

What is the Renaissance Block Challenge?

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 Oswego's neighborhoods and inspire others to reinvest.

Benefits of Participation:

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

- Matching funds for exterior improvements (dollar-for-dollar match, up to **\$1,000**)
- Houses on the corners of intersections may be eligible for a bonus. Contact the ORA for details.
- Access to discounts from sponsoring hardware stores and garden centers (TBA)

Challenge Components:

- Exterior improvements completed by the participating property owners (or their chosen contractors) during the summer/fall of 2020
- Events, such as block parties, organized by the participating neighbors to celebrate the completed work

What are examples of eligible improvements ?

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| • Painting | • Mailboxes | • And more... |
| • Porch repair | • Exterior lights | |
| • Soffit repair | • Front yard landscaping | |
| • Sidewalk repair | • Front doors/screen doors | |

How is the Challenge supported ?

- Foundation and corporate sponsors provide funding for the matching grants
- Sponsoring businesses offer special discounts to participants
- The Oswego Renaissance Association (ORA) administers the program and helps facilitate coordination with the City of Oswego if necessary

What are the selection criteria?

The number of blocks designated in any given year is based on resource availability and the quality of applications received. The following criteria will be taken into consideration during the process of designating Renaissance Blocks in 2020.

•**Number of participating properties:** Proposed neighborhood clusters should have between **FIVE and FIFTEEN** participating properties in the same block or street. Clusters may include homeowners *and* landlords. If your proposed cluster exceeds **FIFTEEN** properties, contact the ORA for prior approval.

•**Organization:** Proposed clusters should demonstrate a commitment to cultivating strong communications between neighbors and a shared sense of identity so that momentum gained in 2020 can be carried forward.

•**Strategic value:** Proposed clusters in the [2020 Target Areas](#) (see Map at www.oswegonyonline.com) will receive special consideration. For details, email oswegorenaissance@gmail.com, or call the ORA at 315-216-4338.

How do I apply?

1. **Recruit neighbors to participate in the Challenge with you.** Note: A property cannot participate in two consecutive years.
2. **Fill out a pre-application and submit it to the Oswego Renaissance Association (ORA).** Pre-applications are available online at www.oswegonyonline.com.
3. **Meet with the Challenge coordinators.** Your cluster will get an assessment of your block, ideas for neighborhood activities, and application assistance.
4. **Fill out and turn in the final application** Your cluster will have to outline the scope of work at each house, how you propose completing the work, other resources you can provide, and how you plan to develop and sustain a neighborhood identity.

Key dates:

Pre-applications due by **Wednesday, April 1st, 2020.**

Final applications due by **Friday, May 1st, 2020** Awards announced by **Friday, May 15, 2020.** Improvement projects and events: **Summer and Fall 2020**

Questions?

Contact Paul Stewart at the Oswego Renaissance Association
453 Mahar Hall, SUNY Oswego 13126

Phone: 315-216-4338 E-mail: oswegorenaissance@gmail.com

Pre-Application

Please complete this short pre-application to signal interest by your group of neighbors in the Renaissance Block Challenge. Enter the names (signatures) and street addresses of group participants in the space below, followed by contact information for the group's designated contact person.

Signature of group member

Street address

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

Your group's primary contact: Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Submit pre-application by April 1st, 2020 to:

Paul Stewart

Oswego Renaissance Association

453 Mahar Hall

SUNY Oswego

Oswego, NY 13126

Email: oswegorenaissance@gmail.com Phone: 315-216-4338

