Honoring Communities that Show Excellence in Main Street

North Dakota’s Main Street Initiative is a shared vision of healthy, vibrant communities that, through fiscally-responsible planning, attract the talent needed to support our growing economy. The Main Street Awards honor communities that show excellence in these principles by actively working to differentiate and enhance the quality of life for their residents, present and future.

The Main Street Awards are a collaborative effort of the Office of Governor Doug Burgum and the North Dakota Department of Commerce. The 2019 awards will be presented during the Main Street ND Summit on October 30 at the Bismarck Event Center.

Nomination Process

The Main Street Awards are competitive and we are seeking nominations! Nominations should be submitted electronically at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019MainStreetNDAwards and will be accepted until 5 p.m. August 30, 2019. A selection committee made up of the collaborating agencies and partners will judge entries on the below criteria to choose award recipients.

General Guidance for Nominations

1. **Nominations should be brief.** Include details that are relevant to the nomination. Emphasize details that are focused on central outcomes.

2. **Nominations should be easily understood.** The best nominations are easy to read and include descriptions that allow people without intimate knowledge of the project to understand what was accomplished. Focus on the accomplishments, important points and outcomes, and why those were valuable for the community.

3. **Accomplishments should be timely.** Community projects can take a long time, however outcomes and/or completion of projects submitted for consideration should take place or have taken place in the timeframe of July 2016 – August 2019.

4. **Nominations should only be entered in one category.** The selection committee reserves the rights to transfer nominations if a submission is a better fit in another category; and to withhold an award in any category or designate more than one winner, if appropriate.

Award Types & Criteria

The Main Street Initiative is well underway in North Dakota. These awards are an opportunity for communities to showcase their unique efforts, and call attention to the tangible benefits an engaged community can create. Projects submitted for consideration should take place in the timeframe of July 2016 – August 2019.
ND Legendary Heritage Award

This award recognizes communities focused on preserving and protecting the historical assets of their towns. By honoring historical buildings and structures, spaces and other assets North Dakota’s communities connect generations of residents and inspire community pride.

**Criteria:** Community must have completed a project that involves restoration, celebration or adaptive use of historic buildings, structures, sites or cultural landscapes.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefits
- Demonstrate ongoing sustainability of the historic resource preserved
- Broaden the ethnic or cultural diversity of the community
- Enrich visitor and/or resident experiences

*Examples:* restoring a historic opera house; renovating a city hall into an entertainment venue; developing a historic lake for recreation; a new scenic overlook and signage at a cultural site.

ND Arts and Culture Award

This award recognizes communities that promote and celebrate the arts and culture. Communities that invest in the arts are improving quality of life, creating beautiful spaces and enriching the lives of residents and visitors. Local art and culture are what make our communities unique and are essential parts of attracting and retaining a talented workforce.

**Criteria:** Community must have completed a project that includes public art, beautification, an art/cultural event or the promotion of the arts in education.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefits
- Engage youth and/or people from diverse backgrounds in the project
- Enrich visitor and/or resident experiences

*Examples:* outdoor music event; downtown mural; multi-cultural festival; monthly art classes for community members.
Revitalizer Award

This award recognizes communities that take empty or dilapidated lots or structures and revitalize them with updated infrastructure, mixed-use retail, residential, parks or other unique assets. Communities should demonstrate use of existing infrastructure, infusing it with new and innovative ideas, to ensure the most efficient use of public resources.

Criteria: Community must have completed a project that revitalized a space or structure, using existing infrastructure, to create or add vibrancy to a building, community gathering space or other unique asset.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

• Demonstrate successful public-private partnership
• Reflect community-centered efforts and benefit
• Demonstrate effective use of existing infrastructure
• Showcase revitalized lot or structure and its impact, community and fiscal
• Innovation in use of spaces – mixed-use or in-fill (using the space between existing buildings/infrastructure)

Examples: converting an empty lot into an outdoor summer theater; updating a vacant building into a retail/residential space downtown; turning a lot into a community event or green space.

Legendary Young Leader Award

In North Dakota, youth aren’t just tomorrow’s leaders, they are also today’s leaders. This award recognizes a young North Dakota leader who has shown exemplary leadership in their community by speaking up, getting engaged and/or motivating others to invest in their community.

Criteria: The young leader must be between the ages of 5 and 20 years of age.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

• Demonstrate leadership in one or more community-based efforts (initiatives, events and/or projects)
• Inspire and/or engage others to get involved
• Be involved in community planning or community-based learning activities

Examples: connections with local businesses and students; students engaged in community improvement or development; hold seat on city council/other volunteer boards.
Vibrancy Award

This award recognizes communities that have activated space by investing in shared public space, cultural experiences and/or community events which draw residents and visitors. By providing engaging, lively spaces to residents and visitors, the vibrancy of North Dakota communities will continue to provide a high quality of life.

