

An aerial night photograph of the Dallas skyline, showing numerous illuminated skyscrapers and city lights. The text 'AIA Dallas' is overlaid in a large, red, serif font across the center of the image. The background is a grayscale aerial view of the city, with the lights of the buildings providing the primary illumination.

AIA Dallas



HONOR AWARDS

2012 NOMINATION FORM

Submittal Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2012

Indicate the Category of Nomination:

- Architecture Firm Award
- Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Honor of Llewellyn W. Pitts, FAIA
- Award for Young Professional Achievement in Honor of William W. Caudill, FAIA
- Award for Community Service in Honor of James D. Pfluger, FAIA
- Award for Outstanding Educational Contributions in Honor of Edward Romieniec, FAIA
- Award for Excellence in the Promotion of Architecture through the Media in Honor of John G. Flowers, Hon. AIA
- Associate of the Year Award
- Mentorship Award
- Honorary Membership (Nomination must be sponsored by an AIA Chapter)
- Citation of Honor
- Artisan Award

Nominee information:

Nominee's full Name _____

Nominee's Firm / Org. Name City of McKinney

Firm/Org. Contact _____

Mailing Address _____
McKinney, Texas

Telephone: _____

E-mail _____

AIA Chapter affiliation AIA Dallas

Nomination Contact:

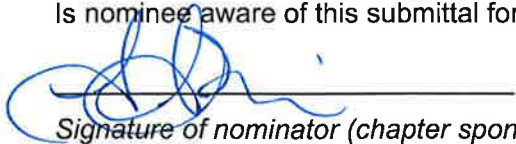
Nominator/Sponsor's Name / City Celi Sims

AIA Chapter affiliation AIA Dallas

Day Telephone 214.880.1510

Email csims@aiadallas.org

Is nominee aware of this submittal for Honor Award? Yes No



Signature of nominator (chapter sponsor or individual member)

5/31/2012
Date



AIA Dallas

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

May 30, 2012

Ms. Val Glitsch, FAIA
Chair, Honor Award Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, TX 78702-2754

Re: Citation of Honor
Letter of Nomination for City of McKinney

Dear Chair and Honor Awards Committee:

McKinney's downtown square is one of the symbols that people throughout North Texas recognize as being unique. The City of McKinney has taken clear strides to revitalize their downtown historic area, re-establishing the square as the primary public gathering place for citizens and visitors alike. It is my pleasure to nominate the City of McKinney for the TSA Citation of Honor Award.

As the county seat of Collin County, the City of McKinney is currently home to over 131,000 people. From 1850 – 1950, the downtown square was the focal point for business, government, special events and community celebrations. Eventually, as new highways bypassed downtown and commercial centers moved to these highways, the once vibrant downtown square fell into decline, along with the "old" county courthouse. Between 1999 and 2009, as McKinney was coping with extremely rapid growth, the city also embarked upon the first of two major capital initiatives to rejuvenate the historic downtown and reclaim the square as a lively, bustling, and relevant public space.

With innovation and community-based vision, the city has been reconstructing and repurposing this area. Using multi-day, charrette-style workshops, the city engaged community stakeholders to generate critical ideas and a master plan about how the town center should look, feel, and function long-term. This was a true partnership between the public sector and private sector.

Following multiple studies, The Historic Collin County Courthouse adaptive reuse was completed in 2006, including a 427-seat theatre and gallery space. The McKinney Performance Arts Center, at the former courthouse, now serves as a truly unique and professional multi-purpose venue in which the community's cultural, artistic, and educational opportunities are nurtured. Through the same studies, the need for additional elements arose, such as reworking traffic patterns to slow traffic and the widening of sidewalks to encourage gathering, dining and strolling. A unified streetscape provides much-needed shade and greatly enhances downtown's sense of place, including landscaping and lighting.

The City of McKinney's redesign has created a safe, beautiful, sustainable environment for people to gather, shop, and live with a focus on smart growth and decision-making. Thank you for your consideration of the City of McKinney for the Citation of Honor Award.

