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July 29, 2025

### **Missouri Main Street Connection Awarded the Spirit of Main Street, Accredited Tier Award to Dave Eames**

Branson, MO. – Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) awarded the Spirit of Main Street, Accredited Tier Award to Dave Eames during Missouri's Premier Downtown Revitalization Conference's Evening of Excellence Awards Ceremony and Dinner at the St. Charles Convention Center. They were one of the 23 community, individual, business, and organization award recipients that were recognized Thursday night.

Dave Eames received this award for his unwavering dedication, leadership, and vision, which has been instrumental to Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street's (DLSMS) revitalization successes.

Since 1990, Dave Eames and his family have called Downtown Lee's Summit home. This would eventually lead to volunteering with DLSMS as the business owner of Fossil Forge. In 2013, Dave joined the DLSMS board of directors and presided as president from 2017-2021, helping lead the organization through a period of significant growth and recognition. Major milestones under his leadership include hosting the 2018 Main Street Now Conference's Big Bash and winning the American Planning Association's Great Neighborhood Award.

Dave's impact is visible throughout Downtown Lee's Summit and beyond. He's designed banners and event logos as well as fabricated the downtown information kiosks from his home garage while serving as the chair of DLSMS's Design Committee. He championed the return of neon signage to downtown where there are now more than 60 neon signs inside and out throughout downtown. His innovative cultural program, Neon Nights, opens his studio to showcase this distinctive craft to packed crowds. In 2015, he began financially investing in Downtown Lee's Summit by renovating properties. Beyond Lee's Summit, Dave has contributed his expertise to communities across Missouri and Kansas by preserving neon signage. He was recognized as the Citizen of the Year by Mayor Bill Baird in 2024.

Dave Eames embodies what it means to be a champion of downtown, blending his personal skills with leadership, volunteerism, and collaboration.

### **About Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street, Inc.**

Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street strives to promote, enhance, and preserve the heart of their city by cultivating a diverse mix of businesses, cultural and family-friendly events, unique housing options, and inclusive public spaces. They believe that their downtown is the past, present, and future heart of their community.

For more information on this award contact Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street's Executive Director Donnie Rodgers at [donnie@downtownls.org](mailto:donnie@downtownls.org) or 816-246-6598.

### **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 2006, Missouri Main Street districts have seen \$1.4 billion in public and private investment and MMSC has worked in over 150 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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