



EMPOWERING
Community Revitalization

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PRESS RELEASE

Downtown Washington, Inc. Maintains Accredited Status

Contact: Gayla Roten, State Director, Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.
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Downtown Washington, Inc. is once again a nationally and state accredited Main Street community following a program assessment by Missouri Main Street Connection (MMS C). Accreditation is the highest level a downtown revitalization program can achieve.

Patrice Frey, President & CEO of Main Street America, stated, “We are proud to recognize this year’s 889 nationally accredited Main Street programs that have worked tirelessly to advance economic vitality and quality of life in their downtowns and commercial districts. During an incredibly challenging year, these programs demonstrated the power of the Main Street movement to drive impressive local recovery efforts, champion small businesses, and foster vibrant downtown districts. I am inspired by their hard work and confident that these accredited communities will continue to help their downtowns flourish in the next stages of recovery.”

To receive National and State Accreditation status a community must meet or exceed the Main Street criteria covering various aspects of revitalization work that help create a sustainable, community-driven Main Street program. The Main Street criteria is utilized across the country to recognize high achieving Main Street programs. Gayla Roten, State Director of Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc. stated, “These criteria were established by Main Street America and is a proven comprehensive approach to community economic revitalization and we are proud of this accomplishment by Downtown Washington, Inc. These criteria ensure a broad-based community support for the program, a strong historic preservation ethic, active Board of Directors and committees, as well as other technical aspects that help the program function at a high level.”

The Accreditation process includes a self-evaluation and submission of materials from the program that support their work for each criteria. Each community was then assessed by MMS C to determine tier placement. Though it is a critical moment for a Missouri Main Street community to become Accredited, it is equally important for the community to maintain the Accreditation status once it has been earned.

Gayla Roten, MMS C State Director stated, “It’s always great to see a large list of volunteers for a Main Street organization and even more compelling to see active board members continuing to participate and attend trainings on Main Street.”

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Throughout 2020, Downtown Washington, Inc. saw public and private investment of over \$9 million in the historic district from 24 projects. The district saw a net gain of 7 new businesses and 61 new jobs. Additionally, volunteers for Downtown Washington, Inc. donated 1,107 hours of their time.

The Missouri Main Street Program's purpose is to create vibrant communities across the state. This effort is based on numerous recent studies showing that empowering individuals to develop their downtown motivates high achievement, creates a place people will want to live, work and invest, and makes our State economically stronger. The goal of the National Main Street Center and Missouri Main Street Connection is to encourage preservation-based economic development through the Main Street Approach™.