



## SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS

### **ABOUT THE DDA**

Voters established the Downtown Development Authority in November 2006 to provide programs and financial incentives to encourage downtown development. DDA is governed by a board of 11 people appointed by Colorado Springs City Council. Downtown Partnership executes the work of the DDA as a contracted affiliate. In 2007, City Council adopted the Imagine Downtown plan as the plan of development for DDA. The DDA is funded in two ways: first, by a 5-mill tax levy within the district to support its operations, and second, through Tax Increment Financing (TIF). The latter tax is the capture of increased property tax revenues following a baseline assessment. TIF revenues go into a special fund and as it grows, the funds can be leveraged for support of downtown projects.

### **MISION OF THE DDA**

To build public and private investment partnerships that promote the economic growth of Downtown Colorado Springs.

### **PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT**

Imagine Downtown serves as the plan of development for DDA. The plan was created in 2005-2006 with the involvement of more than 400 community stakeholders. The plan can be found [here](#).

### **GOALS**

- Construction/conversion of at least 2,000 housing units of a variety of types.
- Recruitment, retention and growth of retail, with a diverse mix and emphasis on independent retailers and careful consideration of select chain stores.
- Increase the downtown workforce, with an emphasis on primary employment.
- Encourage one-of-a-kind cultural and sporting venues and activities.
- Achieve a high-density, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use downtown of high design standards, attention to historic preservation and emphasis on environmental stewardship.

### **DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

The DDA encompasses roughly two square miles of downtown. For a map, click [here](#).

## **WHAT ARE SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS?**

Special project grants are funds provided for initiatives that address the goals of Imagine Downtown but do not readily fall into the primary categories of Building Enhancements, Signature Events or major developments for consideration of Tax Increment Financing. These projects most likely could include feasibility studies or other studies and reports; public safety initiatives; or other efforts to enhance the economic vitality of downtown.

Because Special Projects are unique in nature, there is not a formal grant application. Applicants are asked to provide a letter of one to three pages that includes:

- Date of application
- Applicant name (business, nonprofit, etc.)
- Contact name, title
- Contact email, phone number, mailing address
- An explanation of the special project and how it will enhance the goals of Imagine Downtown.
- Total budget for project, demonstrating anticipated revenue and expenses, with revenue indicated as secured or projected
- Total amount requested of DDA

If funds are awarded, applicants must sign a grant agreement and agree to provide a final report on use of funds.

**All decisions concerning aspects of the grant application process, including eligibility, are within the sole discretion of the Downtown Development Authority board.**

### **Submit grant application and supporting documents to:**

Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs  
111 South Tejon St. Ste. 404  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Address questions to Downtown Partnership at 719.886.0088.