



# THE CORNERSTONE



**Your future depends on many things, but mostly on YOU.**

-Frank Tyger

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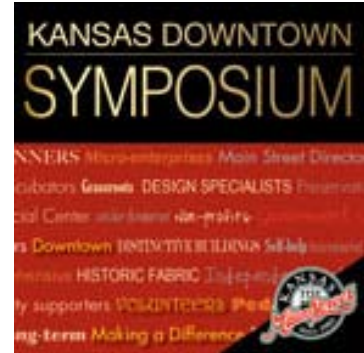


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## Save The Date! Kansas Downtown Symposium October 12-14, 2011

The Kansas Downtown Symposium is "the" community revitalization conference for people like: Downtown Development Professionals, City & County Officials, Downtown Business & Property Owners, Economic Development Groups, Main Street Directors, Board Members and Volunteers. It will be held this year in Independence, Kan.



Wednesday, October 12 - "Road Trip to Success" A bus tour - traveling learning lab to discover what is working in Southeast Kansas Main Street districts as well as visiting our neighbors in Bartlesville, Okla.

Thursday, October 13

- Connecting the Dots Within the Business District - Tom Shay
- Squeezing Operation Funds from Events - Kathy LaPlante
- Key to Building Strong Retailers - Tom Shay
- Cultural Heritage Tourism for My Downtown - Kathy LaPlante
- Preserving Downtowns, One Building at a Time - Bruce McMillan & Jeanne Stinson
- Championing Your Main Street - Todd Tracy
- Awards of Excellence on Main Street

Friday, October 14

- Kidz Biz - Build Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs Today - Todd Tracy
- Closing Ceremonies

To see the conference brochure, and for more information on registering, [click here](#). Registration is electronic - just click on the link (or go to our website or Facebook page) and click on the "register here" button. For more information, contact us at (785) 296-3485.

## Stinson Announces Retirement

Jeanne Stinson has been with the Department of Commerce since April of 1993 when she joined the staff as Assistant State Coordinator for the Kansas Main Street program. Eighteen years later, she is announcing her retirement. Over the years Jeanne has provided service to Kansas Main Street, becoming the State Coordinator in June 1993, and has served as the Manager of the Community Assistance Services Unit of the Community and Rural Development divisions. She has worked



with many programs including, Community Capacity Building, Small Community Improvement Program (SCIP), Community Service Tax Credits and the Kansas PRIDE Program.

"One of the things I'm most proud of is the development and subsequent success of the IWW funding (Incentives Without Walls). This portion of the Kansas Main Street program has been so successful in allowing the state to participate with and incentivize projects ranging from building purchase, building restoration, gap financing, interior store renovations, development of downtown upper floor housing, new business start-up funds, business expansion, inventory expansion and so much more. It has been exciting to watch as the program's local revolving loan funds have begun to fund more projects than our new state dollars each year. This program has really made a difference" said Stinson.

Jeanne added "Through Main Street I have been privileged to work with so many Kansas communities as they work on revitalizing their downtown districts - each district and each community has become like a child to me. I have mourned and celebrated the changes and people who do this work across the state. I have been so blessed to work with all of you. These last 18 years I have been stimulated by my work, supported by my co-workers and encouraged by Commerce management at all levels. I will miss Commerce, but by far I will miss the teaching opportunities and my relationships with so many thoughtful, dedicated people around this state. God Bless You All."

Jeanne's last day will be September 16.

## Positive Economic Impact Downtown

FY 2011 (from the 25 designated Kansas Main Street communities for July 2010 to June 2011)

Each of the 25 designated Main Street communities submits quarterly economic reports - below is the combined report for the year for all 25 communities. It is amazing what can be done to stimulate our economy, one community, one business and one job at a time. We are very proud of our communities and their accomplishments. Congratulations on a successful year.

94 façade projects = \$874,878.05

255 rehabs/new construction projects = \$6,644,697.55

64 buildings sold = \$15,571,734.00

63 public improvement projects = \$4,200,650.02

144 new businesses created = 446.50 jobs

51 relocations/business expansions = 102 additional jobs

82 businesses lost = 206.5 jobs lost

Net new jobs created = 342

Volunteer hours = 65,537

Total reinvestment = \$17,291,956.62

Kansas Main Street provides grant funding to our designated communities through the Incentives Without Walls (IWW) program. IWW was established in 1995 by redirection of existing Department of Commerce & Housing funds from another program to this incentive package, and it's been highly successful. The intent of the IWW program is "to create or stimulate private investment in designated Kansas Main Street downtown areas." The expected

outcome of this program is to create employment opportunities; save existing jobs; provide services and products; develop or strengthen new or existing businesses; acquire, rehabilitate or preserve properties and create a stronger tax base. Projects ranged from Business Start-Up, Business Expansion, Building Rehabilitation, Acquisition, Façade and Interior Renovations.

The great thing about the IWW program is the long-term impact it has on communities. When a grant is received by a local Main Street program -- they loan it out at no interest -- the business pays that loan back to the local Main Street program, where the funds become part of a Local Revolving Loan program. One of the local programs tracked the "reuse" of the original \$10,000 grant they received from Kansas Main Street in 1996 and learned it had "turned" eight times. They had been able to leverage the original \$10,000 for eight additional loans due to the Local Revolving Loan program. The applications for all Local Revolving Loans must follow IWW guidelines and still be submitted to Kansas Main Street for approval. It is interesting to note we still receive private investment on local revolving loans.

The Kansas Main Street Incentives Without Walls program provided \$182,999.71 in IWW funds for FY11, leveraging \$821,292.93 in private investment -- a \$4.49 to \$1 match that helped create 20 new jobs and retain six jobs. The Local Revolving Loan program provided \$200,667.61 in IWW funds for FY11, leveraging \$1,205,638.73 in private investment -- a \$6.01 to \$1 match that helped create 17 new jobs and retain 24 jobs. A total of \$383,667.32 was distributed in IWW funds for FY11 with a private reinvestment of \$2,026,931.66.

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