



## *The Missouri Main Street Connection Mission*

*Is to enhance the social, cultural and environmental well being of historic downtown business districts located in Missouri's diverse cities and towns, through education using the Main Street Four-Point approach™ as developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

November 12, 2009

Missouri Main Street Connection Inc. is pleased to announce that Downtown Lee's Summit is among 10 semi-finalists among a nationwide pool of applicants for the Great American Main Street Awards (GAMSA).

Lee's Summit is one of four Main Street communities in Missouri accredited by standards established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Street Center. The Missouri Main Street Connection oversees the programs in Missouri and works with over 70 communities, educating and training the participants to conduct their own revitalization programs locally.

The other GAMSA semifinalists are: Downtown Aledo, Aledo, IL; Main Street Columbus, Columbus, MS; Downtown Fairmont, Fairmont, WV; Farmland Downtown Historic District, Farmland, IN; Downtown Ferndale, Ferndale, MI; Downtown Fort Pierce, Fort Pierce, FL; Historic Downtown and Lower Town Arts District, Paducah, KY; Pontiac PROUD, Pontiac, IL; and Downtown Rochester, Rochester, MI.

The 10 semifinalists have created more than 1,100 new businesses and nearly 4,800 new jobs, rehabbed more than 950 buildings and decreased their vacancy rates by an average of 31 percent. They have also generated an average of \$24 million in public investments and \$43 million on private investment.

The semi-finalists are required to file additional information to the GAMSA jury, which will select five winners to be announced on May 4 in Oklahoma City during the National Main Street Conference. These are the most prestigious awards given to communities in recognition of their downtown revitalization efforts.

The jury is composed of former award winners, community development professionals, representatives from government and foundations, and journalists who are active in community economic development and historic preservation.

More information about GAMSA is available at [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)

## **Missouri Main Street Connection**

PO Box 1066, Branson Missouri 65615 ☎ 417.334-3014 ✉ [glroten@momainstreet.org](mailto:glroten@momainstreet.org) 🌐 [www.momainstreet.org](http://www.momainstreet.org)