Criteria: Community must demonstrate how the activity or event has expanded resident and visitor experiences, as well as increased vibrancy.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefit
- Showcase efforts to create vibrancy and community connections
- Demonstrate increased resident engagement or visitor traffic
- Plans for sustainability and/or programming long-term

Examples: activating an alley with an event; development of programming like TedX or 1 Million Cups; community-focused conference or event; creating a farmer’s market; an outdoor concert series or art gallery.

Livability for All Ages Award

This award recognizes a community, organization, or project that has taken steps to ensure their community can provide a high quality of life for people of all ages. These efforts emphasize active transportation, accessibility, and events that engage and empower people of all ages and abilities, helping North Dakota improve its health, economy and connectivity.

Criteria: Community must demonstrate investment in active transportation or events and public spaces that create connections across generations, improve accessibility or invoke a healthy lifestyle.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefit
- Demonstrate accessibility to people of all ages and abilities
- Create increased activity in the community
- Connect people from different backgrounds and/or generations

Examples: creation of a historic, walking tour of the community; new walking/bike trails in a green area; development of an accessible play area; use of pop-up trails; development of an outdoor fitness space; new programs for youth and/or seniors.
Differentiator Award

This award recognizes a community, organization, individual or specific project that has found an innovative and/or unique way to attract businesses, workforce, and visitors or enhance local quality of life by leveraging their unique assets or qualities.

**Criteria:** Community must be able to identify its unique differentiator and what makes it a selling point for the community, and how it has impacted residents and been used in an attraction of workforce or business environment.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefit
- Showcase community use of differentiator as a factor in retaining/attracting residents
- Demonstrate community pride in differentiator

*Examples: community festival or event; local hunting or fishing venue; active theater/arts community; unique children’s programming or recreation opportunities.*

Future Leaders Empowerment Award

This award recognizes a community that seeks to engage students in creating a healthy, vibrant community through leadership development, community planning or workforce exploration in community industries.

**Criteria:** Community must demonstrate student engagement and empowerment within the community.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefit
- Showcase students involved in community planning or community-based learning activities
- Demonstrate leadership developing opportunities for students
- Showcase use of student ideas, innovations and support in community efforts
-Expose students to workforce opportunities in the community

*Examples: explore histories of Main Street structures; connections with local businesses and students; students engaged in community improvement or development.*
Main Street Excellence Award

This award will be presented to multiple communities in categories separated by population. These awards will recognize communities whose efforts emulate all three pillars of Main Street success - Smart, Efficient Infrastructure; 21st Century Workforce; and Healthy, Vibrant Communities.

**Criteria:** Community must demonstrate activities that cross all three pillars and showcase innovative efforts to enhance the livability, health and/or attractiveness of their community, while demonstrating fiscally-sound planning and sustainability.

Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate successful public-private partnerships
- Reflect community-centered efforts and benefit
- 21st Century Workforce – demonstrate efforts to increase and market differentiators to attract workforce, and/or implementation of efforts to engage youth to remain or return to the community
- Smart, Efficient Infrastructure – demonstrate efforts that show fiscally-sound development considers the long-term costs, return on investment and sustainability of projects
- Healthy, Vibrant Communities – demonstrate efforts that grow vibrant cores that help attract, retain and interest talent to make this community their home
2019 MAIN STREET AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Please complete the following using the criteria provided within the description for each category. Please attach any supporting documentation needed when submitting your application. To be considered, applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., August 30, 2019. Applications can also be submitted online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019MainStreetNDAwards. Submit printed applications to: Main Street ND Awards, 1600 E Century Ave, Ste 2, PO Box 2057, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Project Name:

Community:

Nominating Organization:

Contact Name:

Contact Address, City, State, Zip:

Contact Email:

Contact Phone:

Please choose Award Category that best fits your project based on nomination criteria:

- ND Legendary Heritage Award
- ND Arts and Culture Award
- Revitalizer Award
- Legendary Young Leader Award
- Vibrancy Award
- Livability for All Ages Award
- Differentiator Award
- Future Leaders Empowerment Award
- Main Street Excellence Award

Please use Census estimates for the most recent year for population.
Please describe the entity (community, organization, individuals, event, project) that you are nominating in detail. Make sure you explain why you believe they should receive this award. If you are describing a project, please include budget, timeline and partners. (500 words or less)

If you are nominating a project, event, organization or individual, please describe how it/they fill a need in or benefit your community. (250 words or less)

If you are nominating a community, please describe how it has worked to improve quality of life, attract or retain a 21st Century workforce, and/or implement smart, efficient infrastructure development. (250 words or less)

Why is this project, event, activity, community or individual an example for other communities? (250 words or less)

Is there anything else you would like to share about the project, event, community, organization or individual you are nominating? Be sure to provide all information within award criteria. (500 words or less)

Please include any documents and supporting materials related to this nomination.