

August 5, 2022

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**Historic Downtown Liberty, Inc. Awarded the  
Most Innovative Project for Repurposing Vacant Space,  
Accredited and Associate Tier 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.

**Most Innovative Project for Repurposing Vacant Space,  
Accredited and Associate Tier Awarded to Historic Downtown  
Liberty, Inc.**

The original Corbin mill was built in 1889 by O. H. Corbin as a flour mill on land given by a presidential grant to those displaced by the New Madrid earthquake in the early 1800s. As times changed, so did

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the usage of the mill. It became a feed mill in the 1920s and changed ownership in the 1945 and again in 1985. It served as restaurant space in the 80s but was shuttered in 2017 and sat vacant until 2020. A once vital part of historic downtown Liberty was vacant and it wasn't an easy property to redevelop due to the size, age of the property, and previous uses.

In March of 2020, Corbin Mill Properties purchased the old mill and then the pandemic shut everything down. Their plan for the property was to create a mixed-use space with office, retail, and event space. Work moved forward through the pandemic creating the retail, office, and event space with the first business moving into the space in May of 2020. Through the many months, construction work continued, and tenants continued to lease the space until the last tenant moved in September of 2021. Overall, six (6) new businesses moved into the newly renovated old mill with over 30 employees.

For more information on this award contact Historic Downtown Liberty, Inc.'s Executive Director Danelle O'Connell at 816-781-3575 or [danelle@historicdowntownliberty.org](mailto:danelle@historicdowntownliberty.org).