

[View as Webpage](#)

April 12, 2023



## In This Issue...

- Congratulations: Highland Park Façade Grant Recipients
- Welcome New Business: Escobar Painting, Inc.
- Business of the Week: YogaSix
- Sponsor-A-Planter Program
- \$175 Million Available in Back to Business (B2B) Grants
- SSBCI Funding to Support Small Businesses
- \$5,000 Façade Grants Available to Eligible Small Businesses
- SCORE Mentoring & Webinars
- Contacting the Office of Business Development

## Highland Park Façade Grant Recipients



The City of Highland Park's [Small Business Façade Improvement Program](#) (SBFIP) provides assistance and incentive to property owners and local businesses to improve the appearance and functionality of their property and place of business. Congratulations to the following Façade Improvement grant recipients: [Blue Orchid](#), [Fonseca Martial Arts](#), and the [Music Gallery](#).

**Welcome New Business: Escobar Painting Inc.**



It's National Decorating Month and [Escobar Painting Inc.](#) is ready to help complete all your projects. Escobar Painting Inc. is a local painter and contractor that provides quality residential and commercial painting services throughout the North Shore. With over 15 years of experience, they also offer carpentry and remodeling services, pressure washing and window washing.

1866 Sheridan Road, Suite 304 / 773.707.7340 / [Escobar Painting Inc.](#)

## Business of the Week: YogaSix



[YogaSix](#) is a boutique yoga fitness studio designed to change the way people think and experience yoga. The inclusive, energetic, full-sensory workouts

provide a mind-body yoga experience for all levels. [YogaSix](#) offers six core classes, from hot and powerful to slow and mindful, that focus on strength, agility, flexibility and balance.

610 Central Avenue /847.868.1396 /[YogaSix Highland Park](#)

## Sponsor-A-Planter Program



The [Sponsor-A-Planter Program](#) offers residents and businesses the opportunity to sponsor an available municipal planter during the summer and fall seasons. An annual fee covers planting, maintenance, and a 5" x 7" commemorative placard in the planter. The placard may recognize the sponsor or commemorate an individual or family. Planters are located in the Central Business District and the Ravinia District and are maintained from May to November.

More information is available at [cityhpil.com](http://cityhpil.com). Please contact the Office of Business Development at 847.926.1046 with questions.

[View the Sponsor-A-Planter brochure here.](#)

**\$175 Million Available in Back to Business (B2B) Grants for Creative Arts, Hotels, & Restaurants**



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$175 million in available [grant funding](#) through the Back to Business (B2B) program for restaurants, hotels, and creative arts businesses. **Applications will be accepted from April 5 through May 10** and take approximately two hours to complete. Awards are expected to be made several weeks after the deadline date. All eligible applicants will receive a grant as long as the business meets eligibility requirements and submits proper documentation and attestations. [Program information available here.](#)

**For more information and questions, please contact:**

**Mitch Bienvenue**, Director, Illinois Small Business Development & International Trade Center College of Lake County  
847.543.2750 / [mbienvenue@clcillinois.edu](mailto:mbienvenue@clcillinois.edu)

**Agnes Masnik**, Northeast Regional Manager, Office of Regional Economic Development Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity  
University Center of Lake County  
312.882.6840 / [Agnes.Masnik@illinois.gov](mailto:Agnes.Masnik@illinois.gov) / [www.illinois.gov/dceo](http://www.illinois.gov/dceo)

## SSBCI Funding to Support Small Businesses



## Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that Illinois will receive up to \$354.6 million to administer programs as part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The expanded program offering through SSBCI will enable Illinois to support small businesses across the state - helping them attract more capital investment and expand or launch business operations, while supporting key sectors. All of the new programs will launch in the coming months.

- Advantage Illinois (AI) Loan Guarantee Program (New Program)  
Advantage Illinois' new Loan Guarantee Program will support business applicants who are having difficulty gaining access to capital by using funds to guarantee a percentage of loans provided by partner lenders.

