

City gives local businesses \$1 million for façade improvements



Redman Technologies, 10172 108 Street
Façade Improvement Program completed 2014

More than two dozen local businesses will have a fresh look thanks to the City of Edmonton's Façade Improvement Program, which approved more than a million dollars in grants this past year to help revitalize neighbourhoods.

Businesses needing exterior renovations and storefront upgrades in the City's business revitalization zones can apply for funding to help with renovations to architectural features, landscaping, doors and windows, exterior lighting, signage and more. Funding includes a grant of up to \$30,000 per façade, and corner buildings are eligible for up to \$60,000.

"Businesses that qualify for the Façade Improvement Program can receive up to 50 per cent of renovation costs back," says Stuart Kehrig, senior planner at the City of Edmonton. "Having that kind of support can mean the difference between attracting new tenants and customers or having a building sit empty. It's win-win for neighbourhoods and businesses."

Cafe Mosaics is among the businesses that received grants in 2014.

"The Façade Improvement Program helped us create a more open and inviting face to the street, which meant customers could discover us through curiosity instead of by mistake," said Khuyen Khuong, the creative director of Cafe Mosaics. "There are so many benefits to using the program: more exposure, better business, more pedestrian-friendly streets, and inevitably, a more beautiful city."

Businesses across all business revitalization zones are encouraged to apply. Eligibility criteria can be found at edmonton.ca/FIP.

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