

INSTRUCTIONS

2009

Oklahoma Main Street Awards



Nominations Due: 5:00 p.m. February 6, 2009

The Oklahoma Main Street Center will honor Main Street communities, organizations, and individuals for outstanding achievements in the past year of the Main Street program. There are 23 categories. Please nominate your community's accomplishments in the categories that apply. Anyone in a Main Street community may submit nominations.

Each nomination shall include a nomination form, a one-page reply sheet, photos with captions, and supporting materials, if applicable. Please photocopy these instructions and the nomination forms for others in your community who would like to make nominations. The forms must remain in the format you receive them.

Questions?

Contact the Oklahoma Main Street Center at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce at 800-879-6552, or (405) 815-5271.

Eligibility

- ◆ All projects must have been completed between January 2007 and December 2008 unless otherwise noted in the Awards Categories descriptions. Projects must have been implemented after the town was accepted into the Oklahoma Main Street Program.
- ◆ If nominated project has won in a category the last three years, it is ineligible in that category.
- ◆ A maximum of two projects may be nominated in each category.

Criteria

- ◆ Nominations must follow the "Guidelines to Nominating Projects", herein.
- ◆ Nominations must have Board President's signature to be complete.
- ◆ Incomplete nominations will not be considered. Nominations missing supporting materials, *including photos*, will be considered incomplete. (See example of a correctly submitted award nomination.)
- ◆ Reply sheets are limited to one page, front only.
- ◆ The deadline for all nominations is 5:00 p.m. on February 6, 2009
All nominations must arrive (**pre-assembled and ready for submission**) at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Late or unassembled nominations will not be considered.

Mailing address: Main Street Awards
Oklahoma Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 26980
Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0980

Delivery address: Oklahoma Department of Commerce
Oklahoma Main Street Center
900 North Stiles
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104-3234
(405) 815-5271

Guidelines for Nominating Projects

- ◆ Five (5) sets are required for each nomination, except Board Member of the Year and Crowning Achievement, which are described below.
- ◆ Each set will include:
 - Nomination Form
 - Reply Sheet
 - Supporting Material, if applicable
 - Photos, up to 8, numbered and labeled properly
 - Captions must accompany photos and can be either under each photo or on separate caption page
- ◆ Each set must be collated and stapled. Each stapled set will be distributed to the appropriate judge.
- ◆ **NO NOTEBOOKS OR FOLDERS**
- ◆ Board Member of the Year requires one copy of the nomination form and reply sheet, one photo of the nominee (labeled with name, town and BMOY), and a photo caption.
- ◆ Crowning Achievement requires one copy of the nomination form and reply sheet, two photos of the nominee (labeled with name, town and description), and a photo caption.
- ◆ Nominations may be hand-delivered or mailed. If mailed, nominations must arrive *by due date*.
- ◆ Nominations must be assembled before delivery, not on-site at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

Nomination Forms:

- ◆ CD included in this packet
- ◆ Nomination forms must be typed and complete. **Several nomination forms are 2-sided.** Original nomination forms are provided in this packet.
- ◆ Nomination forms will be e-mailed on request.
- ◆ **Board President's signature** is required on the nomination form.

Reply Sheets:

- ◆ All questions are to be answered on the reply sheet. The reply sheet must have category name, town name, and project name, if applicable, in upper left-hand corner.
- ◆ You must restate the questions on the reply sheet. Insert a blank line on the reply sheet after each question is answered. The reply sheet information must be numbered to correspond to the nomination form. Minimum type size is 10-point type and minimum page margin is ½ inch on all sides.
- ◆ Reply sheets not following above specifications may be disqualified.
- ◆ Reply sheets are limited to one 8½ x 11 page, front only.

Supporting Materials:

- ◆ Appropriate supporting materials should be attached behind each reply sheet. Five complete sets of all materials must be provided.
- ◆ Videotape, CD and DVD length should not exceed 20 minutes. Five copies must be provided.

