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Cleveland Wins Mississippi Main Street Award for Public Art

The town of Cleveland was recently recognized with the 2020 Mississippi Main Street Award for best public arts project for the installation of multiple sculptures on the downtown green-strip and on the campus of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi as part of the expansion of the Mathews-Sanders Sculpture Garden at Delta State University. Representatives from Team Cleveland, the City of Cleveland, and the Mathews-Sanders Sculpture Garden Committee were in attendance at the annual awards ceremony, held in Jackson on Thursday.

The annual awards luncheon honors Main Street directors, board members, and volunteers and recognizes the most outstanding downtown development projects and events from Main Street communities in Mississippi.

"After a year without face-to-face meetings, we are excited to celebrate the achievements of our Main Street communities again in person," said Thomas Gregory, MMSA State Coordinator. "As difficult as 2020 was for our communities, we still saw economic growth in our downtowns and resiliency from the small businesses in our downtown districts."

Cleveland has long been a hub for artistic excellence in the performing, visual, and even digital arts sectors. For Mississippi Main Street, the outstanding public arts project is new to their annual awards ceremony, so Cleveland will join Biloxi, the 2019 winner, as the only other Mississippi town to have garnered this distinction.

The Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) is a catalyst for the preservation and economic revitalization of Mississippi's historic downtowns and districts. As a Main Street America™ Coordinating Program, MMSA helps lead a powerful, grassroots network consisting of more than 40 Coordinating Programs and over 1,200 neighborhoods and communities across the country committed to creating high-quality places and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.

To learn more or to volunteer with Team Cleveland and the Mississippi Main Street program, reach out to Team Cleveland Director Cade Holder at 662-843-2712. Housed within the Cleveland Bolivar-County Chamber of Commerce, Team Cleveland's mission is to further the development, preservation, and restoration of commercial areas of Cleveland and Bolivar County.

Attached photos:

Cade Holder, Team Cleveland Main Street Director, stands center holding the 2020 Mississippi Main Street Award for best public arts project with Sculpture Garden Committee members Laura Beth Furlow (left) and Laura Howell (right).

"Hold On, Let Go" by Lawson King installed downtown in the 2019-2022 Sculpture Class.

Sculpture Garden committee volunteers bring heavy loading equipment to install the pieces in downtown Cleveland.