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CONNECTICUT MAIN STREET CENTER ANNOUNCES "PRESERVATION OF PLACE" GRANT RECIPIENTS

(Hartford, CT) – Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC) has announced recipients of the 2007 Preservation of Place grants. Seven nonprofit Main Street organizations and municipalities have been recognized for their efforts in the preservation and revitalization of their "main street" districts and awarded technical assistance grants.

The purpose of this program is to provide Connecticut communities with targeted resources to increase their capacity to plan for preservation and revitalization initiatives in their downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. The Preservation of Place Grant Program will provide a source of funding for new initiatives that can be integrated into, and leverage more, comprehensive preservation and revitalization programs. A total of \$60,000 has been awarded. Connecticut Main Street Center and the Preservation of Place program received support for this project from the Commission on Culture and Tourism with funds from the State of Connecticut.

Karen Senich, Acting Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer announced this program at the CMSC Award Presentation in June saying: "The Commission is proud to award this grant for the "Preservation of Place" program in order to strengthen and enhance CMSC's efforts to preserve and protect the architectural heritage, neighborhood character, and economic growth of Connecticut's traditional Main Streets and downtowns."

Connecticut Main Street Center
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Part of a national network that has been in place for over 25 years, Connecticut Main Street Center provides training and advocacy to its network of public and private partners statewide in order to build economically vibrant traditional “main streets” as the foundation for growing healthy communities. Dedicated to community and economic development within the context of historic preservation, CMSC’s major funding partners are the State of Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development and The Connecticut Light and Power Company.

CONNECTICUT MAIN STREET CENTER 2007 PRESERVATION OF PLACE GRANT RECIPIENTS

NEW MILFORD

Town of New Milford
\$9,300.

New Milford’s historic Village Center is an undiscovered gem to many, as three different state highways essentially bypass the district. The New Milford Village Center Signage and Wayfinding Design Project will develop effective signage which will direct travelers on Routes 7, 67 and 202 toward the village center. Secondary goals include development of signage and pedestrian kiosks within the village center that will facilitate wayfinding in the district itself.

NORWICH

Rose City Renaissance, Norwich
\$10,000.

The Rose City Renaissance Community Information Center is envisioned as the modern day equivalent of the ancient Greek agora – a central meeting place conducive to the exchange of information, ideas, services and goods – in the heart of downtown. The Preservation of Place grant-funded project includes the design, fabrication and initial programming of a display system that will become the center’s integral “information kiosk” featuring the heritage, arts, international, business and development communities in downtown Norwich. It will also highlight tourism and main street revitalization information.

SIMSBURY

Simsbury Main Street Partnership
\$6,900.

Simsbury: New England Nearby will be a marketing campaign designed to promote and enhance resident and visitor experiences in Simsbury through the use of cultural, natural and historic assets. The Preservation of Place grant will fund the design and development of heritage tourism materials including: the Scenic Drive, Simsbury Outdoors, Simsbury: New England Nearby Detailed Map (highlighting historic sites and natural assets on one side and Simsbury Center on the other), and the Trail Mix Map (featuring a detailed map of the 26 miles of Farmington Valley Greenway).

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WATERBURY

Main Street Waterbury

\$10,000.

The Maple Mill Arts Center is envisioned as a “first-of-its-kind-in-Waterbury” Arts Center where performance and visual artists will live, work and create in an inspirational environment, attracting visitors and patrons from around the region in a prime location at the gateway of the arts & entertainment district of downtown. The Preservation of Place grant will fund architectural renderings and model, development of a proposal and pro forma to be used for soliciting and procuring necessary financing and funding for the overall renovation, rehabilitation and fit-out of the existing building.

WEST HAVEN

City of West Haven

\$10,000.

West Haven Downtown Façade and Signage Guidelines – By addressing the continuity of West Haven’s downtown commercial buildings, the City will strive to create a positive visual connection and experience downtown. The goal of the Preservation of Place grant-funded project is the development of comprehensive design guidelines for the historic downtown district and façade and signage specifications for targeted commercial and mixed-use properties in downtown.

WINDSOR LOCKS

Town of Windsor Locks

\$5,000.

Main Street Area Master Planning Study – The study’s goal is to develop strategies for increasing pedestrian activity, enhancing public spaces, reusing vacant or underutilized structures and initiating traffic improvements compatible with a pedestrian environment. The Preservation of Place grant-funded portion of this study will focus on redevelopment strategies for three key sites: Dexter Plaza (an underperforming retail strip mall), the Montgomery Building (a large, vacant mill complex) and the historic railroad station.

WINSTED

Friends of Main Street, Winsted

\$8,800.

Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Winsted – The results of this project, a self-guided tour that features a full color print brochure; a companion Shoppes & Dining Guide; a docent voice component for mp3 download; and an “armchair tour” to be aired on local cable access TV, will provide residents and visitors with information that will broaden and expand their knowledge of downtown Winsted.

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