



Contact:

Alex Panas

Wheeling Heritage

apanas@wheelingheritage.org

Wheeling Heritage Reaccredited by Main Street America

WHEELING, W.Va. – June 9, 2021 – Wheeling Heritage has once again been designated as an accredited Main Street program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach.

“We are proud to recognize this year’s 889 nationally accredited Main Street programs that have worked tirelessly to advance economic vitality and quality of life in their downtowns and commercial districts,” said Patrice Frey, President & CEO of Main Street America. “During an incredibly challenging year, these programs demonstrated the power of the Main Street movement to drive impressive local recovery efforts, champion small businesses, and foster vibrant downtown districts. I am inspired by their hard work and confident that these accredited communities will continue to help their downtowns flourish in the next stages of recovery.”

Despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, Wheeling Heritage has continued to shape downtown Wheeling’s revitalization through historic preservation and interpretation, community development, and arts and recreation. Most notably, Wheeling Heritage was able to respond to the needs of the community with two rounds of a special COVID-19 Partnership Grant. These grants awarded \$93,000 in assistance to 82 local businesses.

Throughout the pandemic, Wheeling Heritage also supported small businesses through a virtual Show of Hands event as well as through a virtual CO.STARTERS session, an entrepreneur-training program for local business owners.

Wheeling Heritage’s performance is annually evaluated by Main Street West Virginia, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet 10 national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building meaningful and sustainable revitalization programs and include standards such as, fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting programmatic progress, and actively preserving historic buildings.

In 2020, Main Street America programs across the country have generated \$4.14 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 4,356 net new businesses, generated 14,988 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 8,488 historic buildings, and clocked 983,702 volunteer hours.

About Wheeling Heritage:

[Wheeling Heritage](#) is a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling. Through historic preservation, community development, and the arts, we help to tell Wheeling’s story and shape its future. We seek to



improve the quality of life in Wheeling by preserving and investing in our city, collaborating with others, and engaging the citizens of Wheeling in our work.

About Main Street America

Main Street America has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for 40 years. Today, it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, communities participating in the program have leveraged more than \$89.57 billion in new public and private investment, generated 687,321 net new jobs and 154,435 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 303,836 buildings. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit www.mainstreet.org.