

Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Program Downtown Core

Program Description

The Clearwater Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) offers financial assistance to qualified business owners or commercial tenants seeking to furnish approved sidewalk café areas within the Downtown Core District. The Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Program makes available one-time grants of up to the maximum of \$7,500 per applicant (which includes the reimbursement for the \$50 Sidewalk Café Permit) for outdoor furniture specified in an approved site plan from the City's Planning Department.

Financial Availability

The CRA has established funding for the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Program through its current budget. Grants are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility

An applicant for the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for the grant:

- Applicant is a business owner or commercial tenant operating a business within the Downtown Core District with an approved Sidewalk Café Permit;
- Applicant has submitted a completed Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application to the CRA;
- Property taxes are current; and
- All state and local code and licensing requirements for the business have been met.

Street furnishings purchased prior to the receipt of a completed application for the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant by the CRA staff will be ineligible to participate in the program.

This grant is exclusive of, and in addition to, any other financing, loans, or grants to which property owners or tenants may avail themselves.

Qualified Furniture

Sidewalk café furniture, including tables, chairs, and umbrellas, must be complementary to the aesthetic character of the Downtown Core District and be of quality materials and workmanship to sustain outdoor use (refer to requirements in *Section 3-201. C. Sidewalk Cafes*, Clearwater Community Development Code).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of CRA staff in the selection of furnishings to be funded under Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant program.

Please contact Eric Santiago at eric.santiago@myclearwater.com.

Grant Application, Review and Award Process

In the following, step-by-step instructions for the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application, review and award process are provided:

Step 1. – Applicant initiates the sidewalk café approval process by attending a pre-application conference with the Planning Department and beginning the sidewalk café approval process set forth in Section 3-201. C. Sidewalk Cafes, Clearwater Community Development Code.

Step 2. – Applicant meets with CRA staff to obtain the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application, discuss the conceptual plans for a sidewalk café in the Downtown Core Street Café District **contact Eric Santiago at eric.santiago@myclearwater.com**

Step 3. – Applicant completes the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application and submits to CRA staff, including a copy of the proposed or approved sidewalk café site plan.

Step 4. – CRA staff reviews the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application for compliance with program requirements and guidelines. CRA staff makes recommendation to the CRA Executive Director, or designee, as to the approval or denial of the application and, if applicable, the dollar amount of the grant award. This step may occur concurrently with the review of sidewalk café site plan and Sidewalk Café Permit.

Step 5. – Via written correspondence, CRA staff notifies the applicant of the CRA's decision relative to the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application. If the CRA's decision is to award the grant, the steps below shall apply.

Step 6. – The applicant may install sidewalk café furnishings prior to the CRA's decision on the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application and after approval of the Sidewalk Café Permit. In so doing, the applicant acknowledges that there is no guarantee of a grant award and that costs for furnishings will be borne by solely by the applicant if the CRA does not award a grant.

Step 7. – The CRA will reimburse the applicant for those furnishings specified in the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application upon satisfaction of the following:

- a. Proof of approved Sidewalk Café Permit;
- b. Proof of purchase for specified furnishings;
- c. Inspection of the sidewalk café by CRA staff for consistency with information provided in completed Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant application; and
- d. Executed grant agreement between the applicant and the CRA Director.

For More Information

For more information on the Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Program or to schedule required pre-application meetings for your sidewalk café site plan or grant application, please contact:

**Sidewalk Café Grant Program
Community Redevelopment Agency
Eric Santiago**

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**Sidewalk Café Site Plan and Permit
Planning Department**

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