Sincerely,

Shade O'Quinn, AIA
President, AIA Dallas

McKINNEY HISTORY



McKinney's history has shaped the city's unique personality it enjoys today. Over the decades, forward-thinking community leaders and citizens have made preservation of history a priority so residents and visitors can enjoy living in and visiting a bit of the past.

Visionaries drew settlers to the fertile area and settlers looking for a better life imagined what this grassland could be. So they came. They built. They raised their families and they passed on, leaving their legacy in the community we enjoy today.

McKinney has grown from a thriving agricultural center into a city of more than 131,000 residents with a diverse economy and rich cultural and recreational opportunities.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation is no longer just a matter of preserving old buildings. It is an ever-widening sphere of influence that includes multiple factors. The challenge for the Historic Preservation Office of McKinney is to meet the needs of and provide services to a diverse constituency at a time when the demand for preservation is growing. Preserving history does the following for community:

- Economic development
- Tourism
- Open space protection
- Heritage education
- Historic building rehabilitation
- Community conservation
- Affordable housing and mixed-income
- Neo-traditional planning
- Sustainable development
- Downtown revitalization
- Cultural celebration
- Archeology
- Design
- Craftsmanship



Historic places are disappearing, and the resources to meet preservation demands are shrinking. McKinney is answering this challenge through strategic planning involving residents of our community and forming new partnerships to protect our historic resources for future generations.

BUSINESS

McKinney offers an incomparable lifestyle coupled with an exceptional business environment. The economy is diverse and offers a mix of industries – medical technology, data management, manufacturing, sustainability, aviation, defense, retail, office and transportation.



The City has attracted companies like Raytheon, Torchmark, Encore Wire, Tenant Tracker, Manner Plastics, Vector Systems, StatLab and Erchonia. Homegrown companies like New Toy Inc, RMCN, Pogue Group, Action Company and Brandon Industries have also thrived here. McKinney has led in sustainable developments, and its historic business district is one of the largest and most successful in the state.



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Office of Environmental Stewardship was created in 2009 and is committed to serving the citizens of McKinney by fostering the responsibility to sustainably care for natural resources – land, water, air and wildlife. This is done by creating awareness, inspiring change, and offering opportunities to fulfill our ultimate obligation to care for the earth.

Water conservation is promoted through restrictions and rebates. A Storm Water Management Program ensures a reduction in pollutants in McKinney's storm water system, and has been approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Businesses with operations in McKinney have led the environmentally sustainable development movement in McKinney by building offices using green building techniques and meeting stringent platinum standards for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.

The City of McKinney has implemented numerous sustainability initiatives to operate more efficiently and provide excellent quality of life. McKinney Economic Development Corporation considers additional incentives for qualifying projects with a “sustainable” component. **McKinney is home to one of the nation's two green Walmart Supercenters as well as the Pat Lobb Toyota dealership – the first automotive dealership in the nation to earn LEED certification.** Other “green” businesses include:



- **Home Energy Americas (with Vector Systems)** – US Headquarters of Home Energy International, producer of integrated renewable energy solutions for businesses
- **Emission Solutions** – manufacturer of natural gas engines for trucks and buses that earned its 2010 certifications from both the EPA and California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- **The McKinney Green Building** – the country’s first privately developed LEED platinum office building
- **IESI** – building the first fully automated, LEED certified, “green” materials recovery facility (MRF) for the processing of commingled residential and commercial recyclable materials
- **Hie-Electronics** – winner of the 2009 North American Data Storage Technologies Green Excellence Award in Technology Innovation
- **Independent Bank** – renovated its headquarters, receiving Silver LEED certification
- **El Dorado Motors** utilizes environmentally-sensitive practices and facilities at its dealership
- **S&S Wood Molders** – first Texas-based wood molding manufacturer to be certified with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- **McKinney ISD - Roy Lee Walker Elementary** – opened in 2000 and was the first sustainable design school in Texas and is widely regarded as the most energy-efficient and environmentally sound school ever built. Since that time, McKinney has become home to four environmentally friendly schools.

McKINNEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The spotlight shines bright on McKinney, listing the city as one of the best places to be in many polls. The list below marks some of the most recent accomplishments.

