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## **Oklahoma Main Street Announces 2019 Award Winners**

**(Oklahoma City, Okla.)** – The Oklahoma Main Street Center announced the winners in 21 competitive award categories during the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Main Street Awards Banquet, May 7, at the Embassy Suites Downtown Medical Center Hotel.

The Oklahoma Main Street Center has been a coordinating program with Main Street America since 1985.

“Over the past 34 years more than \$1.7 billion has been invested, both privately and publicly, in Main Street commercial districts,” said Brent Kisling, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, which oversees the Oklahoma Main Street Center. “In addition, nearly 1.5 million volunteer hours have been donated to local programs. Business recruiters take into consideration a thriving commercial core when making decisions on where to move their businesses. Main Street is making a difference for the State of Oklahoma.”

Held yearly in Oklahoma City, the Main Street Banquet highlights the best of the best throughout the state.

“The Main Street Annual Banquet is our chance to show our appreciation on a statewide level to all the directors, volunteers and board members, as well as the building and business owners that what they do matters,” said Buffy Hughes, director of the Oklahoma Main Street Center program. “This spirited competition celebrates all the dedicated people, original events, historic preservation, and financial investments that make our historic commercial districts thrive.”

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 award winners for 2019 are:

**ORGANIZATION:**

Premier Partner

Enid – Enid Regional Development Alliance

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Best Community Education/Public Awareness

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

Best Volunteer Development Program

Newkirk – Children’s Christmas Shop

Main Street Hero

Ponca City – Terron Liles

Best Creative Fundraising Effort

Enid – History Makers Campaign

**PROMOTION:**

Premier Special Event Under 1,000 Attendees

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

Premier Special Event Over 1,000 Attendees

El Reno – The Burger Day Festival

Best Retail Event

Duncan – Holiday Stroll

Outstanding Image Promotion

Enid – Pedestrian Kiosks

Creative New Event

Kendall Whittier – Kendall Whittier Ale Trail

**DESIGN:**

Best Placemaking Project

Okmulgee – Outdoor Fitness Court

Best Sustainable Design Project

Okmulgee – OSUIT “GOPO” (Grand Old Post Office)

Best Interior Design Project

Ardmore – Blake Bush Family Eye Care Clinic

Best Façade Rehabilitation Under \$10,000

Altus – Lady Austin’s

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Best Façade Rehabilitation Over \$10,000

Kendall Whittier – The Taproom at Marshall Brewing

Best Visual Merchandising

Ada – Rustic Ridge

Best Building/Business Branding

Durant – Bliss Boutique

**ECONOMIC VITALITY:**

Best Adaptive Reuse Project

Tulsa Route 66 – Red Fork Distillery

Best Business Practices

Ada – Serendipity on Main

Best New Business

Kendall Whittier – Heirloom Rustic Ales

Ponca City – Vortex Alley Brewing

Business of the Year

Kendall Whittier – Marshall Brewing Company

In addition to the awards listed above, Main Street programs throughout the state vie for the honor of the outstanding Main Street program. Those making the list this year include: Altus, Claremore, El Reno, Enid, Guymon, Idabel, Newkirk, Ponca City, Stockyards City, Tulsa Route 66 and Wilburton.

The 2019 Outstanding Main Street Program of the Year is: Claremore Main Street

The Oklahoma Main Street Center also recognized the outstanding program director of year. The award is named after a former director who embodied all aspects of the Main Street program. This year the “Watonga Bob Shoemaker Award” was given to Stephanie Gardner, Durant Main Street director.

The OMSC also honored former Oklahoma Main Street Center staff member, Jim Watters with this year’s Legacy Award. Watters served on staff from 1994-2011 and is now a member of the Oklahoma Main Street Advisory Board. He also is a founding member of the new Oklahoma Main Street Foundation.



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The Oklahoma Main Street Center would also like to thank the sponsors for this year's banquet: the Cherokee Nation, the Chickasaw Nation, Ponca City Main Street, Embassy Suites Oklahoma City Downtown Medical Center Hotel, Cory's Audio Visual and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

For more information about the Oklahoma Main Street Program, please call (405) 815-6552 or visit [www.OKcommerce.gov/mainstreet](http://www.OKcommerce.gov/mainstreet).

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