



## 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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### **Downtown Washington Inc. Achieves Accredited Status**

The National Main Street Center and Missouri Main Street Connection reaffirmed Downtown Washington Inc. as a nationally and state accredited Main Street community. This is the highest level a downtown revitalization program can receive.

To receive National and State Accreditation status a community must meet or exceed a 10-point criteria established by the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. These criteria are utilized across the country to recognize those high achieving Main Street programs.

Both Norma Ramirez de Miess, Senior Program Officer at the National Main Street Center, and Gayla Roten, State Director for Missouri Main Street Connection, congratulate Downtown Washington on their achievement.

Ms. Miess noted that "Downtown Washington continually builds the program through partnerships, planning, programming and outreach at a very high level. The leadership within the organization has built upon the partnership with the city and other groups to promote Downtown Washington an economically viable destination to live, work, shop, eat and have fun."

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, where people will want to live, work and invest, making our State economically stronger. The goal of the Main Street Center and Missouri Main Street program is to encourage preservation-based economic development through the Main Street Four-Point Approach®

Missouri Main Street Connection provides communities with the tools needed to develop into thriving downtowns. "These tools can be used to create jobs and build a sense of place that not only provides for current Missouri residents, but makes our communities more attractive to new residents and generations to come," said Ms. Roten.

Communities selected for the Accreditation review are evaluated using the annual evaluation process and accreditation criteria intended to assist each community in performing up to national accreditation standards, as prescribed by the National Main Street Center. 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.

For additional information about Missouri Main Street Connection, see the website: [www.momainstreet.org](http://www.momainstreet.org) or call 417-334-3014.

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