

August 5, 2022

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Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc Awarded the Best Organization Pandemic Response Award.

Missouri Main Street Connection Inc. (MMSC) presented downtown revitalization awards recognizing revitalization excellence during Missouri's Premier Downtown Revitalization Conference in Kansas City on August 5, 2022. The event was hosted at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown.

Missouri Main Street Connection is the leading statewide nonprofit organization devoted to preservation-based economic development. Through the Main Street America™ movement and our partners, we empower community revitalization by celebrating, supporting, and sustaining Missouri historic commercial districts in both rural and urban settings.

MMSC is proud to announce that we have been celebrating one billion dollars in public and private investment in Missouri Main Street districts. This milestone was reached at the end of 2021. In addition, Missouri Main Street communities have created 5,069 net new jobs and 1,068 net new businesses from 2006-2021.

The ceremony Friday night honored communities, individuals, businesses, and organizations from across the state that have completed exemplary work in downtown revitalization. Competitive nominations were submitted for projects, activities, and individuals in 16 different categories that covered aspects of design, economic vitality, organization, promotion, and other efforts in downtown revitalization.

Best Organization Pandemic Response Awarded to Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc.

Downtown Excelsior Partnership, Inc. focused on communication coordination, developing reopening guidelines, and helping small businesses navigate this new landscape. The first idea from the Promotion committee was a Show Love, Support Local Guide that shared modifications to business hours and practices, online ordering

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info, curbside pick-up options, and how the public could support the downtown business community.

The Downtown Excelsior Partnership started a Monday Morning Mingle with merchants to share updated state and county emergency orders, and assisted merchants in navigating the Personal Paycheck Protection program, Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and other programs that would be beneficial for small downtown businesses.

A “One Town, One Team” business grant program was put together with the Chamber of Commerce with over \$10,000 in forgivable grant money used for rent, utilities, and wages to help the businesses weather the pandemic storm. Other programs offered through the Downtown Excelsior Partnership reflected each Main Street committee providing programs or alternate events to support the downtown community. As a result of these and other programs from the local Main Street program, downtown Excelsior Springs saw more new businesses open during the pandemic than it lost.

For more information on this award contact Downtown Excelsior Partnership’s Executive Director Lyndsey Baxter at 816-637-2822 or exec@visitesprings.com.