



**GULFPORT MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION  
ANNOUNCES  
THE SMALL BUSINESS GRANT 2016**

**For Immediate Release, March 14, 2016**

**Historic Downtown Gulfport, MS** - Gulfport Main Street Association (GMSA) has activated the small business grant program to assist small businesses with needs that will help them grow and thrive in this challenging economy. GMSA is committed to cultivating our historic downtown district's resources, including embracing and assisting our existing businesses. A total of up to \$15,000 has been allocated for this program. The individual grant maximum is \$2,500. Last year GMSA awarded \$14,500 in grants, of which more than \$12,500 was disbursed.

To that end, Small Business Grants will be awarded to businesses located within the boundaries of the Gulfport Main Street district and the winners will be selected on a competitive basis. Priority will be placed upon applications where proposed projects will result in growth of the subject business and where local vendors are utilized.

Applications and a complete list of the guidelines will be made available on **April 15, 2016** via our website at [www.downtowngulfport.com](http://www.downtowngulfport.com) or by contacting our office for a copy.

Guidelines and Eligibility Checklist

- Gulfport Main Street Association Member and located within the Main Street District
- Business must have been in existence for 60 days and the business must either (1) own the building where the business resides or (2) have an existing lease of one year or more.
- Business must be locally owned, not a chain or franchise, and have fewer than 25 employees.

Additional Information

This is a reimbursement grant program. Funds may be paid directly to vendors or applicant may be reimbursed for approved expenditures incurred after the date of the grant award. Local vendors must be used when available.

Gulfport Main Street is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that has been instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Gulfport. Main Street's facade program enhanced the exteriors of nearly 70 buildings, many of which date back more than a century, and a \$10.4 million streetscape project improved the infrastructure and aesthetics of the Main Street district.

For more information, please contact:

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