

Welcome to Georgetown

Main Street is open for business!

It's not by chance that Georgetown's Main Street and Downtown Square continue to thrive as a bustling city center. Concentrated efforts and careful planning have aided in its growth, while proven approaches to economic development and historic preservation have led to enhanced vibrancy. The following grants and services are offered to downtown businesses to ensure a beautiful future:

Facade Reimbursement Grant

Available to businesses and property owners for proposed exterior work on storefronts and for roof and foundation work on commercial buildings located in the Downtown Overlay District (see map). Funds are provided on a 50/50 matching basis up to \$10,000 per grant. Grants must be approved prior to initiating work on the project.

Sign Reimbursement Grant

Available to business owners for proposed signage on commercial buildings located in the Downtown Overlay District. Funds are provided on a 50/50 matching basis up to \$500 per grant.

Texas Main Street Design Assistance

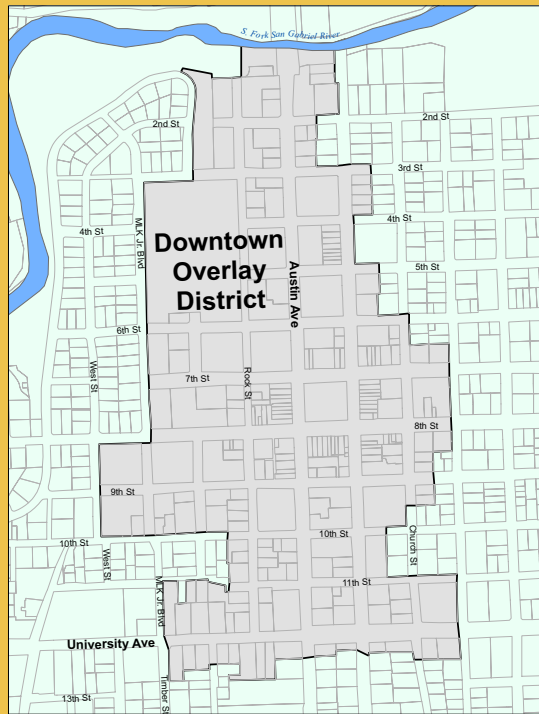
Limited free design assistance (not for regulatory approval, permit or construction) to property owners or tenants of commercial buildings located in the Downtown Overlay District. Assistance includes: building investigation, preservation consultation, facade renderings, business sign design and graphics, investment tax-credit assistance and ADA accessibility on-site consultation.

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program

A 20% tax credit is available for the costs associated with substantially rehabilitating income-producing properties that are certified historic structures. A 10% tax credit is available for the rehabilitation of non-historic, income-producing buildings built before 1936.

State of Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit

A 25% business franchise tax credit is available for income-producing certified historic properties. The property must be designated at the Federal, State or local level to be eligible.



Georgetown Utility Systems
512.930.3558
gus.georgetown.org

Inspection Services
512.930.2550
inspections.georgetown.org

Planning Department
512.930.3575
planning.georgetown.org

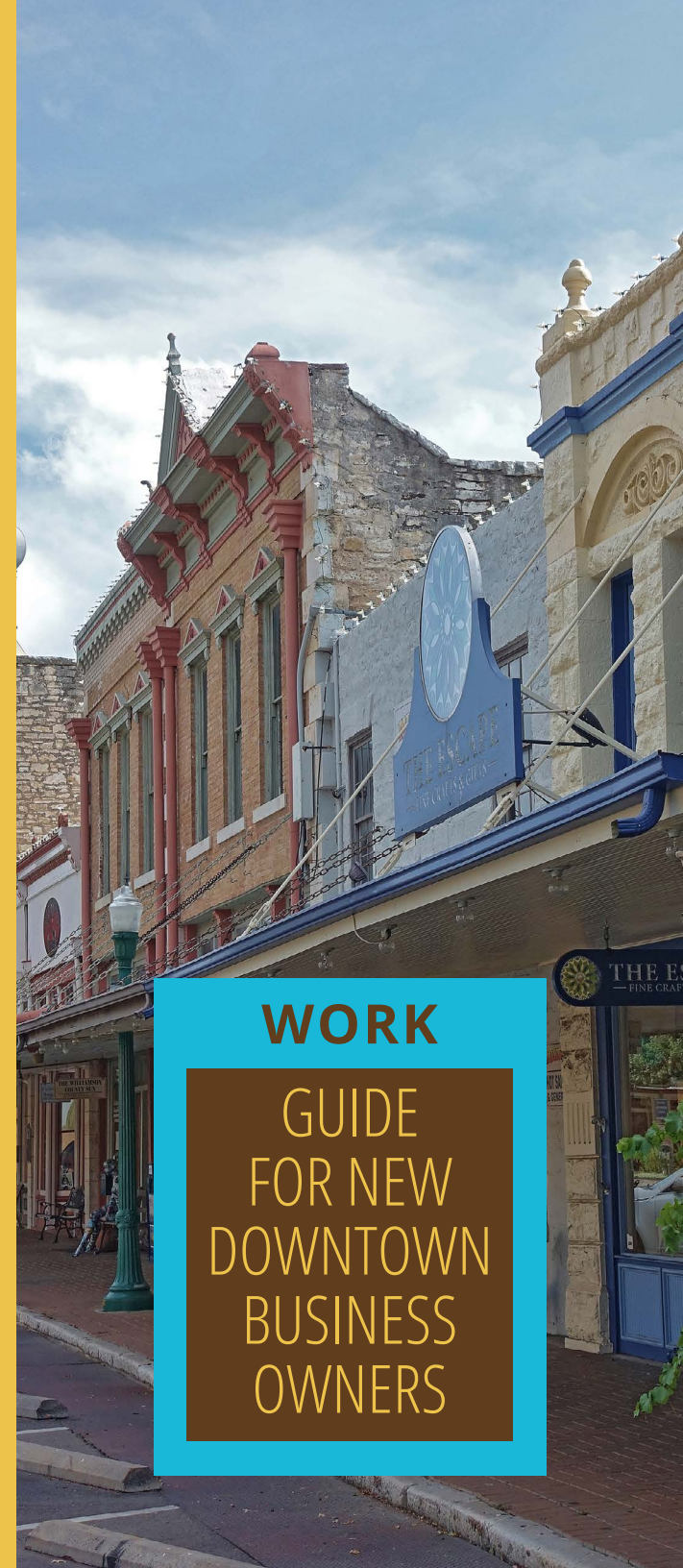
Historic Planner
512.930.3581
historic.georgetown.org