- IN-VENT Venture Capital Program (VCP) (New Program)  
Innovation Venture Fund (IN-VENT) will operate as a direct equity program with a focus on investing in businesses in key industries such as agriculture, ag tech, information technology, life sciences, manufacturing, quantum, and more.

- Climate Bank Finance Loan Participation Program (New Program)  
This new program will be overseen by DCEO and administered by the Illinois Finance Authority (IFA), which will partner with local lenders to issue the loans. Climate Bank funds will be available to small businesses in the clean energy sector.

To receive program updates, please fill out the following form.

[Link to Program Interest Form](#)

## Facade Grants Available to Eligible Small Businesses

The City of Highland Park's Small Business Facade Improvement Program (SBFIP) provides assistance and incentive to property owners and local businesses to improve the appearance and functionality of their property and place of business. The SBFIP is available for small business operators and commercial property owners citywide. Eligible



owners of commercial/retail buildings and small business owners operating within a commercial/retail building may apply for a City grant that may reimburse up to 50% of the approved eligible improvement(s) to a maximum of \$5,000 per project. A small business is defined as having a net worth of less than two million dollars, and as showing less than an average of two hundred thousand dollars in profit per year for two years after taxes. The following are a few examples of eligible expenses:

- Installing new awnings/signage
- Replacing, repainting, or restoring exterior doors
- Repairing or upgrading exterior lighting
- Painting building exterior

[Small Business Facade Improvement Grant Program](#)

# SCORE Mentoring at the Highland Park Public Library & Free Webinars

**SCORE offers in-person or virtual sessions using phone, email, or video**



All sessions are free and confidential. SCORE mentors are successful business professionals, some retired, some working, from all industries and experiences.

SCORE recently added a new [YouTube channel](#) where all previously recorded webinars can be accessed.

To schedule an in-person or virtual session, visit [score.org/northchicago](https://score.org/northchicago) and register to “Find a Mentor”. You will be asked to provide the nature of your business interest. Please include whether you prefer in-person or virtual mentoring (phone, email, video) and note the **Highland Park Public Library** even if you prefer a virtual session.

**Upcoming SCORE Webinars**

## Contacting the Office of Business Development

The City encourages business owners and managers to share information regarding upcoming events, promotions or news for possible inclusion in the City's marketing modalities, including [The Weekender](#), [Enjoy Highland Park](#), and [social media](#). Please send these items to the City via email to: [businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com](mailto:businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com).

For general business inquiries and assistance, contact Business Development Manager Carolyn Hersch at [chersch@cityhpil.com](mailto:chersch@cityhpil.com) or 847.926.1027.

Questions regarding [enjoyhighlandpark.com](https://enjoyhighlandpark.com) should be addressed to Amanda Bennett, Communications Manager, at [abennett@cityhpil.com](mailto:abennett@cityhpil.com).

## Additional Resources

[Available Commercial Space](#)

[Business Directory](#)

[City of Highland Park Business Development Strategic Plan](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

[Job Center of Lake County - Business Services](#)

[Illinois Department of Commerce](#)

[Chamber Of Commerce](#)

[& Economic Opportunity](#)

[College of Lake County Small  
Business Development Center](#)

[Visit Lake County](#)

[SCORE](#)

[Women-in-Business Resources](#)

[SCORE YouTube Channel](#)

This newsletter is produced by the City of Highland Park's Office of Business Development. If you have information you would like to include in this weekly mailing, please submit information, photos, and news to [businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com](mailto:businessdevelopment@cityhpil.com). The City reserves the right to edit and/or filter submissions.

---

Join Our Mailing  
List



Share



Share



Share

City of Highland Park | 1707 St. Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

[Unsubscribe acivitello@cityhpil.com](mailto:acivitello@cityhpil.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [cityhp@cityhpil.com](mailto:cityhp@cityhpil.com) in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!