## Lt. Gov. Crouch, OCRA announce 14 communities to receive new Indiana Main Street designations

INDIANAPOLIS (March 7, 2024) – <u>Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch</u> and the <u>Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs</u> today announced 14 organizations have been recognized as <u>Indiana Main Street</u> programs or have moved into a new Indiana Main Street level.

The Indiana Main Street program annually accepts applications for three levels, which include:

- Indiana Accredited Main Street: IAMS programs meet all Accreditation Standards set forth by Main Street America but may lack a full-time paid staff person and do not have an identified transformation strategy.
- Aspiring Indiana Accredited Main Street: A-IAMS programs are within one year of meeting all Accreditation Standards set forth by Main Street America and lack a full-time paid staff person.
- OCRA's Downtown Affiliate Network: ODAN communities may be organizations that prefer to specialize in event-related activities only, lack the physical or historical capacity required to qualify as a Main Street organization or are working towards building capacity to meet the Main Street America Accreditation Standards.

"Indiana Main Street communities are one of the greatest quality of life assets we have across the state," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "I am thrilled that these 14 communities are taking the extra step to highlight what makes their downtowns unique."

The organization earning new Indiana Main Street designations include:

## Indiana Accredited Main Street

- Dillsboro Main Street
- Streets of Monticello Association

## **Aspiring Indiana Accredited Main Street**

- Boonville NOW
- Sheridan Main Street
- Tipton Main Street

## **OCRA Downtown Affiliate Network**

- Alexandria Main Street, Inc.
- INergize Linton
- Historic Marion Inc.

- Middletown Main Street
- Discover New Carlisle
- New Haven Historic Broadway Inc.
- Heart of Poseyville
- Possibilities in Paoli
- Historic Shoals River District

A main street organization's performance is evaluated by Indiana Main Street, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify organizations that meet rigorous performance standards.

"Congratulations to these 14 communities for elevating their organization's status in the Main Street network, and for ODAN communities joining the network," said OCRA Executive Director Duke Bennett. "In 2023, our Indiana Main Street team provided more than \$621,000 in value of in-kind services to main street communities, which includes technical assistance visits and trainings, community exchanges throughout the state, and ongoing support. I look forward to seeing these Main Streets organizations showcasing their downtowns and what makes them unique."

The 14 organizations will be provided with a formal certificate, access to Main Street America and Indiana Main Street trainings, networking opportunities with other regional and statewide programs, a resource toolbox unique to their needs, and more.

To learn more about the Indiana Main Street program, visit <u>in.gov/ocra/mainstreet</u>. To view the full directory of Indiana Main Street communities, visit <u>in.gov/ocra/mainstreet/community-directory</u>.