MCKINNEY #5 ON MONEY MAGAZINES BEST PLACES TO LIVE LIST

In the August 2010 issue of *Money Magazine*, McKinney ranked # 5 on the Best Places to Live in the country. McKinney is the only Texas city in the top 10. *Money* editors and writers look at employment, schools, crime and safety, and overall quality of life aspects to come up with the list. According to the listing, McKinney's Historic Downtown and hometown spirit set the city apart from the rest.

“Lots of towns near Dallas have low crime, affordable homes, and good jobs; McKinney is no exception. What makes it stand out is its gem of a downtown...Though McKinney has grown like mad over the past decade, you'd never suspect it when driving through its tree-filled communities surrounded by ponds, parks, and hiking trails.” *Money Magazine*



MCKINNEY NAMED TOP TEN PLACE TO MOVE BY FORBES.COM

McKinney, Texas, has made an appearance in many rankings: safest cities in the state and country, fastest growing cities in the country, best places to raise a family. In 2009, McKinney was named one of the 25 Best Places to Move in the country by Forbes.com.

MCKINNEY NAMED 14TH BEST PLACE IN THE COUNTRY TO LIVE

In the August 2008 issue of *Money Magazine*, McKinney was ranked in the top 15 small cities to live in the country. McKinney debuted on the annual list at #14, besting other North Texas cities that include Carrollton, Richardson and Allen. It points to McKinney's Historic Downtown area, distinction from other Dallas-area suburbs, open spaces and parks, and unique facilities like the Michael Johnson Performance center for the high ranking. Recent Census numbers also name McKinney as the third fastest growing city in 2007.

MCKINNEY NAMED AS ONE OF 100 BEST PLACES TO RAISE A FAMILY

McKinney, Texas, has made many rankings lately: safest cities in the state and country, fastest growing cities in the country, best places to relocate. Most recently, McKinney was named one of the 100 best places to raise a family in the country by *BestLife* magazine. The editors of the magazine considered categories like low crime, exceptional schools, strong job market and arts and culture.

MCKINNEY RECEIVES COMPTROLLER LEADERSHIP CIRCLE AWARD

McKinney's Finance Department was awarded the GOLD Leadership Circle Award in June 2010 by the Texas State Comptroller's Office. The award is for enhancing the level of fiscal accountability and transparency to taxpayers by publishing the City's budgets, financial reports and check registers online. Three levels of award can be earned: bronze, silver or gold. McKinney has earned the highest ranking, a GOLD level. Only about 30 other cities have achieved this level of award.

GOLDEN AGE OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE

1850 - 1950



THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE IN DECLINE



Vacant courthouse

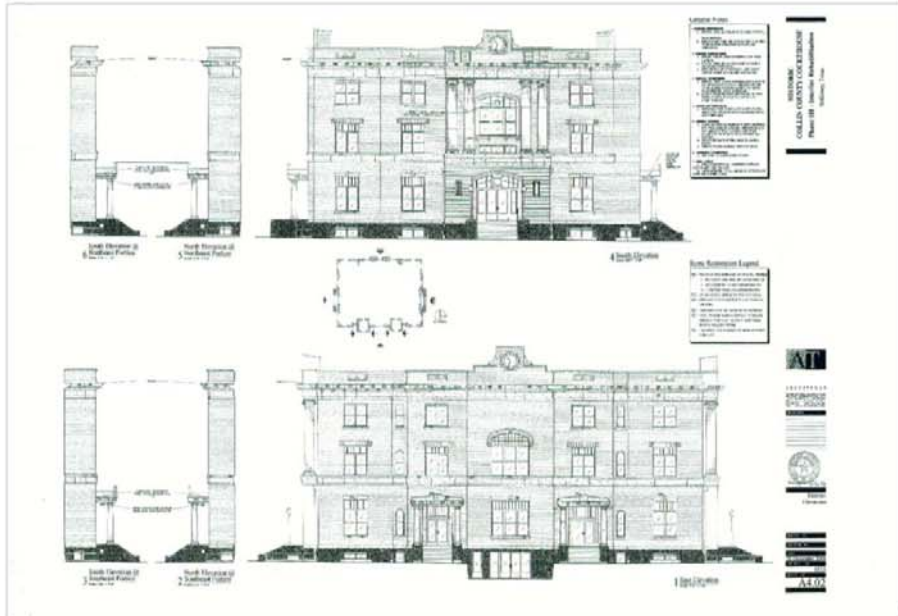


Underutilized buildings
No activity after 5:00 pm



Narrow sidewalks
Automobile-dominated
Substandard infrastructure

REHABILITATION of the COURTHOUSE into the THE MCKINNEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



