

# Kansas Network Communities

## Ready to get involved in improving your downtown?

Kansas Main Street, a program of the Kansas Department of Commerce, has been in the business of assisting communities across Kansas improve their central business districts for nearly 25 years. The program is proud to announce that they will now be following a new four-tier plan. This plan will be implemented over the next three years to include:

- Kansas Network Communities (formerly Partnership City program)
- Inside Track Communities
- Designated Main Street programs
- And Honor Programs.

Now is your opportunity to jump in and get started as a Kansas Network Community. Becoming a Network community gets you in the loop when it comes to revitalizing your downtown district. You will be able to network with other communities from across the state so you can stop having to reinvent the downtown redevelopment wheel. Many communities, in many stages of redevelopment, take part in this program, and you will have a chance to share your stories and learn from others.

Kansas Main Street will provide you an opportunity not only to network with others, but to attend training on the downtown redevelopment process, from how to do promotions that work, to understanding community initiated development and learning to manage the changes in your downtown, each session will have take home and put to use information. We provide the tools; you provide the craftsmanship to apply the tools at home.

## Thriving Downtowns

A healthy thriving downtown district is an asset to any community. Your downtown embodies your community's unique past and hope for a prosperous future.

A vital, healthy downtown core:

- Reflects community prosperity and pride
- Represents a significant portion of the community tax base
- Offers convenience and service
- Reduces sprawl by concentrating retail in one area, which uses community resources wisely
- Protects property values in surrounding residential neighborhoods
- Is a prominent employment center

The traditional downtown district is an ideal location for independent businesses, which in turn:

- Keep profits in town
- Supports other local businesses and services
- Supports local family-owned businesses
- Supports local community projects, and schools
- Provides a diverse economic foundation

The central business district provides an important civic and social forum:

- Parades, special events, and celebrations
- Reinforces the sense of community
- A traditional downtown district is often an attraction for travelers and shoppers wanting unique experiences

## Take that first step NOW

Kansas Main Street is ready to offer you training on downtown revitalization issues. This tier of the program requires that you support the educational efforts by writing an annual check of just \$300 per community. Any community, of any size is invited to become a **Kansas Network Community**. You will receive quarterly training workshops that will show you the trends, tools, and best practices from around the country. You can bring up to four individuals from your community each quarter. You will have access to a network of peers, and resources, you will receive regular e-mail communications between meetings so you know what's up in the downtown redevelopment field. You will also receive a special invitation to attend the Downtown Symposium each October. And, you will be given access to the Kansas Main Street staff to answer your questions.

If you take advantage of the program, and bring four people to four workshops your investment breaks down to less than \$19.00 per person – where else can you get this help for so little? Won't you join our network today? That first step is all it takes to get moving on improving your central business district. The first session starts in January – don't be left behind.



Get advice and support. Whether you are a city that is experienced in downtown redevelopment or just beginning to think about it, Kansas Main Street has just what you are looking for in terms of support, networking, and learning experiences.

### Downtown Revitalization

YES – I Want to Start Today!

Kansas Network Community Tier - \$300.00 Annually

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Representative Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

Kansas Main Street  
Kansas Department of Commerce  
1000 S.W. Jackson St. Suite 100  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1354

For more information contact Jeanne Stinson or Mary Helmer at (785) 296-3485

Or email us at:

jstinson@kansascommerce.com  
mhelmer@kansascommerce.com

Please check out our website at [KansasCommerce.com/MainStreet](http://KansasCommerce.com/MainStreet)