



Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.

Our 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® to Revitalization, as developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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PRESS RELEASE: Drexel Receives Downtown Revitalization Grant from Missouri Main Street

The Drexel Community Betterment Corporation 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. The grant is provided by Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. (MMSC)

MMSC staff will visit with Drexel's downtown community leaders to evaluate existing and future needs of the downtown, and then schedule a series of customized training sessions equipping them to concentrate on their local revitalization goals. **The goal of the grant** is the development of 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 MMSC, the Drexel revitalization group anticipates:

- Having an established Community Betterment Corporation Board of Directors, most of whom have been active since summer 2011, the group expects to create a comprehensive revitalization program for Drexel, continue its community betterment activities, and develop incentives for the restoration of historic buildings.
- The group expects to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for recruiting new businesses to occupy commercial space vacancies.
- The group expects to develop Drexel's downtown into an inviting and thriving center of the community as a historic preservation district, with opportunities for generating new construction.

The grant period is for two years. During this time Drexel's leadership for downtown revitalization will receive on-site training and mentoring from MMSC to establish a downtown revitalization organization, engaging the entire community as participant and beneficiary of revitalization. As part of their training, the Board of Directors and other representatives of the downtown group 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 training and mentoring services is \$23,500.

Drexel is also now designated as an Affiliate in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure, which ranks revitalization progress on a standard established by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center*. Missouri Main Street Connection is currently providing revitalization training and mentoring to 145 communities in the state, plus Main Street accreditation services.

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