



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS “Great Blocks on Main Street”

The New Mexico Main Street (NMMS) Program is pleased to announce a community competition for an innovative and intensive design/economic vitality demonstration project, ***Great Blocks on MainStreet***.

The project is designed to dramatically upgrade a core three-block commercial area within a MainStreet District through the creative implementation of urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and creative economy projects. Great Blocks is meant to catalyze the target area by providing through this grant much needed public infrastructure upgrades that will in the next phase result in private sector reinvestment in buildings and businesses.

This application is for the Phase 1 of Great Blocks, the development of construction documents for Public Infrastructure, inclusive of:

- Curb, gutter, sidewalks and pedestrian and bicycle amenities
- Landscape plantings
- Lighting improvements
- Identified public areas for potential public art installations and creative placemaking
- Gateway/entry features and Way finding

A team of designers will be retained by NMMS to conduct a community-based planning, design and engineering process to develop plans and construction-ready drawings, which will be provided to the community as a “shovel-ready” project. The project design must be completed by June 15, 2019 (preferably sooner).

The team will be paid by New Mexico MainStreet. The value of the work is \$72,000. The applicant is expected to raise another \$20,000 for community meetings, marketing and any contingencies discovered during the development of the project. (the discovery process often finds unknown engineering issues that may require changes to the design and which have to be remediated within the documents).

If the proposed area has buildings on the state’s “Cultural and Historic Properties Registry,” the state’s Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs will be engaged in the process. If the proposed area is on a state or federal highway, the New Mexico Department of Transportation’s Regional Transportation office will be engaged in the process.

As part of a “great block” project. The project’s initial focus will be on public infrastructure for the three block target area. A designated NM Main Street community, in good standing may apply, and a single project will be selected by a distinguished panel based on a proposal submitted from the community.

New Mexico MainStreet will assist local government and the local revitalization partner to secure funding for the public infrastructure improvements.

NMMS will also focus all its technical professional assistance, post execution of construction documents, into the Great Block target area for building renovations, business and entrepreneur development and a diversified business mix including potential creative enterprises and industries.

Volunteer-based design intervention programs based on public infrastructure improvements, such as “tactical urbanism,” “façade squads,” and public art installations and creative placemaking, are among the revitalization and redevelopment results in this catalytic area targeted by the local MainStreet organization. These may additionally include:

- Façade improvements
- Building renovations and adaptive reuses
- Business expansions and local entrepreneur start ups
- Creative Industry and Enterprises development

Pre-Application Workshop

It is highly recommended that applicants (both representatives of the local MS organization and their local government partner, attend a Pre-Application Webinar for Great Blocks on **July 9th, 2pm.** This document should be read prior to the workshop to be able to engage in questions or concerns about proposal development. Information on the webinar will be forthcoming.

Selection Criteria

The Great Blocks on MainStreet proposal submitted by the MainStreet Board although initially targeted in Phase 1 to Public Infrastructure, additional phases will be focused on capitalizing and leveraging the public investment for economic redevelopment and private sector reinvestment. Consideration should be given to the following in the application for this grant:

Maximum 15 page description of the project that addresses the following:

- Information, graphics and/or photos describing the project.
- Organization is in good standing with NMMS
- Anticipated economic impact of project (building renovations, entrepreneur and/or business development, enhancement of the economic environment catalyzing local economy, job creation, etc).
- Partnerships that will be involved in the project implementation and maintenance
- Is the project in the adopted Metropolitan Redevelopment Plan/Master Plan or Cultural Plan?
- Is the project on the local government’s ICIP?
- Is the project on the annual MS implementation plan (if not the board needs to certify that they understand that this is the only design/planning service they will receive the next couple of years.)
- Local Government’s willingness to explore (with NMMS assistance) for CDBG, LEDA, NMFA, DOT TAP, HPD grants, ICIP and/or other funding sources as appropriate to the proposed project.

- A letter of support for the proposed project must be submitted from the local government's city/county manager and/or mayor and an approved resolution from the Mayor/County and Council (since public right-of-way is mostly under local government jurisdiction and most state and federal funding will need to be administered through local government).

Further criteria in ranking the proposed project that will be considered by the Selection Panel includes:

- Past success of the applicant implementing public infrastructure and economic redevelopment projects for the District area
- Preservation-based project that can use state historic tax credits
- Executive Director employed for 40 paid hours per week to take on project management
- Main Street America Accredited program in the immediate past year
- MainStreet Accelerator programs are not eligible

The Great Blocks on MainStreet project proposal is to be submitted to the NM MainStreet Program no later than **2:00 pm August 24th, 2018** by either delivery (certified carrier, i.e. FedEx or UPS highly recommended) or as a digital PDF file to Rich or Daniel:

Contact Information:

MainStreet/Economic Development Department
Joseph M. Montoya Bldg.
1100 South St. Francis Drive
PO Box 20003
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Questions or additional information should be directed to Rich Williams at (505) 827-0168 or Daniel Gutierrez (505) 827-0151. Or Email: rich.williams@state.nm.us or Daniel.gutierrez2@state.nm.us

The Department is not responsible for delayed or late mail.