

In the Q: Medical SSMID Awards First Façade Improvement Grant



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After being implemented in July, 2015 the first façade improvement grant has been awarded by the Medical SSMID Commission. Business owner John Khairallah will receive \$10,000 for his renovation work on the Zio Johnno's building located at the corner of First Avenue & 12th Street SE. These grants are made in partnership with the city of Cedar Rapids, with each providing 50% of the award amount.

Khairallah combined the Zio Johnno's and former Sip 'N Stir spaces into one restaurant, now branded as Via Sofia's Italian Kitchen. The façade improvements included removal of the vertical clapboard siding, restoration of existing brickwork, new windows, new awnings, and decorative stone accents.

The renovation was done so well that Khairallah received an 'Award for Excellence in Exterior Restoration for Mixed-Use Commercial Historic Unveiling' from the Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission. The renovation is a vast improvement to this highly visible intersection.

More grants are available. If you own or rent a commercial or residential structure within the boundaries of the Medical SSMID, and are considering façade improvements, you may be eligible. For more information about the MedQuarter's Façade Improvement Program www.TheMedQuarter.com or contact the MedQuarter Executive Director at Phil@TheMedQuarter.com.



Zio Johnno's building at 1125 First Ave. SE