Photos and Photo Caption Pages:

Photos play an important role in the awards process. They are the only visual images upon which the judges base their evaluations. An excellent facade rehabilitation poorly captured on film may not receive the score it deserves.

- ◆ Clearly label each 3-½" x 5" or 4" x 6" print photo with the following information:
 - Name of project/building/person, etc.
 - Name of town or Main Street program
 - Category of nomination (see suggested abbreviations below) and 2009 (for 2009 Annual Main Street Awards)
 - Numbered in the order to be seen by the judges. (Begin each category with #1.)
 - "BEFORE", "DURING", and "AFTER" as appropriate.
- ◆ Up to eight (8) photos may be submitted for each entry. Five (5) identical sets of photos must be included with each nomination. Captions are required for all photos & are acceptable either under the photo or on a separate caption page. For best quality, use photographic paper.
- ◆ Include all submitted photos on a CD, in addition to the five sets of photos.

◆ **NO NOTEBOOKS OR FOLDERS**

Digital Photos:

- ◆ Make sure the photo caption is properly duplicated and included.
- ◆ Please print it in color on high quality paper at 4 x 6 inches.

Judging:

Nominations will be judged by the Main Street Awards judges based on the criteria listed on each form. The judges rate each nomination using the actual nomination forms.

The Awards Ceremony:

The Main Street Awards will be presented at the Annual Oklahoma Main Street Awards Banquet. The banquet is scheduled for **May 19, 2009** in Oklahoma City at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

Suggested abbreviations for photo labeling:

Board Member of the Year	BMOY, 2009
Main Street Crowning Achievement	Crown, 2009
Premier Partner	Prmr Prtnr, 2009
Best Community Education/Public Awareness	CE/PA, 2009
Best Volunteer Development Program	Vdev Prgm, 2009
Best Creative Fundraising Effort	Fundrsg, 2009
Main Street Hero	Hero, 2009
Best Main Street Youth Involvement Program	Youth, 2009
Outstanding Image Promotion	Image, 2009
Best Retail Event	Retail, 2009
Premier Special Event	Special, 2009
Creative New Event	New Event, 2009
Outstanding Main Street Web Presence	Web, 2009
Best Public Improvement Project	Publ Impr, 2009
Best Interior Design Project	Interior, 2009
Best Building Facade Rehabilitation Under \$10,000	Fac Renov Un 10, 2009
Best Building Facade Rehabilitation Over \$10,000	Fac Renov Ov 10, 2009
Best Window Display	Window, 2009
Best Building/Business Signage	Signage, 2009
Downtown Business of the Year	Business/Yr, 2009
Best Adaptive Reuse Project	Adapt Reuse, 2009
Best New Business Downtown	New Business, 2009
Best Business Practices	Practices, 2009

When taking photos of people, ACTION shots are more interesting than "grip & grins," and "line-ups."

AWARDS CATEGORIES

ORGANIZATION

Premier Partner

The Oklahoma Main Street Center will honor the community that has demonstrated the highest degree of cooperation between the Main Street organization and various partners, including local municipal government(s), corporations, etc., in their downtown revitalization efforts.

Best Main Street Community Education/Public Awareness

This award recognizes excellence in communication by a Main Street program. A program can inform the community about Main Street in various forms, such as educational programs and public awareness to help share the Main Street story. Newsletters and public forums are eligible in this category.

Best Volunteer Development Program

This award will be granted to the Main Street Program that has demonstrated a successful volunteer development program. This nomination is for developing and managing a volunteer recruitment, training, placement and recognition program.

Best Creative Fund Raising Effort

This award will be granted to the Main Street organization that has displayed the most creativity and success in securing funds for its downtown program or a specific project. List your financial target(s) and how much money was actually raised. Document with news articles, photos, budgets, etc.

Main Street Hero

This award recognizes outstanding contributions by an individual toward the revitalization of a downtown or neighborhood commercial district. Potential nominees might include: a local developer who successfully rehabilitated and reopened a historic theater or a high school student who launched an innovative, student-run business in a downtown storefront location.

