



September 15, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Gayla L. Roten, State Director

Missouri Main Street Connection, Inc.

PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615

Phone: 417-334-3014

Blue Springs Downtown Alive! Achieves Associate Status

The Main Street® program in Blue Springs, operated by the Downtown Alive! program, has received Associate status recognition from Missouri Main Street Connection and the National Main Street Center.

The announcement was made during the Evening of Excellence Awards Ceremony on July 30, 2015, during Missouri's Annual Premier Downtown Revitalization Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. In early spring of 2015, the Main Street Assessment Team visited Blue Springs and conducted extensive interviews with the Downtown Alive! program staff, Board of Directors, committees and others working with the local Main Street revitalization efforts. The Assessment Team, consisting of Missouri Main Street State Director Gayla Roten and National Trust Main Street Center Senior Field Representative Norma Ramírez de Miess, also reviewed the program's financial reports, budgets, Board minutes and other materials covering the past year of activity.

"Everyone who had a part in the local community's Associate status achievement can be proud of this recognition," said Ms. Roten. "They include the organization's officers, directors, staff, volunteers, committees and financial supporters of the revitalization program."

After the visit to Blue Springs, Ms. Ramírez de Miess observed the dedication of visionary leaders who are striving to build a vibrant downtown once again. "Many of the comments I received, while speaking with stakeholders, is that they can see the difference between what it was just a few years ago, and what it is becoming. We are pleased to confirm the organization's Associate status due to their commitment to the revitalization efforts and to know that their dedication will take them even further in the years to come."

To achieve Accreditation, which is the highest level of achievement in the Missouri Main Street Tier Structure, the local Main Street programs must meet the Ten Criteria of program service set by the National Main Street Center and utilize all components of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® to revitalization. Blue Springs Downtown Alive! is aiming to achieve Accreditation within the next couple of years.

Associate and Accreditation assessments are a function of Missouri Main Street Connection, the state coordinating program for Missouri, a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation, and partner with the National Main Street Center in revitalizing historic commercial districts. "Our goal is multi-purpose – serving communities' needs for job growth, preservation of historic buildings, use of the built infrastructure, preventing urban sprawl and generally improving the quality of life for everyone who lives, works and visits the historic downtowns in Missouri," said Ms Roten.

#