

06/21/2024

PRESS RELEASE

The Star Theater in Warrensburg, MO awarded \$50,000.00 from Missouri Main Street Connection's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

Warrensburg, MO. – The Star Theater is one of thirteen properties in Missouri to receive a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant from Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) and the National Park Service.

Warrensburg Main Street, Inc. was awarded \$50,000.00 to begin a multi-phase endeavor that will address the most immediate threats to this contributing building first. In addition, to the \$50,000.00 provided by this grant, Warrensburg Main Street Inc will invest a minimum of ten percent of the grant amount toward the final project as a match.

In its current state, this historic building is safe, stable, and currently being used by the community and Warrensburg Main Street at about 90% of its capacity due to interior water damage. While usable, there are several significant repairs that left untreated will deteriorate the building. The rehabilitation project that was approved by MMSC will start the process of tuck pointing on three sides of the building, securing the back facade as it has started to bow, new roof, new flashing and repairing the marquee awning which has significant water damage. Jamie DeBacker shared some of the history of this building and the vision for its future, "Demolition was being considered for The Star Theater due to multiple years of deferred maintenance and general building structure neglect. When Main Street acquired the property, we held open houses for the community to come and tour the property. We had dozens of longtime residents come and walk through sharing their memories of first dates, first concerts, first jobs that they experienced at the Star Theater. Our goal is to save this building so the next generation can create new lasting connections to the building and our downtown."

Upon completion of work at The Star Theater, the theater will be able to contribute to the vibrancy of the district as it is in the center of Downtown Warrensburg's primary restaurant bar area.

If you are a banking institution who would like to partner with MMSC to provide construction, commercial, and/or bridge loans for this project and/or any of the projects that have been awarded see what this looks like with MMSC's [information sheet](#).



EMPOWERING *Community Revitalization*

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.

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. Mailing address for inquiries:
PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615.