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Oklahoma Main Street Announces Award Finalists

(Oklahoma City, Okla.) – The Oklahoma Main Street Center announced today the finalists of the program’s annual statewide awards competition. All finalists will be honored and the winners announced at the 30th annual Main Street Awards Banquet, May 7, at the Embassy Suites OKC Downtown/Medical Center Hotel in Oklahoma City.

“For 30 years now, we have come together to celebrate our valuable volunteers, business and building owners, program directors and board members throughout the state of Oklahoma,” said Buffy Hughes, Oklahoma Main Street Center Director. “It is our opportunity to recognize these outstanding people, places, businesses and events. These award entries, sent in by local Main Street programs, highlight the enthusiasm, creativity and responsibility toward increasing revenue and creating jobs for the local historic business districts. This is our way to show our appreciation for all of their hard work.”

Programs compete in 21 award categories representing the “four points” of the Main Street Approach – Organization, Promotion, Economic Vitality and Design. Panels of outside judges for each point review the entries and determine the winners.

The Main Street Program of the Year award recognizes the top program in the state. The programs earning the most quality assurance points during the 2018 calendar year are invited to submit a short essay in support of their selection as Main Street Program of the Year. A panel of outside judges review the essays to determine the winner. The programs for 2018 (in alphabetical order) include: Altus, Claremore, El Reno, Enid, Guymon, Idabel, Newkirk, Ponca City, Stockyards City, Tulsa Route 66, and Wilburton. The program of the year will be announced at the banquet.

In addition, the Watonga Bob Shoemaker Award, given to the outstanding program director, will be awarded at the banquet. A local program director must first be nominated by their own board of directors. Attending required trainings, on-time statistical reporting, as well as state staff and peer ratings determine the top program directors. Those making the top of the list this year include: Stephanie Gardner, Durant Main Street; Melyn Johnson, Main Street Guymon Inc.; Chelsea McConnell, Ponca City Main Street; and Tamra Bell, Wilburton Main Street.

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The award finalists are:

ORGANIZATION:

Premier Partner

Enid – Enid Regional Development Alliance

Kendall Whittier – Ziegler Art & Frame

Newkirk – City of Newkirk

Best Community Education/Public Awareness

Enid – Trolley Tours

Newkirk – Public Planning Meeting/SCOT Analysis

Okmulgee – Talk Local @ The Lokal with Green Country Technology Center

Best Volunteer Development Program

Duncan – Team Up to Clean Up

Hobart – Main Street Design Committee

Newkirk – Children’s Christmas Shop

Main Street Hero

Perry – Michelle Taylor

Ponca City – Terron Liles

Tulsa Route 66 – Jeannie Cue

Best Creative Fundraising Effort

Claremore – Music on Main

Enid – History Makers Campaign

Wilburton – Relics and Rods Car Show, Swap Meet, Cruise Night and Fireworks

PROMOTION:

Premier Special Event Under 1,000 Attendees

Ponca City – 125th Birthday Celebration for Ponca City

Wilburton – Relics and Rods Car Show, Swap Meet, Cruise Night and Fireworks

Wilburton – Twenty Men Who Cook

Premier Special Event Over 1,000 Attendees

Ada – Ada Fest

Duncan – Wine’n on the Chisolm Trail Festival

El Reno – The Burger Day Festival

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Best Retail Event

Duncan – Holiday Stroll
Durant – Santa’s Very Merry Main Street
Enid – Trolley Tours

Outstanding Image Promotion

Enid – Pedestrian Kiosks
Ponca City – Rebranding Ponca City Main Street
Tulsa Route 66 – Main Street Image Promotion

Creative New Event

Cherokee – Touch a Community
Guymon – Pangea: An International Evening
Kendall Whittier – Kendall Whittier Ale Trail

DESIGN:

Best Placemaking Project

Claremore – Alley Activation 2025 Mural
Enid – Safer Street Simulation
Okmulgee – Outdoor Fitness Court

Best Sustainable Design Project

Claremore – Studio B Artworks
Duncan – Downtown Bench Restoration
Okmulgee – OSUIT “GOPO” (Grand Old Post Office)

Best Interior Design Project

Ardmore – Blake Bush Family Eye Care Clinic
Kendall Whittier – The Bobby Pin
McAlester – The Venue

Best Façade Rehabilitation Under \$10,000

Altus – Lady Austin’s
Claremore – Back in the Day
Tulsa Route 66 – Downtown Red Fork/Tulsa Stove Hospital Mural

Best Façade Rehabilitation Over \$10,000

Ardmore – Chapman Building
Kendall Whittier – The Taproom at Marshall Brewing
Okmulgee – OSUIT “GOPO” (Grand Old Post Office)

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Best Visual Merchandising

Ada – Rustic Ridge

Duncan – Distinctive-Décor.com

Perry – Yankee Dime Mercantile

Best Building/Business Branding

Claremore – Claremore Museum of History (MoH)

Durant – Bliss Boutique

Tahlequah – The Spring Street Hideaway

ECONOMIC VITALITY:

Best Adaptive Reuse Project

Kendall Whittier – Flash Flood Print Studios

Tahlequah – The Spring Street Hideaway

Tulsa Route 66 – Red Fork Distillery

Best Business Practices

Ada – Serendipity on Main

Cherokee – NAPA/Ace Hardware

Claremore – The Horse of Course

Ponca City - Whimsy

Best New Business

Altus – Just Brew It Coffee House

Kendall Whittier – Heirloom Rustic Ales

Ponca City – Vortex Alley Brewing

Business of the Year

Ada – McSwain Theatre

Ada – Serendipity on Main

Kendall Whittier – Marshall Brewing Company

The reception will begin at 5:30 and the dinner and program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased from your local Main Street Program representative for \$45.

For a listing of Main Street programs in the state, or for more information about the Oklahoma Main Street Program, please call (405) 815-6552 or visit OKcommerce.gov/mainstreet.

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