

NEW MEXICO *True* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Mexico MainStreet Director Honored at the New Mexico Municipal League Annual Conference

Santa Fe, N.M. - Today, New Mexico MainStreet announced that Co-Director Rich Williams was honored for his service and dedication to creating economic opportunities in New Mexico. David Izraelvitz, Chairman of the Board for the New Mexico Municipal League, presented Williams with the "Amigo De Las Ciudades" award. Williams has directed the New Mexico MainStreet program for more than 15 years. The award is given out rarely and recognizes exemplary service to communities. The New Mexico Municipal League noted his tireless work to move proposals and policies forward that benefit communities.

"Rich Williams is dedicated to serving New Mexico communities and helping create economic opportunities in our downtown districts," said Economic Development Secretary Matt Geisel. "The MainStreet Program has grown under his direction and exemplifies the best in community investment and private and public partnerships with dedicated network members who create tangible impacts."

"Rich and I have partnered for more than three decades in creating good policy, advocacy and funding for our municipalities," said Executive Director of the New Mexico Municipal League Bill Fulginiti. "Special recognition by the New Mexico Municipal League of his tireless work for our cities with the 'Amigo de Las Ciudades' Award was well-earned."

The MainStreet Program has seen tremendous growth during Williams' tenure from 2003-2018: local MainStreet programs grew from 9 to 30, the New Mexico Arts & Cultural District program was added serving 11 communities, the Historic Theaters Initiative was established with 8 Historic Theaters restored and reopened, and more than 21 rural Frontier and Native American Initiatives have been served.

Since 2003, MainStreet communities around the state have reported:

- Net Number of New Businesses: 2,285
- Business Expansions: 379
- Number of Net New Jobs: 8,399
- Private Building Rehabilitations: 2,638
- Dollars of Private Sector Reinvestment: \$296,734,431

Williams also worked with New Mexico Legislators and Governors on policy and funding issues for rural and community economic development. He served on multiple boards and committees including the New Mexico Scenic Byway Council, PACE, New Mexico Route 66 Association, and the National Diamond Jubilee of Historic Route 66.

A program of the New Mexico Economic Development Department, New Mexico MainStreet works throughout the state to help affiliated local organizations create an economically viable business environment while preserving cultural and historic resources. New Mexico MainStreet currently serves 28 affiliated MainStreet Districts, 11 Arts & Cultural Districts, more than 20 Frontier Community projects, and eight Historic Theater Initiatives. For more information about New Mexico MainStreet, visit www.gonm.biz or www.nmmainstreet.org.

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