



NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Maria Jurado-Flynn, Manager
Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc.
Phone: (706) 969-3336
mflynn@clevelandbetterhometown.org

City of Brotherly Love Welcomes Georgia Main Street Managers

April 2, 2008 – Cleveland, Georgia – Forty-six (46) individuals representing 26 Georgia Main Street/Better Hometown communities attended the 2008 National Main Streets Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 30 – April 2. Cleveland's Better Home Town Manager, Maria Jurado-Flynn was among the delegation representing Georgia.

The theme of the conference was, *Entrepreneurship and Diversity*. "These qualities add to the local flavor, create a true reflection of a community, and contribute to an authentic identity and exciting business mix – all essential motivations that bring customers, tourists, new residents, and cool businesses to your district," said Jo Childers, Program Manager for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Main Street diversity has many dimensions: age, socioeconomic backgrounds, culture, business type, architecture, lifestyles, and ethnicities. Embracing diversity brings multiple perspectives and a wider range of talent to your organization and your community. The 2008 conference focused on creating new opportunities and building stronger Main Street programs and districts through leveraging entrepreneurs and diversity.

"This was a great opportunity to not only network with other Georgia Main Street Managers, but we had the rare opportunity to network with managers from all over the United States, said Jurado-Flynn. "The experience of attending the conference gave me an unbelievable insight into how other communities our size are successfully revitalizing their downtowns."

The Georgia Cities Foundation (GCF) also received the 2008 Main Street Ally Award which recognizes individuals or organizations that have taken great strides in partnering with Main Street cities and promoting downtown revitalization. The GCF has invested over \$9 million to downtown projects across the state of Georgia. The award was presented by Doug Loescher, Executive Director of the National Trust Main Street Center to Perry Hiott, Director, Research & Redevelopment Services on behalf of the GCF.

The City of Brotherly Love lived up to its name as we were all welcomed to enjoy and explore this great city by the Governor of Pennsylvania during the opening ceremonies of the conference. In addition to the educational sessions offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Main Street Managers were given time to tour one of the most historic cities in our nation. I had a chance to tour Independence Hall with several other managers and see where the Declaration of Independence was signed. We got to see the Liberty Bell, visit Betsy Ross's home and attend services at the church Benjamin Franklin worshiped in. Every American should visit Philadelphia once in their lifetime. It's an experience you'll never forget.

Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 charitable organization. In 2007, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs officially designated Cleveland, GA as a ***Georgia Better Home Town***.

Cleveland Better Home Town, Inc.
3 Courthouse Square * Cleveland, GA 30528
(706) 969-3336
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