



## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE:

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## **Town Grant Program Aids Commercial Renovations in East Arlington**

A \$7,500 grant from Arlington's new Storefront Enhancement Program helped RPSD Realty complete a substantial renovation of 152-160 Massachusetts Avenue to welcome their new tenant, Casa Esme, to space at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Melrose Street. The program provides small grants and technical assistance to property owners or businesses that improve the exteriors of commercial buildings they own or rent in Arlington. Administered by the Town's Department of Planning & Community Development, the Storefront Enhancement Program aims to improve the physical condition of commercial properties to ultimately enhance the character of the Town's business districts. RPSD Realty's improvements to 152-160 Massachusetts Avenue not only improve the structure's appearance, but also restore its structural integrity and prevent further deterioration of the brickwork and frame. The renovation is complimentary with Arlington's recently adopted Master Plan and this successful restoration effort will hopefully spur further commercial property improvements along Massachusetts Avenue in the near future.

**About Arlington's Storefront Enhancement Program** Arlington's Storefront Enhancement Program provides grants up to \$10,000 and technical assistance to property owners or businesses that invest in exterior renovations or improvements to local commercial buildings they own or rent. Administered by the Department Planning & Community Development, the program aims to improve the physical condition of commercial properties to ultimately improve the appearance of Arlington's business districts. Preference will be shown to projects that restore original architectural details and preserve or highlight historic character. The program currently has \$25,000 in federal funds available for grants to eligible projects. Low interest financing for exterior renovations is also available to qualifying applicants from select local lenders. Additional information about the program can be found at [www.arlingtonma.gov/economic development](http://www.arlingtonma.gov/economic%20development).

## **About Casa Esme**

Occupying the former site of Dagg's Deli, which moved down the street, Casa Esme provides daycare and early-child education in English and Spanish to infants, toddlers and pre-school children up to age six. RPSD Realty Trust, the building's owner, prepared for Casa Esme's arrival by installing a new rubber roof as well as new storefront windows, doorways, awnings, signage, and exterior lighting. Sam D'Agostino, trustee of RPSD Realty Trust, managed these renovations, which removed deteriorated wood paneling along the roofline to reveal spectacular original masonry that was restored to its former glory. Work started early in the summer of 2014 and was completed by November. Contact Ted Fields, (781) 316-3090 for more information on the Storefront Enhancement Program.