

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**)
- 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 2022
- Events, such as block parties, organized by the participating neighbors to celebrate the completed work

What are examples of eligible improvements ?

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

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 2022.

•**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 2022 can be carried forward.

•**Strategic value:** Proposed clusters in the [2022 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 **Friday, April 1st, 2022.**

Final applications due by **Monday, May 2nd, 2022**

Awards announced by **Saturday, May 14, 2022.**

Improvement projects and events: **Summer and Fall 2022**

Questions?

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

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

Notice About Neighbor Recruitment & Coronavirus

This document contains the instructions and signature page for applying for the Renaissance Block Challenge in 2022. The outbreak of COVID-19 has created the need for social distancing to prevent transmission of the virus. Therefore, in 2022 we are providing you with an alternate way of obtaining "signatures" for this pre-application.

- This entire pre-application may be circulated among neighbors on a block via email
- Each neighbor wishing to apply this year can **reply via email to the Block Leader** (the contact person for the neighborhood who is circulating this application)
- The email reply should contain a simple sentence indicated that you wish to apply with the neighborhood group for the Renaissance Block Challenge. Then, "sign" the email by typing out your full name at the end. **Include your street address.**
- The Block Leader copies and pastes each reply into a single document. Once this document is complete, the Block Leader emails this single document to the ORA at oswegorenaissance@gmail.com. The Block Leader must include their complete contact information (name, email, phone).
- There should only be one document sent to the ORA. Only the Block Leader should send it. Neighbors "signing on" should not send their individual email replies to the ORA

Note: if the Block Leader does not know a neighbor or their email, he/she can make a physical copy of this and drop it off at their door. Be sure to provide them with a way to contact you.

The following pages include the original "Signature Sheet" at the end of this document. The instructions above can be a substitute for this "signature sheet" and thus you do not have to use it. However, if you still wish to collect physical signatures for some, or all, of your neighbors, we will accept the original "signature page."

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 2nd, 2022 to:

Paul Stewart
Oswego Renaissance Association
453 Mahar Hall
SUNY Oswego
Oswego, NY 13126

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

