

DESIGN ASSISTANCE FORM

The Texas Main Street Program provides design assistance to official Main Street communities. Rooted in historic preservation, a range of services are offered to individual property / business owners and Main Street Managers within the designated Main Street District as part of a community's program

applicant information:

Applicant's Name: _____

Main Street City: _____

Main Street Manager: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

scope of work:

Request for assistance initiated by:

Business Tenant Property Owner Local Main Street Other: _____

services available

(check all boxes that apply)

Preservation Consultation

Discuss project assessing historical character and current physical condition of the building prior to any design decisions.

Building/Property Design Recommendations

Provide conceptual design recommendations, which may include sketches, renderings, material information, precedent projects, etc.

Public Space Design Recommendations

Address accessibility and provide conceptual design recommendations for public space such as pocket parks, streetscapes, and parking areas.

Programming + Design Planning

Assess interior and exterior spaces for best use and future potential including individual buildings and limited downtown areas.

Signage

Provide recommendations on signage type, placement, and size in relationship to building façade utilizing business branding provided.

Other

Describe the design problem in the scope of work section and Staff will determine how best to assist.

Education Consultation

Design Staff can provide (virtual and in-person) education sessions for specific community needs.

building information:

Property Name: _____

Property Address: _____ Name of Business: _____

Date of Original Construction: _____ Square Footage of Building: _____

Dates of Significant Additions/Alterations: _____

Current Building Use: _____

Proposed Building Use: _____

Building Designation:

Local Historic Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
State Antiquities National Register of Historic Places:
Landmark Individual Contributing to a District

Photos Attached: Historic Current

budget + schedule:

Approximate Budget/Phased Budget: _____

Applying for Tax Credits: Yes No Is funding available for this project? Yes No

Funding Source + Amount: _____

Construction Start Date: _____ Deadline for Assistance: _____

(Depending on the number of requests, response times will be between 2 weeks and 3 months.)

If Owner has hired an Architect, Engineer or Contractor, please identify: _____

work plan:

Does this request relate to a project on your Main Street Organization's annual work plan?

Yes No

signatures:

Property Owner

Business Owner (if applicable)

Historic Preservation Officer (if applicable)

how to photograph a building

The design team is passionate about providing Texas Main Street cities with high quality images and ideas on how to revitalize historic buildings and downtown. They can work a lot of magic in Photoshop, but none of that magic can happen without a good photograph to start with. **The Design Team relies on you, the Main Street manager, to provide quality photos, so they can provide quality assistance.** This guide will help you do just that.

equipment:

There is no need for a fancy camera. Your iPhone or other smart device will work to photograph a building.

resolution:

Today, most phones and cameras take decent quality photos when it comes to resolution. There is no need to change the presets before photographing. When a photo is emailed from a device, **always send in the actual size, so that the photo is large enough for the Design Team to work with.**

time of day:

The biggest factor that determines whether your photo will be good or not is the time of day. Too much shadow or too much glare can make a photo difficult to work with. The best time to take photos in a downtown situation is typically during the middle of the day, when the sun is high in the sky and there are minimal shadows. Look at the images below. In photo A on the left, you can see the beautiful blue sky, but the building is dark and the details are muddy. In photo B on the right, the sky is washed out, but the building details are crisp. Send in photo B on the right side. Design Staff can add a blue sky, **but the building features must be clear to start with.**



angle:

The most important picture to send Design Staff is an overall photograph showing the entire building. If the building has more than one side visible, try to capture the photo at the corner, so that both sides can be seen as shown in the Photo #1. Straight on pictures of the front facade also work well (#2). For multiple buildings, take the photo at an angle (#3). If the building is too large, take multiple pictures of the facade (#4a & #4b). Make sure to stay the same distance away from the building and move laterally to take pictures like the example below. Staff can easily make this one picture in Photoshop.



building visibility:

It's ok for cars or trees to block a small portion of the building. These elements make the picture automatically look more alive. However, make sure objects are not obscuring large portions of the building. For example, in photo #3, a few cars on the street blocks the lower portion of the streetscape, but a majority of the buildings can be seen. In photo #5, half of the building is blocked with a dumpster. Boards are also covering portions of the building. It's extremely difficult to recreate what is hidden and determine if historic elements are in place.



details:

Detail photographs are not always necessary, but they can be useful when you are trying to point out problem areas or architectural features. Detail shots help us understand what maintenance information we need to include in the design report. See Image #6 for examples. The more detail shots you include, the more we know about a building.