



**Texas Downtown announces winners of 2023 President's Awards:  
Designing Downtown Denison wins Best Public Improvement for Population Under 50,000**

**October 30th, 2023 - Nacogdoches**

Winners of the 2023 President's Awards Program were announced in Nacogdoches in conjunction with the Texas Downtown Annual Conference. For over 35 years the awards program, sponsored by Texas Downtown (TXDT), has recognized outstanding projects, places, and people of Texas downtowns.

The City of Denison won the Best Public Improvement award for the Designing Downtown Denison Project (D3). The D3 project began in 2016 to help re-envision the core of downtown Denison. Phase 1 of this project was officially completed in August of 2023. Design for Phase 2 is currently underway.

Main Street has become a flush festival street with 11' brick travel lanes, a valley gutter system to convey stormwater away from buildings, 18' brick angled parking bays, an 8' furnishing/landscape zone, and an average of 11' wide sidewalks. Below the flush festival street, all the aging storm, water, and sewer infrastructure has been replaced to accommodate the growing needs of downtown. Depot (North) Alley and Music (South) Alley were reconfigured to clearly delineate the vehicle lanes, pedestrian lanes, and utility/receptacle space. Careful attention was paid to materials that were as aesthetically pleasing as durable with the same curated materials being used in Main Street, the alleyways, and the parking lot. A lush landscape with street trees also helps create a cohesive downtown.

"We are so excited to be recognized by others for our work in our downtown! When your peers value your accomplishments and passion, it is very special reinforcement of the hard work it took to get to where we are today. What a great recognition for our entire community," said Mayor of Denison, Janet Gott.

The judges for design entries were:

- Lois Rodriguez, Texas Highways Magazine
- Chris Dyer, Dr. Pepper Museum
- Chelsea Irby, TX Chapter of the American Planning Association
- Chris Lawrence, Downtown Bryan Developer
- Liz Grindstaff, Freese & Nichols
- Amanda Garcia, Texas Travel Alliance
- Brittany Petrilli, Texas Association of Museums
- Jane Jenkins, Jane Jenkins Resources

Texas Downtown was established in 1985 to connect and serve communities that are committed to downtown vitality. The mission of the organization is to provide members with resources, advocacy, education, and connections. Texas Downtown represents cities of all sizes, economic development organizations, nonprofits including chambers of commerce and merchant groups, and small business owners.

For more information about the President's Awards, the Texas Downtown Conference, or other programs of Texas Downtown, please visit [www.texasdowntown.org](http://www.texasdowntown.org).

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