



The Missouri Main Street Connection Mission

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: Bolivar Downtown Association receives Grant for Downtown Revitalization

December 12, 2012

To: Bolivar Herald-Free Press
from: Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615; 417-334-3014; e-mail: info@momainstreet.org

Missouri Main Street Connection Inc. (MMSC) is pleased to announce that the Bolivar Downtown Association has been selected in a competitive application process to participate in a cost-sharing Affiliate Grant that provides training, mentoring, and technical services to revitalization programs in Missouri's historic commercial districts.

MMSC staff will visit with the Bolivar Downtown Association and community representatives on December 19th to evaluate existing and future needs of the downtown, and then schedule a series of customized training sessions that will equip them to concentrate on revitalization goals during the next two years. **The goal of the grant** is to develop a sustainable, volunteer-based organization that will carry out an economic development program based on the preservation of historic assets in the downtown, using the Main Street 4-Point Approach® to Revitalization.

With support from Missouri Main Street Connection and using the Main Street Four-Point Approach to Revitalization, the Bolivar Downtown Association will

- Build a cohesive organization to sustain downtown revitalization, based on the Vision 2030 recently developed by the city's existing volunteer base
- Develop a revitalization plan for downtown Bolivar that supports entrepreneurial business while preserving the community's unique heritage atmosphere
- Coordinate a city-wide network of civic and community partnerships that will support the downtown revitalization plan.

The grant period is for two years. During that time the Bolivar Downtown Association will receive on-site training and mentoring from MMSC that will engage the entire community as participant and beneficiary of revitalization. Representatives of the Association also will attend regional revitalization workshops and conferences conducted by MMSC.

The Affiliate Grant is a 40/60 match, requiring the community to contribute 40% of the cash value of the services, and MMSC to contribute 60%. The total grant value in services is \$23,500.

As a result of Bolivar's successful grant application, the community is also designated as an Affiliate in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure, which ranks revitalization progress on standards established by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center*. Missouri Main Street Connection is currently assisting 29 downtown revitalization programs in Missouri with training and annual accreditation services, and provides revitalization workshops and technical services to 116 other communities in the state.

For more information about the MMSC Affiliate grant program, contact Gayla Roten at 417-334-3014 or info@momainstreet.org

Missouri Main Street Connection

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