



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elgin Main Street Program Recommended for National Accreditation

The Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized the City of Elgin for successful annual progress in carrying out national performance standards for a Main Street community. Elgin is one of 68 to be recommended this year.

“Since 1981, many Texas communities have participated in the Main Street network and used its preservation-based framework to generate positive economic gains for their local economies and the state,” said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. “These positive strides happen because of local commitment to prioritize historic downtowns.”

Upon final approval by the National Main Street Center/Main Street America™, these local programs will be announced as nationally accredited during the Main Street Now conference March 25–27 in Seattle, Wash. “It is my pleasure to serve a city that has as much pride in its local downtown culture as it does in its progressive attitude for growth. Living and working on Main Street in the city of Elgin, I am able to wake up to a true Texas gem, my family and I will always remember the experience of living downtown.” Elgin has 24 new loft apartments, fifteen new businesses, and ten recent building restorations. You can enjoy 2nd Thursdays with Sip Shop and Stroll, at events throughout the year such as the Elgin Art Studio Tour, the Hogeye Festival and Christmas events, as well as visiting anytime for live music, delicious dining options, and a variety of local businesses.

To achieve accreditation, local programs provide evidence of annual progress under selection criteria including engaged partnerships, staffing,

volunteer efforts, preservation ethic, physical improvements in the district, and growth in program capacity. The state office also works with programs throughout the year providing services catered to local needs. Ed Rivers, Main Street Board President shared “I feel like an outsider can look at Elgin and see through our downtown that the citizens and city leaders have a dog in the hunt, so to speak. The Main Street program’s accomplishments could not have happened without the continuing support of the Mayor, City Council, City Staff, property and business owners and our many community partners. So congratulations to all who have had a hand in making the Elgin Main Street Program a success for so many years, and for making Elgin Our Town.”

“The annual reporting process recognizes the hard work of local programs, and we commend the dedication of city leaders, program staff, local volunteers, and partners who make it possible,” said Debra Drescher, TMSP state coordinator.

The TMSP began in 1981 as one of the first state-coordinating programs in the country. Local Main Street programs focus on responsibly utilizing a community’s historic assets for economic benefit and increased quality of life. During 2018, more than \$180 million was reinvested into Texas’ 89 Main Street districts. Additionally, 427 small businesses and 1,480 jobs were created. During 2018, the state network reached an important milestone when \$4 billion in historical reinvestment was reached and surpassed.

For additional information about the national Main Street effort, visit mainstreet.org. For more information on the THC’s Texas Main Street Program, visit thc.texas.gov/mainstreet.

About Elgin

The City of Elgin is a historic, full-service city that is currently home to approximately 10,000 residents located in northern Bastrop County. Elgin has been designated by the Texas Legislature as “The Sausage Capital of Texas” and is an important stop on the US Hwy290 corridor between Austin and Houston. For more information about Elgin, please visit www.elgintx.com

About the Elgin Main Street program
Elgin, a Texas Main Street City since 1990, has had over \$21 million in reinvestment in the downtown district. 2016 – 2018 ten buildings were restored in downtown Elgin, fifteen new businesses opened. Public & Private sector reinvestment during that period totaled \$3.4 million. Elgin was recognized with

the Texas Downtown Association Presidents Award – Best Economic Game Changer for the Downtown zoning Overlay in 2018. Main Street is a national program, coordinated through the Texas Historic Commission to support historic preservation in the context of economic Development, focusing on four points – Design, Organization, Economic Restructuring and Promotion. The grass roots based, volunteer driven program organizes events throughout the year including the award-winning event, The Hogeye Festival, and Sip Shop and Stroll in partnership with the City of Elgin. Visit elgintx.com or Facebook and Instagram VisitElginTx.

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