



# MISSOURI MAIN STREET CONNECTION

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. Maintains Accredited Status**

The National Main Street Center and Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSA) reaffirmed Downtown Washington 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.

The National Main Street Center and Missouri Main Street Connection, congratulate Downtown Washington on their achievement.

Gayla Roten, MMSA State Director, noted that "Downtown Washington Inc.'s success lies with the volunteers who devote countless hours and effort to the projects and events that make Downtown Washington the heart of the community."

During 2016, Downtown Washington saw 55 projects that resulted in over \$2.1 million in public and private investment. The downtown district also saw 40 net new jobs and 6,659 volunteer hours.

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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