

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

The Façade Improvement Program is one of the tools Economic Development uses to fight blight in New Haven neighborhoods, to stimulate economic growth, promote welfare of its citizens and strengthen local communities through a combination of redevelopment and rehabilitation.

In 2016, the Program reviewed 19 Façade projects with eligible grants totaling in excess of \$1.0 million, leveraging \$23.1 million in private investment in New Haven.

FY 2016 Highlights:

Caffe Bravo, 794 Orange Street (East Rock): Caffè Bravo was formed by John DiPaola, who immigrated to the U.S. from his hometown of Amorosi, Italy, and John's wife, Mary Lou, in 1994. John brought the traditional Italian cooking passed down from generation to generation to the quaint East Rock neighborhood of New Haven. From a neighborhood market, Caffè Bravo has grown into one of New Haven County's best-known eating establishments.

In 2016, the DiPaolo's received a façade grant to assist with new signage and to upgrade the outdoor patio with removable side enclosures, a retractable awning and a heated floor. Affording dining guests to comfortably enjoy their meals either inside or out.

Bender Plumbing Supplies, Inc., 335 East Street (Mill River): Bender has maintained their New Haven showroom at this site for a number of years and, as part of their 2015 decision to remain in New Haven and expand in Mill River, embarked on a \$5 million upgrade of the building, expanding the Showroom to the second floor. A Façade grant at this site was the last part of the City's financial support of this company's New Haven expansion.

35-39 Church Street, LLC, 35-39 Church Street (Downtown): Located at the corner of Church and Crown Streets, the Washington Building was built by Mayor Edward M. Clark in 1890. Designed with large, sweeping windows, fluted columns, an ornate cornice and decorative stonework, the site has been the home to a variety of retailers and restaurants over the years, while upper stories contained offices and studios.

The current owners, The Hurley Group have embarked on a \$5+ million restoration of the façade, while completely renovating the interior of upper stories into 18 residential units. The project is expected to be complete in the Summer of 2017.