Best Main Street Youth Involvement Program

This award recognizes an outstanding youth volunteer program (Junior Main Street Program) in the state. More communities in Oklahoma are enlisting the help of youth through Junior Main Street or other programs. The award will be granted to the nominated program demonstrating the most creativity, innovation and impact on the community and impact on the youth of the community.

PROMOTION

Outstanding Image Promotion

This award will recognize the Main Street organization that has developed the best effective public relations piece or promotional campaign. Projects may include printed publications, graphic images, products, signage (directional/billboards), etc. It may also include image ad campaigns or image events such as a display.

Best Retail Event

This award will recognize the Main Street organization that has developed the best effective retail event in conjunction with Main Street merchants. This activity must be a Main Street event and could be a sales-related event, special retail advertising campaign or non-sales related event.

Premier Special Event

This award will recognize the Main Street organization that has created a high quality event that is unique to your community or district, generating traffic for downtown businesses. This activity must be a Main Street event and includes festivals or other kinds of special events not related to image or retail oriented events.

Creative New Event

This award is for a first time event, a never before activity that was well received by the community and could move to permanent status.

Outstanding Main Street Web Presence

This award will honor the Main Street Program with the best presence on the web. The nominee should show a diverse virtual spread incorporated with a good overall marketing plan.

DESIGN

Best Public Improvement Project

This award will honor the Main Street organization that has designed and implemented attractive and sympathetic improvements for a public area downtown. Improvements must be within Main Street area.

Best Interior Design Project

This award will recognize a quality interior design project. The physical design of the project should be sensitive to the building, should enhance the commercial district in appearance or function and should encourage or be a good model for furthering interior design improvements.

Best Facade Rehabilitation Under \$10,000

This award recognizes a quality facade Rehabilitation project costing \$10,000 or less. The project should enhance the commercial district in appearance and/or function and encourage further design improvements.

Best Facade Rehabilitation Over \$10,000

The Oklahoma Main Street Center will recognize a quality facade Rehabilitation project costing more than \$10,000. The project should contribute to the physical appearance of the commercial district and encourage further design improvements.

Best Window Display

This award recognizes a quality window display that would best evoke what is being sold in the store and to help creatively market those products to the customer, using good design practices.

Best Building / Business Signage

This award will recognize the best signage that has been installed within the official Main Street area. The installation period for eligible signs is from January 2007 to December 2008. Eligible signs include brand new signs (of all types), refurbished historic signs (with original business name or with new business name incorporated), or restored or stabilized "ghost" signs (historic signs located on the walls and roofs that promote a product or service).

ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING

Downtown Business of the Year

The nomination should address why this company represents the best commercial experience in your downtown area. To be nominated, the business must be at least three years old at the end of December 2008.

Best Adaptive Reuse Project

The nomination should address the economic impact of how an historic building has been returned to productive use (including adapting it to a new use) while holding architectural integrity. To be nominated, the building must be at least 50 years old, located in the Main Street area and have a project completion date between January 2007 and December 2008.

Best New Business Downtown

The nomination should address the commercial impact made by a new business to your Main Street district. To be nominated, a “new” business must be at least one year old but no older than three years at the end of December 2008.

Best Business Practices

The nomination should address how the company’s practices distinguish the firm from other organizations. To be nominated, the business must be located in the Main Street district and conducting operations between January 2007 and December 2008.

OTHER (NON-COMPETITIVE)

Board Member of the Year

To recognize the enormous commitment of Main Street volunteers, one board member from each official Main Street community will be honored. Local programs should choose this individual and submit a description on the Board Member of the Year nomination form. These individuals must have been active in a Main Street organization over the past year and made exceptional commitments of time and energy to downtown revitalization *during the past calendar year*.

Main Street Crowning Achievement

This award will recognize the outstanding accomplishment from each community during the past calendar year. Local programs should choose a project that reflects their greatest success story.