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Three developments could get grant funds

BY CHAD CALDER

Advocate business writer

January 13, 2012

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Three local developments could soon be getting federal grant money to improve their storefronts.

A committee of the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority on Tuesday recommended the RDA board approve matching grants next week for Government Street's Ogden Market, Renaissance Center on Plank Road and the Tessier building on Lafayette Street downtown.

RDA project manager Marcelle Boudreaux said the RDA's full board will meet Jan. 19 to consider the awards, which are \$52,500 for Ogden and \$7,500 each for Renaissance and the Tessier building.

Ogden is home to Radio Bar and Time Warp boutique and vintage clothing store.

Renaissance includes Bright Beginnings preschool.

The Tessier building is an office and residential renovation of an historic downtown property.

Boudreaux said the grants, which were awarded to the state following hurricanes Gustav and Ike and are administered by the city-parish, will cover at least 75 percent of the total cost of each of the three developments, with the owners coming up with the rest.

The three developments up for consideration include nine storefronts.

The RDA's business improvement grant program has awarded grants for improving five storefronts so far, Boudreaux said.

If approved, the work should be completed by the end of the year, she said.



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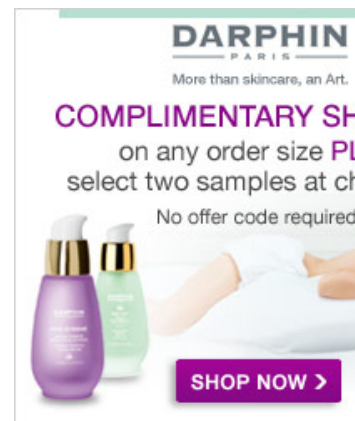
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