

January 14, 2008

NOTICE & CALL FOR PROPOSALS

To: All Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Business District Property Owners & Business Tenants
From: Kennedy Heights Urban Redevelopment Corporation

RE: 2009 Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program Funding

Notification of Eligibility:

We are pleased to announce that on October 27th of this year the Kennedy Heights Urban Redevelopment Corporation received confirmation of the award of up to \$100,000 toward the development of the proposed ***Kennedy Heights Business District Gateway West Gateway Improvement Initiative***. A copy of that letter and the July 23, 2008 grant application are attached to this announcement.

The proposed *Kennedy Heights Business District West Gateway Improvement Initiative* is intended to involve a combination of façade and landscape enhancements and other potential “community building” investments. This project would be one of several implementation projects which the community has identified toward the purpose of re-positioning the Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Business District from a failing commercial corridor to a thriving center of neighborhood-serving business, arts, and cultural activity. The master plan for this redevelopment is the neighborhood’s recently-adopted Urban Design Plan and Urban Design Overlay District.

Funding Criteria:

The Neighborhood Business District Improvement Program (NBDIP) was created to assist in implementing projects that stabilize, maintain and improve the recognized neighborhood business districts (NBD’s) within Cincinnati’s various neighborhoods. Only properties within our Kennedy Heights NBD along Montgomery Road (between the Tyne and Coleridge Avenue) are eligible for funding assistance through this program. All funding is subject to City Council authorization and the completion of a competitive review and application process which will be directed by the City of Cincinnati and locally administered by the Kennedy Heights Urban Redevelopment Corporation (KHURC) in cooperation with Kennedy Heights Community Council (KHCC). Eligible projects must demonstrate that they will provide a tangible benefit to the NBD and lead to the retention and/or creation of jobs. Funding is allocated in proportion to the number of jobs which are either retained or created. All eligible projects must be able to be completed within twelve months of the availability of City funding or by December 31, 2009.

Details of the NBDIP grant eligibility criteria are available from the City of Cincinnati Department of Community Development. Application forms may be downloaded on the web @ <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cdap/pages/-3488/>

Applications to Date:

Leading up to the development of the original grant application, Kennedy Heights Community Council and KHURC solicited for proposals from individuals, businesses, and organizations interested in developing detailed proposals for the improvement of their respective properties. Notifications of the grant opportunity were contained with the neighborhood newsletter and were advertised during the regular meetings of the Kennedy Heights Community Council and Board of Trustee meetings. Prior to the June 13, 2008 application and continuing through the completion of a revised application on July 23, 2008, representatives of KHURC, KHCC and KHCC's Arts and Economic Development Committee received responses from 4 property owners and one business operator. Each respondent provided detailed proposals according to the criteria noted within the NBDIP grant application form provided by the City of Cincinnati.

Total requested funding exceeded the \$100,000 maximum amount provided under the 2009 program.

Call for Proposals:

As a result of the limitations in funding, KHURC is seeking updated proposals from eligible respondents. All updated proposals will be reviewed by KHURC and the City of Cincinnati to ensure compliance with the goals noted herein and as established by the City of Cincinnati. Preference for the distribution of available funds will be given to prior respondents, however any eligible business or property owner may apply since not all prior respondents may qualify in 2009 and this program may be extended from year to year.

Deadlines & Contact Information:

Please contact Clete Benken c/o Kennedy Heights Urban Redevelopment Corporation prior to February 15th, 2009 to confirm if you are interested in applying for funding in 2009. He can be reached by phone at (513) 313-8710 or by e-mail c/o clete@kennedyheights.org.

Interested parties may also contact Katrina Gragston, Community Development Officer at the City of Cincinnati. Katrina can be reached at Katrina@cincinnati-oh.gov or by phone at (513) 352-6250.