Texas Disposal Systems
512.930.1715
texasdisposal.com

Atmos Energy
1.888.286.6700
atmosenergy.com

Texas Historical Commission
512.463.6047
thc.state.tx.us

National Park Service
202.513.7270
nps.gov



WORK
GUIDE
FOR NEW
DOWNTOWN
BUSINESS
OWNERS

FOR MORE INFO CALL:
512.930.2027

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512.930.2027 | MainStreet@Georgetown.org

FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions

I'm a new business owner in Georgetown. Do I need approvals or permits before I can open my business?

Yes, all businesses in the City of Georgetown require a valid Certificate of Occupancy prior to occupying the business space or opening to the general public. As soon as you know that you are moving into a new building, complete the Certificate of Occupancy Application with the Inspection Services office. The application review process takes up to 10 business days. During this time, staff from Inspection Services, as well as the Historic Planner, will review the business for compliance with zoning regulations and building codes.

I want to make changes to my building. Do I need approval before I begin?

Yes, you will need an approved Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) and permits from Inspection Services prior to commencing work.

How do I obtain all the right permits and approvals I need to make changes to my building?

The project process begins with a pre-application meeting, arranged through the Planning Department. The appropriate staff members will attend the meeting to discuss your project and the required permits. You are encouraged to bring any conceptual materials to the meeting. The Historic Planner will discuss materials needed for your Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application and how to obtain all the proper building permits.

I want to put up a new business sign. Do I need a permit and/or approval?

Yes, an approved Certificate of Appropriateness and a sign permit is required for all new signs being installed. Contact the Historic Planner for details on COA application and permit requirements.

Can I put up a banner?

Yes, but only for a limited time. You will need to visit with the Inspection Services office and fill out an application for a temporary banner. For quick review and possible approval, please submit a digital rendering of the banner, including dimensions and proposed location. A fee will be charged upon permit approval and your banner will be good for 45 days. Please note that all banners are subject to review from the Historic Planner.

Business Resources & Opportunities

- ✓ **FREE business listing on:** MainStreetGeorgetown.com and VisitGeorgetown.com
- ✓ **City Facebook page postings:** Downtown Georgetown Texas, Shop Georgetown and Live and Play in Georgetown, Texas
- ✓ **Town Square Directory sign business listing**
- ✓ **Quarterly networking & training opportunities:** Downtown Lowdown Meetings and Breakfast Bites small business trainings

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Building Projects & Planning Process

Design approval is required for changes to any building or property in the Downtown Overlay District (see map).

The Historic Planner 512.930.3581

- 1 Schedule a Pre Application Meeting with the Planning Department.** They will determine what applications and approvals are needed to start your project. Bring all conceptual materials to this meeting for review by the Historic Planner and other city staff.
- 2 Complete and submit all required applications for the project.** Various city departments and commissions will review each component of the project to ensure compliance with all local regulations, including local development codes and building codes.
- 3 Once your design is approved, the Historic Planner will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to indicate that work may begin.** Please review Customer Bulletin 114 (planning.georgetown.org) for additional information regarding COAs. Allow 60 days from the time of your Pre-Application Meeting for review, design approval and issuance of COA.
- 4 Begin work on your project AFTER applications are complete and permits are issued.** Be sure to schedule the appropriate inspections throughout the process to avoid unnecessary delays.

Application Type	COA	Building Permit
Certificate of Occupancy		✓
Business Signage	✓	✓
Exterior Alterations	✓	✓
Interior Alterations		✓