



What is the Renaissance Block Challenge ?

The Renaissance Block Challenge is a neighborhood revitalization program encouraging clusters of neighbors to collaborate on exterior improvements to their properties in order to build confidence in Jamestown's neighborhoods and inspire others to reinvest.

Benefits of Participation:

Neighbors who apply and receive designation as a "Renaissance Block" will have access to resources to accelerate their home improvement projects and their neighborhood's revitalization, including:

- Matching funds for exterior improvements, up to **\$3,000**.
For example, if \$500 is spent, a \$250 match will be made. If \$6,000 is spent, the match is \$3,000. If \$5,000 is spent, the match is \$3,000.
- Access to discounts from sponsoring hardware stores and garden centers.
- Discounts from coordinated neighborhood purchasing of materials or services.
- Access to design assistance.

Challenge Components:

- Exterior improvements enhancing curb appeal, completed by the participating property owners (or their chosen contractors) during 2022 - 2025.
- Events, such as block parties, organized by the participating neighbors to celebrate completed work and to strengthen their neighborhood.

What are examples of eligible improvements?

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| •Painting | •Mailboxes | •Driveways |
| •Porch repair | •Exterior lights | •Driveway aprons |
| •Soffit repair | •Front yard landscaping | •Replacement windows |
| •Sidewalk repair | •Front doors/screen doors | •House gutters |

How is the Challenge supported ?

- John A. and Oscar Johnson Memorial Trust and the Lenna Foundation with support from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, and The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation.
- Sponsoring businesses offer special discounts to participants.
- The Jamestown Renaissance Corporation (a not-for-profit corporation) administers the program and collaborates with other public and not-for-profit agencies.

How do I apply?

- 1. Recruit a minimum of SIX, but not more than FIFTEEN properties** to participate in the Challenge.
2. Complete the pre-application by entering the names and street addresses of group participants followed by contact information for the group's designated contact person.
- 3. Submit pre-application to the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation's (JRC) Neighborhood Project Director. 200 E. 3rd Street, Jamestown, NY 14701 mary@jamestownrenaissance.org.**
- 4. Include a map of your cluster** - Note on the map properties that have been past grant awardees. The map may be hand drawn or created using a parcel map from Chautauqua GIS (www.Chautauquagis.com) or by using Google Maps (www.google.com/maps/).
- 5. A brief outline of** how your cluster's plan demonstrates a commitment to cultivating strong communications between neighbors and a shared sense of identity so the momentum gained may be carried forward and result in a sustainable neighborhood impact.

Pre-applications are available at the JRC, online at www.jamestownrenaissance.org, and via email (mary@jamestownrenaissance.org).

Pre-applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Monday, August 1st, 2022.

Helpful Hints:

Learn more about the RBC pre-application process by attending a workshop:

On line zoom workshops – To register, contact mary@jamestownrenaissance.org

- Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - 6 p.m.
- Thursday, April 14, 2022 - 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 14th, 2022 - 10 a.m.

In person workshops -

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022 - 6 p.m. Washington Middle School, 159 Buffalo St

- Thursday, April 21st, 2022 - 6 p.m. Christ First Methodist Church 663 Lakeview Ave.
- Saturday, May 21st, 2022 - 10:00 a.m. Euclid Apartments, 28 Euclid Street
- Call a neighborhood meeting and fill out the pre-application together.**
- Invite the JRC Neighborhood Project Director to assist and answer questions.**

•**Have each property owner begin consideration of projects they wish to complete and secure contractors and estimates. Many contractors are booked a year ahead.**

What are the selection criteria?

The number of blocks designated in any given year is based on resources available and the quality of applications received. The following criteria, part of a 100 point evaluation scale, will be used during the process of designating Renaissance Blocks in 2022.

• **Number of participating properties:** Proposed neighborhood clusters must have a minimum of **SIX and should not exceed FIFTEEN** participating properties. Clusters may include homeowners, landlords and businesses. If your proposed cluster exceeds **FIFTEEN** properties, contact the JRC for prior approval.

- **Contiguousness of properties:** This criteria will count for up to 25 points of your cluster's evaluation. In order to make a significant change in a concentrated neighborhood area, proposed neighborhood clusters should have as many shared property edges or boundaries touching as possible. Neighbors directly across the street are considered adjacent. A map showing the location of the properties in each cluster must be submitted with this pre-application. The map may be hand drawn or created using a parcel map from Chautauqua GIS (www.Chautauquagis.com) or by using Google Maps (www.google.com/maps/)
- **Strategic considerations:** This criteria will count for up to 25 points of your cluster's evaluation and may include considerations such as the following: Would investing in the cluster align with the Jamestown Neighborhood Revitalization Plan's principle of reinforcing streets that exhibit market strength or stability (i.e., sale prices and assessed values that reflect the 'middle market' range for the City of Jamestown: \$40,000 to \$80,000)? Are improvements to the cluster likely to support and protect a nearby community asset (such as a park or school)? Is the cluster visible in a way that influences public perceptions of the city and the condition of its housing market? For more information about the Jamestown Neighborhood Revitalization Plan, click on "Healthy Neighborhoods" at jamestownrenaissance.org.
- **Organization:** This criteria will count for up to 50 points of your cluster's evaluation. Proposed clusters should demonstrate a commitment to cultivating strong communications between neighbors and a shared sense of identity so that momentum gained in 2022 will be carried forward and result in a sustainable neighborhood impact. As part of the pre-application process, please share with us, in writing, how your cluster plans to achieve these goals. **Do this as a group activity.**
 - **35 points**
 - Quality and reasonableness of plan to build cohesiveness and carry momentum forward
 - **5 points each**
 - Demonstrated communication between neighbors (i.e., phone tree, email list, Facebook page)
 - Demonstrated sense of neighborhood identity (i.e., a name, established boundaries)
 - Past, present and future group activities that demonstrate neighborhood building

What is the next step?

Pre-applications will be reviewed by the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation. Several clusters from the **pre-applicants will be invited to participate in the final application.** **The invitations will be issued for pre-applications to participate in the final application in August 2022.**

In the final application phase, each property owner will be asked to outline the projects they wish to complete during the 2019 grant period.

Final applications will be due Monday, October 3rd, 2022

The final applications will be assessed using the same criteria used for the pre-applications.

The final selection of the Renaissance Block Challenge clusters will be announced in January 2023.

This initial communication will be by email and phone calls with follow up by written correspondence.

Important Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, March 1st, 2022**

Pre-application will be available at jamestownrenaissance.org, under "Healthy Neighborhoods". Or contact mary@jamestownrenaissance.org
Call (716) 708-6964.

- **Monday, August 1st, 2022**

Pre-applications are due by 5:00 p.m.

- **Monday, October 3rd, 2022**

Final applications are due by 5:00 p.m.

- **January 2023**

Cluster finalists will be announced.

Please direct all questions and send paperwork to :

Mary W. Maxwell
Neighborhood Project Director
(716) 708-6964
mary@jamestownrenaissance.org

Jamestown Renaissance Corporation
200 E. 3rd Street, City Hall
Jamestown, NY 14701
www.jamestownrenaissance.org

Facebook: Jamestown Healthy Neighborhoods