



Finalists announced for the 2017 Texas Downtown Association's President's Awards Program

Finalists for the 2017 TDA President's Awards Program were announced on Thursday, September 14th in Austin. The awards program recognizes outstanding projects, places, and people of Texas downtowns and is sponsored by the Texas Downtown Association (TDA).

Downtown Buda's Tavern on Main was selected as a finalist in the Best Downtown Business – under 50,000 population category. The award recognizes an exceptional downtown business that positively promotes the downtown or commercial district as a destination for locals and tourists alike, and actively participates in the revitalization efforts and supports downtown promotional events. Julie Renfro, owner of the Tavern on Main, said, "What a GREAT honor. The thing that makes Tavern is community. It's the staff, the customers, the musicians, the town, and our fundraising partners. It's the place where new friends readily feel like old friends, where we recognize what we have in common and don't spend a lot of time worrying about our differences." Just this year, the Tavern celebrated their 5-year anniversary celebration community in Downtown Buda.

TDA was established in 1985 to connect and serve communities that are committed to downtown vitality. The membership organization is an independent, statewide nonprofit that represents cities and towns of all sizes, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, local organizations, small businesses, and individuals.

One hundred and fifteen entries were submitted in twelve different categories from communities across the state. The Buda Main Street Program submitted a total of four applications including Downtowner of the Year – Karlyn Ellis; Best New Construction – Buda Bike Co. and Best Renovation – Re/Max Asset Realty. The Tavern on Main was the sole finalist from Buda. Judges reviewed entries online and then met in person to make their final selection of award finalists and winners. The panel included: Kent Collins, Centro Development; P.A. Geddie, County Line Magazine; Lois Rodriguez, Texas Highways; and Evan Thompson, Preservation Texas.

The other finalist for the Best Downtown Business – under 50,000 population category is Dorothy's Fine Jewelry in Elgin. Winners will be announced on November 8 at the President's Awards Gala held in conjunction with the 2017 Texas Downtown Conference in McKinney.

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