



DESIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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WHAT IS DESIGN ASSISTANCE?

If you have a historic building and aren't sure where to start, the Design Assistance Program (DAP) may be the right program for you. DAP provides mini grants to property owners to support project planning and design in advance of repairs, rehabilitation, and other projects on historic buildings. It can also help owners of non-designated historic properties develop sensitive plans that minimize the effects of additions on historic buildings.

Examples of projects DAP can help fund:

- Mortar analysis of 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, and other exterior alterations
- Design of compatible site planning, including civil engineering, to address drainage issues
- And more!

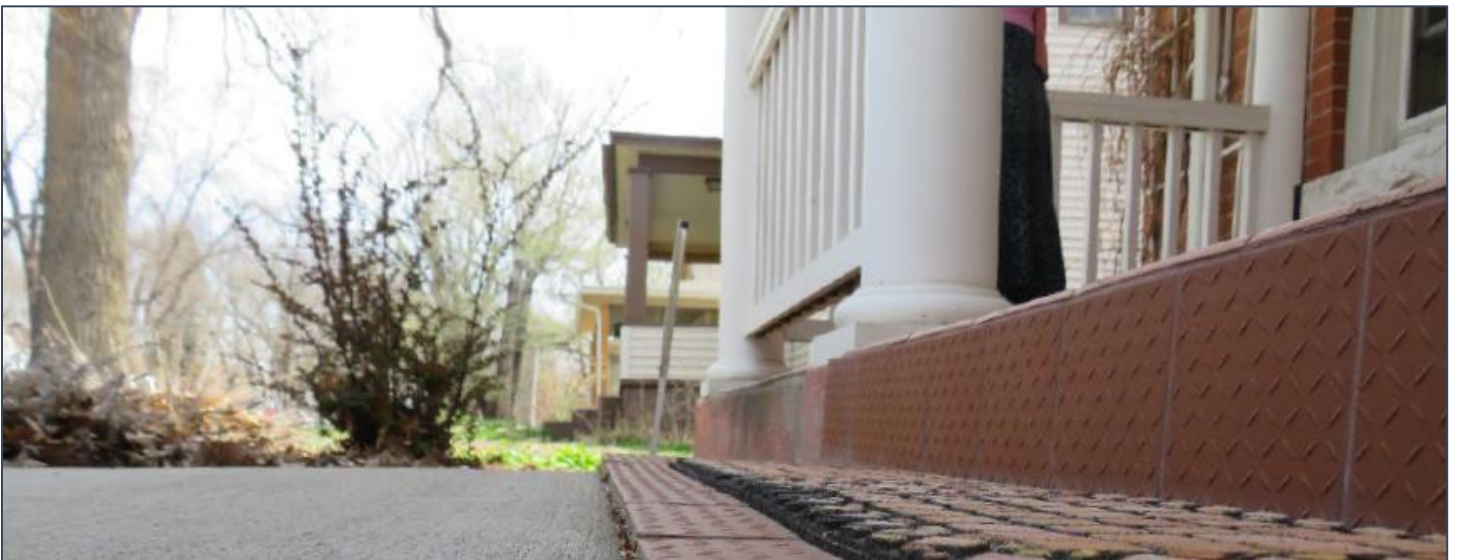


Photo: The Trimble/Taylor/Dixon Property at 817 W. Mountain Ave. received a DAP grant to receive guidance from a structural engineer related to porch column displacement and potential issues with site grading.

Background

The Fort Collins City Council created 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 the city. The City Council recognized the usefulness of such a program as an educational tool to improve design compatibility with historic properties. The program enables and encourages owners to use the expertise of qualified consultants with documented experience with historic buildings for new construction, alterations, and project planning. Approved consultants have demonstrated competency in promoting design compatibility within a historic context or other technical preservation expertise.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Who can apply?

- Owners of all designated properties in Fort Collins, or their authorized representatives, are eligible to use DAP as a tool to prepare them for Landmark Design Review of their project.
- Owners of non-designated historic properties, or their authorized representatives (check with Historic Preservation Services staff)

How much funding is available?

- Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Historic Preservation Services staff to check if funds are available and if your project qualifies for this program.
- DAP grants are typically up to \$2,000 for most qualifying projects. In some cases, staff may award a higher amount. *Amounts exceeding the grant award are the responsibility of the applicant to pay.*

What types of projects can qualify for DAP?

- Projects that impact a building's exterior (verify with staff)
- Plans must meet the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#) to receive approval and qualify for funding
- The City reserves the right to reject plans that do not meet the intent or requirements of this program, which is to facilitate contextually compatible design, or which do not meet building codes or permit requirements. The guidelines provided do not ensure funding approval. Each application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis; expect to meet with staff prior to an application being processed.



Photo: The Juan and Mary Barraza Property at 412 Wood St. received a DAP grant for a window study to evaluate window conditions and recommend repair methods to restore operability.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Schedule a meeting with Historic Preservation Services staff to discuss your project and the types of expert consultation you may need.
2. Submit an [application](#) for the Design Assistance Program to reserve funding for your project. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - a. If you are not the property owner, you must be an authorized representative of the owner. Staff must have confirmation from the property owner that you are authorized to pursue this work before your application is further processed.
3. Staff will connect you with a qualified professional with proven success with historic preservation projects related to your project needs, including coordination of any necessary site visits or meetings.
4. The consultant will submit the agreed upon product to staff, who will confirm conformance with historic preservation regulations.
5. Staff will forward approved products to you and facilitate any needed follow-up meetings.
6. The City will pay the consultant directly for the approved grant amount, typically up to \$2,000.
7. If any balance remains, the consultant will bill you directly, and you are responsible for paying this remainder.