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Date: 6/18/2024

#### PRESS RELEASE

### **Missouri Main Street Connection Awards over \$600,000 to Main Street Property Owners through the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program**

Branson, MO. – Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) awarded thirteen recipients a cumulative total of \$601,647 from the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant program in partnership with the National Park Service. Each recipient's project will support economic development through the preservation of a historic building in their rural community during the project's timeline and upon completion.

MMSC awarded subgrants to 13 properties spread across the state in eight different communities with populations under 50,000. The average assistance that was provided by MMSC's subgrants was \$46,280.00. This level of investment will help these selected property owners with the improvements they desire to make to the exterior of their qualified historic buildings. Property owners have pledged an average of \$40,835 in matching dollars to ensure these projects are completed and that they make a greater impact on the revitalization of the building.

In Cape Girardeau, three phenomenal projects were awarded assistance. The Kellerman Lorimer Hall, Zickfield properties, and Katy O'Ferrell's projects each were awarded funds to address their individual needs. The Kellerman Lorimer Hall is a contributing building that has serviced the community in a variety of ways as an elementary school and city hall. After much needed repairs are completed by this grant, it will be closer to providing community and event spaces that will complement downtown revitalization. The Zickfield properties are two well maintained, contributing two-part block buildings that will complete a roof repair to allow the buildings to continue to provide a place for businesses to thrive. Lastly, Katy O'Ferrell's will become listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places while restoring windows and repointing brick. Restoring the windows will begin the building rehabilitation process and increase what this building can offer its historic commercial district and community.

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In Chillicothe, the Bailey Building received assistance to work ambitiously towards returning this contributing building to a thriving place of business after a fire destroyed the upper floors. The property owners aim to appropriately replace missing and damaged windows as well as repoint and replace brick.

In Clinton, Glasscock Jewelry received assistance to address issues with sandstone deterioration, breakage on columns, and breakage around windows on their contributing building. Glasscock Jewelry is a cornerstone business in Clinton with over 40 years of being in operation. With these steps of preserving their building they will surely make it another 40+ years in a spectacular and safe historic building.

In Excelsior Springs, two phenomenal projects were awarded assistance. The Colonial Hotel is an individually listed, rehabilitated hotel which will repair and replace identified elements and components for it to come back into service to welcome guests to Excelsior Springs once again. Also, the contributing 311 S. Thompson building will address some of its worst exterior issues including extensive masonry and stucco work as well as replacement of non-original windows. Both buildings will soon add to the thriving historic district following the completion of this grant and further work done by the property owners.

In Lebanon, the Joe Knight building received assistance to work on the structural challenges that it is currently facing. This individually listed and active building houses a great restaurant in its first story and catches your eye as you walk through Lebanon's historic commercial district. Additionally, within the scope of the awarded project, numerous windows and glass blocks will be repaired and/or replaced.

In Ozark, the Venue on Brick received assistance to make needed brick repairs to this highly visible, contributing building. Once a Ford show room and garage and now a wedding venue, this building has experienced some brick deterioration and wood decay around its windows. This grant will assist in keeping it in good repair and appearance to continue its economic impact of 100% occupancy.

In Pleasant Hill, the Willow Boutique received assistance to preserve its exterior side wall, which was built as an interior wall that was damaged from exposure to the elements after its neighboring building collapsed.

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Other restoration efforts will be made in conjunction with the wall repair to ensure that this contributing building protects itself from the elements and houses its business into the future.

In Warrensburg, three phenomenal projects were awarded assistance. The 319 N. Holden property is a contributing building that needs immediate attention to keep its decorative limestone façade elements from crumbling and deteriorating further and jeopardizing its structural integrity. The Jones Brothers Mule Barn is an unoccupied contributing building that has a pending tenant once the project is completed. The Mule Barn is a local landmark and a prime example of how working on the exterior issues of a building can lead to an increase in the historic commercial district's economic base and provide locals and guests with new businesses to patronize. Lastly, the Star Theater is an important piece of the community that has been recently acquired by Warrensburg Main Street. The roof of this contributing building will be replaced to prevent further interior damage and allow for the interior to be restored as only a portion of the building is currently usable.

MMSC is excited to see the results of this investment through the visual impact it will make in the historic commercial districts.

The assistance is being provided on a reimbursement basis which is why we are inviting banking institutions to partner with MMSC to provide construction, commercial, and/or bridge loans for any of the projects that have been awarded. Learn more about what this looks like with our [information sheet](#).

This grant was made possible with assistance from the Historic Preservation Fund, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior under Grant Number P23AP01967. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Interior.



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### **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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