



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.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President, Professor Steven Hoffman**  
Southeast MO State U, Cape Girardeau, MO

**Treasurer, Bridgette Kelch**  
Exec. Director, Downtown Washington, Inc.

**Robert Espeland**  
Vice-President, USBank, St. Louis

**Mark Gardner**  
President, Gardner Capital, Inc. Springfield, MO

**John Griesheimer**  
Presiding Commissioner, Franklin County

**Joe Lauber**  
Lauber Municipal Law, Lee's Summit

**Robert Lewis**  
Principal, Development Strategies Inc., St. Louis

**Nathan Potter**  
Director, Finance Development Team, MO DED

**Dan Ross**  
Exec. Director, Missouri Municipal League

**Russ Volmert**  
Director of Planning, Arcturus Inc., St. Louis

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

**Karen Bode Baxter**  
Preservation Specialist, St. Louis, MO

**Dick Burke**  
Exec. Director, MO Association of Counties

**Steven Devlin**  
Exec. Dir, Business Dev. Program, MU Extension

**Diane Hannah**  
Downtown Revitalization Specialist, Clinton, MO

**Representative Lincoln Hough**  
Missouri House District 135

**Michael S. Kearney**  
Mgr. Economic Dev., Ameren Services, St. Louis

**Jonathan M. Kemper**  
Chairman, Commerce Bank, Kansas City, MO

**Mark Miles**  
Director, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

**Rebecca Rost**  
Preservation Planner & Grants Mgr. (SHPO)

**Senator Eric Schmitt**  
Missouri Senate District 15

**Senator Ryan Silvey**  
Missouri Senate District 17

**Representative Jay Swearingen**  
Missouri House District 18

August 25, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

### **Kearney Receives Downtown Revitalization Grant from Missouri Main Street**

Contact: Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.  
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615; phone: 417-334-3014.

Kearney, MO 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)

Based upon on-site visits to Kearney, the MMSC staff will evaluate existing and future needs, then design a series of customized training sessions that will equip the local leadership to concentrate on their revitalization goals. **The goal of the grant** is the development 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®.

With support from MMSC, the Kearney revitalization group anticipates:

- Improving the design of downtown, using various resources, including the assets in several historic buildings that can be restored and re-purposed.
- Promoting the active arts community and recruiting new businesses to develop downtown as a shopping destination.
- Launching a revitalization program with an existing volunteer group – the Kearney Enrichment Council – a leadership team ready to devote time and energy to revitalize their downtown and sustain its success into the future.

During the next two years MMSC will provide Kearney citizens with training and mentoring to establish a revitalization organization that will engage the entire community as a participant and beneficiary. The group also will attend regional revitalization workshops and conferences conducted by MMSC.

The Affiliate Grant is a 40/60 match; the total value of the grant in training and mentoring services is \$24,000. Kearney also is now designated as an Affiliate in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure which ranks progress on standards established by the *National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center*. MMSC currently provides revitalization training and mentoring to 159 communities in Missouri, plus Main Street® accreditation services.

**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)