Main Street Technical Assistance

Building on the positive momentum created by the restoration of the historic Parkside Candy Shoppe, the University District Community Development Association applied for and was awarded a New York Main Street Technical Assistance grant in early 2019. The grant allowed the UDCDA to engage a consultant who worked directly with property owners along Main Street to re-imagine what their buildings could look like given the right vision. The grant also provided a practical roadmap for future improvements along the corridor through the creation of Main Street Design Guidelines.

Main Street, University Heights was built as the walkable heart of one of Buffalo’s early streetcar neighborhoods. A handsome collection of brick, masonry, and stick-framed buildings, Main Street still maintains a high level of integrity and density and benefits from many longstanding businesses.

Following the rehabilitation of the Parkside Candy Shoppe on Main Street thanks to a Buffalo Main Street Initiative grant, the UDCDA, saw the need to develop design guidelines for this stretch of Main Street to ensure that future rehabilitation work funded through programs like the New York Main Street or Buffalo Main Streets Initiative grants would preserve and honor Main Street’s early 20th century commercial building stock.

The Technical Assistance grant was an opportunity for the UDCDA to engage design and architectural professionals at Clinton Brown Company Architecture who could work directly with property owners to make this happen. Through the development of design guidelines for a 9-block area of Main Street (Englewood Ave to LaSalle Ave) as well as rehabilitation design concepts for five individual properties, owners will be able to better visualize the potential improvements that can be made, how they fit into a larger vision for the district, as well as understand the costs associated with these improvements.

The technical assistance process was a critical step in preparing the UDCDA as well as property owners to apply for more than $700,000 in grant funding through the New York State Main Street and Buffalo Main Streets Initiative grant programs in 2019.