

City of  
**Fort Collins**

**REHAB**  **RIGHT**  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SERVICES

## DESIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Rev. 2019

### Design Assistance: What's it for?

If you have an historic building and aren't sure where to start, DAP may be the right program for you. DAP provides funding to property owners to support design and planning projects in advance of doing repair, rehabilitation, and other projects on historic buildings. It can also help owners of non-historic property in certain areas of the city to develop sensitive plans that minimize the effects of new buildings and additions on historic character.

Intrigued? Here's some examples of projects that the Design Assistance Program can fund:

- Mortar analysis on historic masonry walls or foundations
- Window studies for treatment of historic windows
- Assessment of exterior conditions to determine appropriate repairs.
- Design of compatible and distinguishable new construction, additions, rear porches, other exterior alterations, etc.
- Design of compatible site planning, including civil engineering to adequately address drainage issues.

### Background

City Council created the DAP in 2011 with the goal of helping property owners minimize the impacts of additions, alterations, and new construction on neighbors and on the overall historic character of Fort Collins. Council recognized the usefulness of such a program as an educational solution for many of the problems with design compatibility in these areas. The program enables and encourages owners to utilize the expertise of qualified consultants with documented experience in compatible historic design for new construction, alterations, and project planning. Approved consultants have demonstrated competency in promoting design compatibility within the historic context.

### Program Guidelines

Who can apply?

- The owner of a property.
- All designated properties are eligible and encouraged to use design assistance as a helpful tool for Landmark Design Review. Properties in historic districts or in older sections of the city may also qualify, even if they are not historic (check with staff).

How much funding is available?

- Funds are available on a first come, first served basis. Contact City staff to ensure that funds are available and will be set aside for your project.

- The City will provide a maximum of \$2,000 for design assistance per qualifying project. Any amount above \$2,000 per project will be the responsibility of the property owner to pay.
- Funding can be applied to different aspects of the same project, with more than one consultant, up to the \$2,000 maximum for each qualifying project.

#### What types of projects can qualify?

- Funding is for projects that will impact a building's exterior. Check with staff to see if your project can qualify.
- Plans must meet the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#) in order to receive approval from City staff and qualify for funding.
- The City reserves the right to reject plans that do not meet the intent or design requirements of this program, which is to facilitate contextually compatible design, or which do not meet building codes or permit requirements. The provided guidelines do not ensure funding approval. Each application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and we will need to meet with applicants and designers before the application can be processed.

#### Application Process:

1. Schedule a meeting with Historic Preservation staff to discuss your project and the types of expertise you may need.
2. Submit application for Design Assistance Program to reserve funding for your project. Funds are available on a first come, first serve basis.
3. Owner or contractor(s) submit plans or technical studies for staff review. The plans must meet the program guidelines and intent of the program.
4. The City will pay the Design Assistance Program funds to the consultant directly for the agreed amount, up to a maximum of \$2,000.
5. The owner sends before & after photographs of the project.