Shop Front Program

The BID works with Bedminster businesses to explore shop front renovations that rely on the integrity of the building and art to create unique, attractive shop fronts that stimulate shopper interest to visit more, stay longer and spend more in the Bedminster area and meet our vision to revitalise the area by '*exploiting the gap between art, advertising and entertainment, high street retailing and real estate development*'.

Below we set out some good examples of successful shop front renovations, details of useful local contractors and details of what we need from you to secure funding. Only ten (£500) grants have been made available and are subject to board approval with a preference to back projects that improve the shop itself; have a positive impact on the immediate area; meet our vision to revitalise the area (above); and seek to work within the design principles overleaf.

To Secure Funding – What we need from you:

Please email us (george@towncentred.com)

1. An image of your shop
2. Details of your proposed improvements (ideally including images)
3. Costings (including confirmation that you are at least matching the £500 grant)

Further Information:

Local Art and Contractor Contacts:

- 2D and 3D art, Steve Hayles, gallery@upfest.co.uk, 07725 231 878
- General shop front contractor, Martin, 07783 911402
- Creative construction solutions, Matt Cox, 07774977955, cliftonfinishers@gmail.com
- Set design and build, Russ Henry, 07759482987

Checklist

- consider the shopfront in the setting of the street

  - do not disrupt the rhythm of the terrace divisions, e.g. by spanning fascias across more than one property or removing pilasters at party walls

  - maintain the scale and proportions appropriate to the terrace.

- consider the shopfront as an integral part of the building

  - 'frame' the shopfront window to create a surround to visually support the upper floors

  - subdivide glazing to create vertical emphasis in proportion to the upper floor windows

- consider the relationship of all construction elements (pilasters, fascia, stallrisers, etc) in the composition of the design

  - provide a stallriser to raise display of goods and improve security against ram-raiding

  - do not project the fascia beyond the shopface

  - avoid overlarge fascias (more than one fifth the height of the shopfront is excessive)

  - do not extend fascias above first floor level

  - avoid plastic box fascias

  - retain pilasters to visually support the upper floor and frame the shop window

  - use transoms and mullions to subdivide large sheets of glass

  - use entrance doors appropriate to the style of the shopfronts

- for new buildings, modern shopfronts are more appropriate than reproduction traditional shopfronts

- for historic buildings, where no evidence of the original shopfront can be found, modern reinstatement can be considered

- reinstate/retain and avoid altering traditional shopfronts

- pay careful attention to details of construction

  - avoid rectangular section mullions or transoms in favour of rounded, lambs tongue, or tapered sections

  - use elements such as consoles, architraves and cills to give three dimensional modelling to the shopfront

- avoid primary colours in favour of dark, recessive colours

- avoid mill finish metal shopfront elements

- provide/retain traditional canvas blinds in preference to 'fixed', 'wet look' or glossy blinds

- avoid rear entrances to living accommodation above shops where surveillance is a problem

- integrate entrance doors to upper floors within the overall shopfront design

- provide easy access to the shop for people with disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant women, people with prams etc.

- avoid revolving doors and doors with 2 narrow leaves

- avoid steps and steep ramps and lobbies too small for wheelchair manoeuvring

Design principles from Shopfront Guidelines, Bristol Council please see:
http://www.bristol.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/planning_and_building_regulations/planning_policy/local_development_framework/PAN8-Shopfront.pdf.