



Ann Arbor DDA Makes Anti-Graffiti Grant Funds Available Again in 2015

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In support of its mission to undertake public improvements and attract new private investments in the downtown, the Ann Arbor DDA has once again allocated funds to subsidize the cost of graffiti-removal products for downtown businesses and building owners in 2015.

In 2010 the City of Ann Arbor amended its graffiti ordinance, requiring property owners to remove graffiti on private property within 7 to 9 days in order to combat tagging which is a nuisance crime that works against quality of life and sense of safety. The DDA has approved a grant annually since that time to be used to provide free graffiti-removal products to downtown property owners.

“We all benefit when graffiti blight is removed quickly, and DDA grant funds have had the effect of improving downtown aesthetics without placing an additional burden on businesses who are in fact the victims of graffitists tagging their property,” says Executive Director Susan Pollay. “This grant allows us to have a large impact with a relatively small investment.”

The DDA’s grant program works in partnership with Anderson’s Paint and Fingerle Lumber Company. These companies have been strong supporters of downtown and this effort in particular. The grant program works as follows:

1. A downtown building or business owner finds their building or sign tagged with graffiti.
2. They visit one of the following businesses to obtain free anti-graffiti supplies:
 - Anderson’s Paint, 2386 W. Stadium Blvd | (734) 995-4411
 - Fingerle Lumber, 617 S. Fifth Ave | (734) 663-0581
3. Necessary information includes business name and address to ensure the location is within the DDA Boundary, and thus eligible under the grant program. [DDA Boundaries](#)
4. Graffiti is removed or covered up in accordance with the [City Ordinance](#)

In addition to offering paint remover and other supplies, Anderson’s and Fingerle staff can offer expert advice on the best way to address the damage, which is important because many of downtown’s buildings are historic and require special attention. At the end of each month the DDA reimburses these companies for the cost of the anti-graffiti products they’ve dispensed (up to \$25 per property).

The mission of the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is to undertake public improvements that have the greatest impact in strengthening the downtown area and attracting new private investments. The anti-graffiti grant project is just one of many annual grants the DDA provides in support of the goal of downtown vitality, including providing funds for holiday lights, the walk map with its extensive business listing, and the Downtown Spring Clean-up. For more information on DDA programs and projects visit www.a2dda.org

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