that the grant is awarded or the grant will automatically be revoked. The Preservation Commission reserves the right to allow a reasonable extension of this time limit upon receiving a written request from the applicant to do so.