\$9.5 million project completed in 2006

courtroom converted into 427-seat theater

public restrooms, gallery space,
rehearsal rooms, conference rooms,
office space, catering kitchen

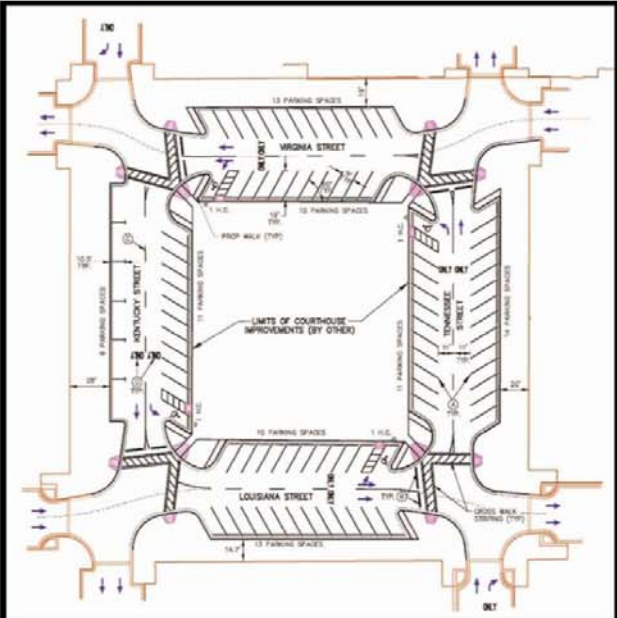
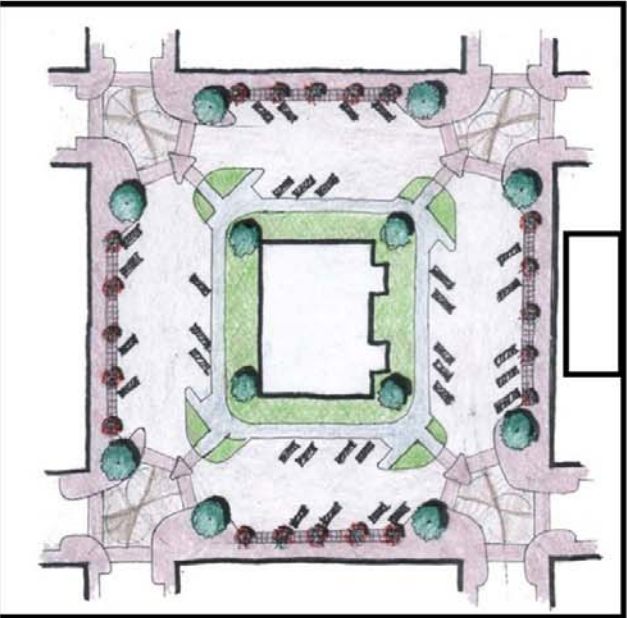


REDESIGN OF THE DOWNTOWN SQUARE

Conceptual (2006)



Design (2007) and Construction (2008)



REDESIGN OF DOWNTOWN SQUARE – KEY ELEMENTS

- \$2.6 million project
- Reduced the number of lanes traveling around the downtown square from 3 to 2
- Reconfigured the intersections to decrease pedestrian crossing distances and improve pedestrian safety
- Reconfigured the on-street parking (increased the number of public parking spaces on the square from 70 to 92 spaces)
- Substantially widened the sidewalks (doubled the width on three sides and tripled the width on the fourth side of the square)
- Provided a unified streetscape to provide much-needed shade and greatly enhance downtown’s sense of place including landscaping (trees and planters), irrigation, and other sidewalk furnishings such as lighting, seating and waste receptacles
- Upgraded the utility and drainage infrastructure.



