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March 26, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

**Missouri Main Street Connection Begins Distributing the “Preservation State of Mind” Guidebook in Preparation for Preservation Month**

**Branson, MO.** — Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) is distributing over 3,000 “Preservation State of Mind” guidebooks to select Main Street communities, official Welcome Centers, and Amtrak stations in preparation for the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s annual Preservation Month in May. Each year, Preservation Month offers educational and entertaining experiences for people of all ages to enjoy.

The “Preservation State of Mind” guidebooks highlight 52 Missouri Main Street communities and 18 historic sites. Twelve of these Main Street communities have events and experiences including Brookfield, Carrollton, Clinton, Independence, Jackson, Joplin, Liberty, Maryville, Monroe City, Washington, and Warrensburg. As hosts of events and experiences, these 12 communities received guidebooks to share with residents and visitors. Find a location where you can pick up a “Preservation State of Mind” guidebook for yourself with our [quick guide](#).

The 18 historic sites offer various ways to engage with Missouri’s history including thoughtful strolls, observances, and playful activities – such as wading in a creek or hiking through historic landscapes. Those looking to increase their knowledge on historic preservation can find that in the historic resources, preservation partners, and local historic assets included in the guidebook.

Within the guidebook is an invitation to participate in MMSC’s “Signs of the Times” photo contest, during Preservation Month, before the contest closes on June 15<sup>th</sup>. To participate, individuals can submit a photo of a vintage, rehabbed, or new signage and the story or memory connected to the sign or place where the sign is located through MMSC’s Submittable form. Learn more about the details of the [photo contest online](#).

State Director, Gayla Roten stated “Our staff worked with our network to create the “Preservation State of Mind” guidebook over the past 5 months. It was a labor of love that illustrates the dedication of MMSC and the twelve participating Main Street programs to preserving Missouri’s historic commercial districts and supporting economic growth. We invite everyone to visit these communities and sites in a celebration of our heritage and preservation efforts.”

Whether you are looking for a one-day experience, weekend getaway, or month-long challenge, you can find something to participate in at a local Main Street or historic site in our guidebook. MMSC staff will make appearances at selected Main Street communities who are working diligently to preserve their historic resources.

Additionally, the "Preservation State of Mind" guidebook will be available online to view and download for those unable to obtain a printed copy.

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### **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 \$1.3 billion in public and private investment and MMSC has worked in over 130 communities. These Missouri Main Street communities and districts are thriving and vibrant by engaging their 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 inquires: PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615.