

Draft Dixon Street improvement grant

Overview

This funding program supports capital works that improve shop and building frontages on Dixon Street south with matched funding that contributes to:

- the visible renewal of Dixon Street (south) shopfronts and facades, making the street more attractive
- the creation of a ‘chef’s gallery’ bringing the theatre of food preparation to the street
- the distinct character and identity of Dixon Street as the historic heart of Chinatown.

We provide support for 3 types of capital works projects:

1. Street level major works
 2. Street level minor works
 3. Upper storey works
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Key dates

This program will open for 3 years from 2024/25 or until the budget is exhausted.

See ‘how to apply’ for more information on registering your interest and the application process.

Funding priorities

Our funding will prioritise:

1. Street level major works

- building works to bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street (required for this type of grant)
- upgrades to shopfronts
- upgrades to external signs and lighting
- installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street)
- repair or restoration of existing awnings
- works to improve accessibility.

2. Street level minor works

- upgrades to Dixon Street shopfronts
- upgrades to external signs and lighting
- installation of larger windows or bi-fold windows (opening up views from Dixon Street)
- repair or restoration of existing awnings

- works to improve accessibility.

3. Upper storey works

- restoration or installation of signs or street art that maintains Dixon Street's character
- cleaning, repairing or repainting external building façade
- repair or restoration of existing awnings and upper storey windows
- removal of redundant air conditioning units, utilities, wiring or fixtures.

Funding available

Type 1 – Street level major works: Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per shopfront.

Type 2 – Street level minor works: Cash funding of up to \$20,000 is available per shopfront.

Type 3 – Upper storey works: Cash funding up to \$60,000 is available per property.

Applicants are required to at least match the funding requested with cash (value-in-kind will not be accepted).

Assessment criteria

Proposals are assessed against the following criteria:

- demonstrates significant and visible improvements to the shop and building frontages as viewed from Dixon Street
- exhibits design excellence and responds to local heritage and character
- supports local and small businesses
- evidence of value for money
- how the project meets the funding priorities.

Eligibility

To be eligible:

- the building must be located on one of the properties highlighted in blue in Figure 1
- the proposed works must be to a frontage visible from Dixon Street
- the applicant must be the landowner or business occupant with a letter of support from the landowner
- the applicant must have an ABN (Australian Business Number)
- the proposed works will naturally need to meet certain standards including planning regulations, certification regulations and the Building Code of Australia (National Construction Code)

Applicants should be aware that the proposal may need to go through a development application process.

Also, for street level major works applications (type 1) to be eligible the proposed improvements must bring food preparation to the front window to be visible from Dixon Street, contributing to a 'chefs gallery' on Dixon Street.



Figure 1

Not eligible for funding

Funding is not available for:

- purchase of buildings
 - extensions or additions to properties
 - relocation of businesses
 - internal fit outs or works which do not improve the frontage as viewed from Dixon Street
 - waiver of fees for development applications, health inspection fees, health approvals, street closures and other approvals and other similar statutory charges
 - reimbursement of funds already spent
 - operational costs, staffing, wages and marketing
 - projects that directly contravene the eligibility and ethics framework or existing City of Sydney policies.
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How to apply

This program has 4 steps in the application process:

Step 1. Design and planning concierge

- register your interest with the concierge team in June or December
- meet with the concierge team to discuss your site and what type of improvements could be eligible for grant funding
- develop your proposal with advice from the concierge team – you may need to engage a design team
- the team will carry out eligibility, scope of work and design checks.

Step 2. Grant application

- submit your grant application and provide quotes for the proposed work
- for more significant works, the grant payment may be on the condition of an approved development application.

Step 3. Planning and certification (if required)

- your proposal may require a development application consent or complying development certificate
- the design and planning concierge team can provide advice
- the applicant will need to make the necessary applications and pay any applicable fees..

Step 4: Payment and construction

Works can commence. Grant funding will be provided in 2 staged payments:

- (1) 50% when works begin
- (2) 50% when works are completed and verified through a site inspection and review of receipts.

To start the process, contact the design and planning concierge team to arrange an initial meeting: [\[phone number\]](#) and [\[email\]](#). Interpreter services are available.

For more information on our grants and sponsorships see cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/grants-sponsorships.