



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CLEVELAND BETTER HOME TOWN RECEIVES 2008 NATIONAL MAIN STREET ACCREDITATION**

**Cleveland, Georgia (June 24, 2008)** -- Cleveland Better Home town has been accredited as a 2008 National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center®. Cleveland Better Home Town joins over 700 other Main Street™ revitalization programs being recognized as 2008 National Main Street Programs. Each year, the National Trust Main Street Center and its coordinating program partners announce the list of accredited National Main Street Programs around the country that have demonstrated their ability to follow the Main Street methodology.

"We congratulate this year's accredited National Main Street Programs for meeting our established performance standards," says Doug Loescher, director of the National Trust Main Street Center. "Rebuilding a district's economic health and maintaining that success requires broad-based community involvement and support, in addition to establishing a solid organization with sound management that is committed to long-term success."

The National Trust Main Street Center works in partnership with Coordinating Main Street Programs throughout the nation to identify the local programs that meet the National Trust Main Street Center's ten basic performance standards. These standards set the benchmarks for measuring an individual Main Street program's application of the Main Street Four-Point Approach™ to commercial district revitalization. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress, and preserving historic buildings. For more information on the National Main Street Program accreditation, visit [www.mainstreet.org/nationalprograms](http://www.mainstreet.org/nationalprograms).

The organization's performance was evaluated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Office of Downtown Development, which is the coordinating organization for Main Street programs in Georgia.

Cleveland Better Home Town Manager, Maria Jurado-Flynn was joined by the Cleveland City Council to receive the 2008 Accreditation Award from Commissioner Mike Beatty in Savannah on Monday. Jurado-Flynn was hired as the Better Home Town Manager one year ago and through the support of the Cleveland Better Home Town Board of Directors has worked tirelessly to achieve the Designation and retain the Accreditation from the State. The Cleveland City Council recently approved to continue funding the Cleveland Better Home Town program in its 2008 -2009 budget. "We have a long way to go to revitalize our downtown, but progress is being made and this program is a catalyst for change," added Chairman of Board for Cleveland Better Home Town, Charlie Thomas. Thomas has served as Chairman since the program began and is turning over the gavel, to Judge Garrison Baker, who was recently elected as new Chairman for Cleveland Better Home Town and will take over July 1.

Since 1980, the National Trust Main Street Center has helped hundreds of downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts across the nation reclaim the unique quality of life that only a thriving community center can provide. Through the Main Street Four-Point Approach to commercial district revitalization, which combines historic preservation and economic development, the Center has forged a nationwide movement for the revival of America's historic and traditional commercial districts.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the-places that matter to them. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories. For more information, visit [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org).

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