



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 25, 2018

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

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Virginia Main Street Award Winners Announced

Richmond – The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development announced recently the Virginia Main Street Merit Award winners at the 2018 Downtown Intersections in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The awards were given in seven merit areas celebrating excellence in downtown revitalization efforts and a \$5,000 prize was offered for the winner of the first-ever Main Street Pitch Idea Competition.

“Boldness and ingenuity of community leaders and entrepreneurs were the catalysts that built these downtowns centuries ago, and that is what is continuing to drive our Virginia downtowns today,” said DHCD Director Erik Johnston. “In Virginia, the Main Street Approach creates environmentally, socially and economically sustainable downtown ecosystems, and we celebrate the success and hard work of our Virginia Main Street communities.”

In addition to the merit awards, Virginia Main Street (VMS) designated communities were recognized for milestone achievements including volunteer hours and private investment. Currently, the VMS program has 28 designated communities including: Abingdon, Altavista, Ashland, Bedford, Berryville, Blackstone, Bristol, Culpeper, Danville, Farmville, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Gloucester, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lexington, Luray, Lynchburg, Manassas, Marion, Martinsville, Orange, Saint Paul, South Boston, Staunton, Warrenton, Winchester and Wytheville.

Below is a list of award recipients:

2018 Virginia Main Street Merit Awards

Best Downtown Public Improvement Project

Gloucester Main Street Preservation Trust for the Gloucester Village Corridor Enhancement Project

Best Adaptive Reuse Project

The Western Front Hotel in St. Paul

Outstanding Business

CenterFuse Coworking in Manassas

Outstanding Fundraising Effort

Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance for the Friendly City Fortune

Best Downtown Restaurant Event

Downtown Blackstone for the Sandwich Sampler Competition

Best Innovation Award

Main Street Lexington for the Lexington Collaboratory

Volunteer of the Year

Mark Bloomfield with Downtown Wytheville Inc.

Main Street Pitch Idea winner

Downtown Blackstone Inc.

Volunteerism Milestone Achievement Awards

150,000

Staunton Downtown Development Association

45,000 Volunteer Hours

Culpeper Renaissance Inc.

25,000 Volunteer Hours

Marion Downtown Revitalization Association

Destination Downtown South Boston

20,000 Volunteer Hours

Ashland Main Street Association

Farmville Downtown Partnership

St. Paul Main Street

15,000 Volunteer Hours

Downtown Wytheville Inc.

10,000 Volunteer Hours

Fredericksburg Virginia Main Street Inc.

5,000 Volunteer Hours

Danville's River District Association

1,000 Volunteer Hours

Gloucester Main Street Association

Private Investment Milestone Achievement Awards

\$200 Million in Private Investment

Downtown Lynchburg Association and the city of Lynchburg

\$35 Million in Private Investment

Berryville Main Street and the town of Berryville

\$30 Million in Private Investment

River District Association and the city of Danville
Downtown Franklin Association and the city of Franklin
Orange Downtown Alliance and the town of Orange

\$5 Million in Private Investment

Downtown Hopewell Partnership and the city of Hopewell
St. Paul Main Street and the town of St. Paul

\$1 Million in Private Investment

Altavista On-Track and the town of Altavista
Downtown Wytheville Inc. and the town of Wytheville

The VMS program, managed by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), provides assistance and training to help communities increase the economic vitality of their downtown commercial districts. Virginia Main Street uses the National Main Street model to help communities revitalize their downtowns by focusing on their unique heritage and attributes. The program helps communities implement a comprehensive revitalization strategy that creates economic growth and pride in downtowns.

For more information about the Virginia Main Street program, visit www.dhcd.virginia.gov. To view photos from the Downtown Intersections and the Virginia Main Street Merit Awards Luncheon, [click here](#).

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