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PRESS RELEASE

Missouri Main Street Connection Awarded \$748,752 From the National Park Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant

Branson, MO. – Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) has been named one of thirteen recipients for the National Park Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization grants which will establish a subgrant program that will support economic development through the preservation of historic buildings in rural communities in Missouri.

MMSC will provide subgrants to property owners to assist in rehabilitating their historic properties in rural communities across Missouri with populations under 50,000. This assistance will provide investment, where it would have been more difficult to facilitate without this subgrant and create more widespread preservation awareness and education across Missouri as a result. Qualifying historic buildings located in Main Street districts can receive subgrants from \$25,000 to \$50,000, with a minimum grant amount is \$10,000, to improve the exterior of their buildings. The building must be listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and achieve listing before the end of their project.

In our work with communities across the state, MMSC has found that communities, especially rural communities, most often find success with historic preservation when it is paired with economic development. This approach allows the preserved structure to serve the community in multiple ways: culturally and economically. Through the focus on restoring historic buildings, property owners will receive a support system as well as activate their building for business recruitment and fostering the ecosystem for the success of that small business through the implementation of the comprehensive Main Street Approach™.

As a result of this subgrant program, MMSC anticipates the visual improvement to impact the overall look of the local Main Street district by spurring improvements by surrounding properties outside of grant funded projects. As we know, visual improvements often have a domino effect.

About National Park Service

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has directed the management and implementation of programming for the national parks across the country.

For over 100 years they have led the preservation of America's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. The NPS in partnership and cooperation with partners has taken care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities. One way that this is accomplished is through appropriations authorized by Congress for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF, authorized through 2023, uses revenue from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars.

These grants mark the fifth year of funding for the program honoring the late Paul Bruhn, executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont for nearly 40 years. For more information about the grants and the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants program, please visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).

About Missouri Main Street Connection

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. Since 2005, Missouri Main Street communities have seen \$1 billion in public and private investment and MMSC has worked in over 180 communities. These Missouri Main Street communities and districts are thriving and vibrant by engaging the community members in revitalization strategies to create experiences that preserve their history and culture. Follow Missouri Main Street Connection on Facebook @MissouriMainStreetConnection and Instagram @MOmainstreet.

For additional information, contact State Director Gayla Roten at 417-334-3014.

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