



NEWS RELEASE

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23 GRADUATE FROM THE MAIN STREET CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

CINCINNATI, OH (MAY 19, 2003) – Twenty-three revitalization professionals from around the country were recognized at the opening session of the National Town Meeting on Main Street™ for completing the Main Street Certification Institute in Professional Downtown Management™. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center, the Certification Institute aims to elevate the problem-solving skill level of professional working in the field of revitalization of revitalization in historic and older commercial districts.

“The Certification Institute is the highest form of training we offer to Main Street managers,” said Kennedy Smith, Director of the National Trust's Main Street Center. “This year's class was the most professional and diverse group of students we've ever had.” Graduates must pass entrance exams, attend four intense educational sessions over a two-year period, and pass exams focusing on the Main Street Four-Point Approach™ to downtown revitalization: organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring.

Certificates were presented to the graduates at the opening session of National Town Meeting.

The 2003 Institute graduates who are now Certified Main Street Managers are:

John Bry, Main Street Urbana - Champaign County, Urbana, OH
Kathy Comer, Heart of Tyler/Main Street, Tyler, TX
Rhonda Davis, Main Street Mobile, Inc., Mobile, AL
Catherine Dunlap, Old Town Cape, Inc., Cape Girardeau, MO
Suzanne Gagliardo, Washington Business District Authority, Washington, PA
Robbie Grady, Goffstown Main Street Program, Inc., Goffstown, NH
Jennifer Harkness, Downtown Jamestown Development Corp., Jamestown, NY
Donna Harris, Chicago, IL
James Horton, Valdosta Main Street Program, Valdosta, GA
Ian Kipp, Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront BID, Inc., Yonkers, NY
Annette Knowles, Allen Park D.D.A., Allen Park, MI
Laura Kreps, City of Monroe, Monroe, MI
Daniel LoBianco, Dubuque Main Street, Ltd., Dubuque, IA
Diane Logan, Culpeper Renaissance, Inc., Culpeper, VA
Linda Matychowiak, Gardiner Main Street Program, Gardiner, ME
Theo Morrison, Lahaina Town Action Committee, Lahaina, HI
Terry Poe Buschkamp, Main Street Waterloo, Waterloo, IA
Doris Roden, Downtown Brookings, Inc., Brookings, SD
Sharon Smith, City of Meridian, Meridian, MS
Elizabeth Swenson, Portland Revitalization, Portland, CT
Doris Tillman, Main Street Ft. Pierce, Ft. Pierce, FL
Todd Tipton, Culver City Redevelopment Agency, Culver City, CA
Diane Williams, Evanston, IL

Established in 1980, the National Trust's National Main Street Center helps communities of all sizes

History is in Our Hands

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revitalize their older and historic commercial districts. Active in over 1,700 downtowns and urban neighborhoods, the Main Street program has generated more than \$16.1 billion in new investment. Participating communities have created 226,000 net new jobs, 56,300 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 88,700 buildings, leveraging an average of \$ 39.93 in new investment for every dollar spent on main street district revitalization effort.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities. Its Washington, DC headquarters staff, six regional offices and 23 historic sites work with the Trust's quarter-million members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. For more information, visit the National Trust's web site at www.nationaltrust.org.

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