



**Renaissance
BLOCK Challenge**

Congratulations!

**Your cluster has been invited
to complete the final application!**



As part of the final application:

2-year grant (2025 – 2026)

- Your cluster’s scheduled meeting between your cluster members and the Neighborhood Projects Director, Mary Maxwell is _____.

To prepare for this meeting:

Familiarize your cluster with the objectives of the Renaissance Block Challenge (RBC).

The Renaissance Block Challenge is a neighborhood revitalization program that encourages 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.

Review Selection Criteria (see next page “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 2025 - 2026.

Develop plans for obtaining the cluster goals required by this grant: To carry the momentum gained in 2025 - 2026 forward resulting in a sustainable impact.

Proposed clusters should demonstrate:

- A commitment to cultivating strong communications between neighbors**
Demonstrated communication between neighbors.
(i.e., phone tree, email list, Facebook page)
- A shared sense of identity**
Demonstrated sense of neighborhood identity.
(i.e., a name, established boundaries)
- Carrying momentum gained in 2025 - 2026 forward resulting in a sustainable impact.**
Discuss any past and present group activities that demonstrate neighborhood building.

Some neighborhood activity suggestions:

- ✓ Participate as a neighborhood in the Jamestown Hands on Neighborhood (HON) May project or schedule your neighborhood to conduct their on garbage sweep.
- ✓ Assist your neighbors with a task they are unable to complete by themselves.
- ✓ Organize a Street (Block) Sale. This is a great way to clean out your house, divert items from the landfill, make a bit of \$ (or give it way free) and talk with your neighbors.
- ✓ Plan a cluster gathering. Close the street and have a party!

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 2025 - 2026.

•**Number of participating properties:** Proposed neighborhood clusters must have a **minimum of six** participating properties. Clusters may include homeowners, landlords and businesses.

1. **Contiguosness of properties:**

This criteria will count for up to **20 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.

3. Organization: This criteria will count for up to **60 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 2025 - 2026 will be carried forward and result in a sustainable neighborhood impact. As part of the final application process, please share with us, in writing, how your cluster plans to achieve these goals.

2. **Strategic considerations:**

This criteria will count for up to **20 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 \$100,000)? 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.



Discuss your cluster's plans with the Neighborhood Projects Director at your scheduled meeting.

- (10 points)** A commitment to cultivating strong communications between neighbors (i.e., phone tree, email list, Facebook page)
- (10 points)** A shared sense of identity (i.e., a name, established boundaries)
- (20 points)** Plan to carrying momentum gained in 2025 - 2026 forward resulting in a sustainable impact.
- (20 points)** Quality and reasonableness of plan to build cohesiveness and carry momentum forward

Final Application for the 2025 – 2026 Renaissance Block Challenge (RBC)

For your final application, please share in writing (150 – 200 words), how your cluster plans to achieve the Organization Section of the selection criteria. Your cluster's final application will be reviewed by the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation.

Final applications are due December 1, by 5:00 p.m.

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

Important Dates to Remember

May, 2024

Pre-application are available at: <https://www.jamestownrenaissance.org/RBC>

August 1, 2024

Starting on this day, pre-applications may be submitted to the JRC.

September 3, 2024

Last day to submit pre-applications to the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation.

September 4 – October 18, 2024

Schedule and attended your cluster's meeting with the Neighborhood Projects Director.

November 4, 2024

The invitations to the final application will be issued in November, verbally or by email, with a follow up by written correspondence. Those clusters not invited to participate in the final application will be notified at that time also and in the same manner.

December 3, 2024

Final application are due. As part of the final application process, please share with us in writing, how your cluster plans to achieve the Organization Section of the selection criteria.

January, 2025 Grants awards announced.

February, 2025

If your cluster is chosen to participate in the Renaissance Block Challenge (RBC), all receipts submitted for reimbursement must be dated on or after February 1, 2025.

Next step:

Submit a list of your projects for grant approval on a form provided by the JRC.

Please direct all questions and send paperwork to :

Mary Maxwell
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Mary@Jamestownrenaissance.org

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