

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2009

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Destination Downtown South Boston, Inc. receives Virginia Main Street Milestone Awards

- Destination Downtown South Boston, Inc. receives awards for downtown revitalization efforts at ceremony held in Richmond -

Richmond, VA – On Friday, March 20, Destination Downtown South Boston, Inc. (DDSB) and the Town of South Boston were presented with a Virginia Main Street Milestone Achievement Award for helping to create the climate for more than \$15 million in private investment in the Historic Downtown Business District since 2004. The efforts have resulted in job creation and the preservation of downtown's vitality for generations to come. DDSB and their volunteers also received an award for contributing more than 10,000 hours of their time since 2004. These accumulated volunteer hours equate to more than \$180,000 in support of downtown revitalization.

The awards were presented at the annual Virginia Main Street Milestone Achievement Awards ceremony, this year held at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Va.

The Honorable Patrick O. Gottschalk, Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia, addressed the attendees of the luncheon, which acknowledged the achievements of Main Street volunteers, local leaders, businesses, local governments and private investors.

“Through the revitalization of Virginia’s downtowns, jobs are created, and the quality of life for those in the community is enhanced,” said Gottschalk.

Other speakers at the event included Bob Adams, and respected community revitalization practitioner and president of HDAdvisors. Speaking on the importance of positioning now for the economic recovery, Adams said, “A recessionary period is a good time for self assessment, planning, and collaboration. Towns should participate as part of a regional strategy and organizations should find ways to share marketing and operations costs.”

Bill Shelton, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development took part in the awards presentation and praised the collaborative energy demonstrated by communities that effectively carry out Virginia’s Main Street programs.

Wayne Fuller, president of DDSB, Inc., stated, “We are very thankful to the State Main Street Program for their recognition. It can be frustrating when the hard work of volunteers is not easily recognizable Downtown. The proven program takes time to manifest itself into the recognizable results that we want to attain for Downtown and the economic viability of our community. We could not continue to pursue our goals without the volunteers and support of the community.”

In addition to South Boston, VMS recognized the following communities for excellence as well:

- Bedford
- Berryville
- Culpeper
- Franklin
- Harrisonburg
- Luray
- Lynchburg
- Manassas
- Martinsville
- Orange
- Radford
- Rocky Mount
- Staunton
- Warrenton
- Winchester

Currently there are 21 designated Virginia Main Street communities: Abingdon, Altavista, Bedford, Blackstone, Berryville, Culpeper, Franklin, Harrisonburg, Luray, Lynchburg, Manassas, Marion, Martinsville, Orange, Radford, Rocky Mount, South Boston, Staunton, Warrenton, Waynesboro, and Winchester

The Virginia Main Street program, managed by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, provides assistance and training to help communities increase the economic vitality of their downtown commercial districts. Virginia Main Street uses the National Main Street model to help communities revitalize their downtowns by focusing on their unique heritage and attributes. The program helps communities implement a comprehensive revitalization strategy that creates economic growth and pride in downtowns.

For more information about the Virginia Main Street program, call (804) 371-7030 or visit their Web page at: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/MainStreet.



Destination Downtown South Boston receives State recognition. (Front row l to r) Tamyra Vest, Town of South Boston Community Development Director, & Jerry Van Eimeren, Destination Downtown South Boston Inc. Executive Director, accept awards from Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development representatives... (Back Row l to r) Kyle Meyer; Program Administrator, Bill Shelton; Director, Jeff Sadler; Program Manager, Doug Jackson; Program Administrator, & Louellen Brumgard, Associate Director.