POSITIVE IMPACTS

These capital initiatives have been the primary catalysts for the renaissance seen in downtown McKinney today and have re-established the square as the primary public gathering place for citizens and visitors alike.

In addition to helping to weather the current economic recession, these initiatives have collectively increased:

- activity after 5:00 pm (new restaurants with sidewalk cafes),
- sales per square foot,
- lease rates per square foot,
- demand for downtown housing,
- sense of community pride,
- sense of security with a more active street life and improved lighting,
- attendance at community festivals/events,
- private investment in the downtown area (a new 4-story boutique hotel; more historic façade improvements; more expansions of downtown businesses; conversion of the historic Flour Mill into loft residential), and
- momentum for more public infrastructure projects expanding outward from the square (voters approved 2010 Bond package with \$12 million for downtown area capital improvements).



Laura Moore Fine Art Studios
107 S Tennessee
McKinney, Texas 75069
www.lauramooreart.com
laura@lauramooreart.com
214.914.3630

Ms. Val Glitsch, FAIA
Chair, Honor Awards Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, Texas 78702-2754

May 18, 2012

Dear Ms. Glitsch and Honors Committee:

I would like to recommend the City of McKinney for the Texas Society of Architects (TSA) Citation of Honor award.

Six years ago I opened an art gallery in historic downtown McKinney. I was not tied to any one geographical area of Texas and I toured many areas looking for just the right location. I scoured the entire Dallas Fort Worth area and found that McKinney offered the most aesthetically pleasing town square, most interesting architecture, and highest regard for preservation. So many communities have a half hazard mix of old and new or have razed the old and built "faux" old. It was so refreshing that McKinney's architecture was actually old and beautiful and had been so well preserved and maintained. As an artist and a gallerist highly influenced by my surroundings and by beauty, I relish the numerous architectural details and age-old patinas on the buildings around the town square and believe that this beautiful and historic setting is vital to enriching our cultural experience.

I commend the City of McKinney for preserving their history, their historic buildings and for keeping their historic downtown virtually free of chain stores. The historic downtown is sprinkled with an eye-catching mix of Victorian and Art Deco styled buildings many 100 to 150 plus years old. Most buildings were gently or majorly renovated at different times and that has led to each retaining its individual charm. The City of McKinney has consistently valued and preserved their historic downtown and it is no accident that downtown McKinney now hosts a vibrant mix of restaurants, shops, galleries and offices; all one of a kind.

The City of McKinney has done an incredible job of encouraging business owners and developers to preserve and properly maintain its architectural legacy. As is true with so many things a people will value what their leaders value. I believe the City of McKinney has proven itself to be a leader that truly values its heritage, history, architecture, historic preservation and beautiful environment. With that lead it is no surprise that the City of McKinney has managed to attract like-minded business owners and residents. I respectfully encourage you to award the Texas Society of Architects (TSA) Citation of Honor to the City of McKinney.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Moore
Owner/Artist, Laura Moore Fine Art Studios

May 18, 2012

Ms. Val Glitsch, FAIA
Chair, Honor Awards Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, Texas 78702-2754

Dear Ms. Glitsch and Honors Committee:

It has been my privilege to live in McKinney, Texas since 1994. Our family chose to move here because of the vibrant historic district and downtown square. I have been the executive director of the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts for the past 12 years. Our Center is comprised of three structures - the historic Heard-Craig House, Carriage House and Heard-Craig Hall. We are located one block from the downtown McKinney square.

The Heard-Craig House is one of the most beautifully preserved historic homes in North Texas. The home has been a landmark in McKinney since it was built in 1900. It still contains original furnishings, fixtures and Heard family memorabilia. The preservation of this home, gardens and original carriage house is costly and it is necessary to raise funds continually to properly maintain them.

Over the past 12 years, we have been the grateful recipient of funding through the McKinney Community Development Corporation. This organization is overseen by the McKinney City Council and has awarded more than \$467,000 to the Heard-Craig. This funding has made it possible to do the following:

- restore our gardens for the enjoyment of the community,
- repair and rebuild brick skirting on the Heard-Craig House
- restore the home's interior to an appropriate 1900's décor from a 1970's redecoration
- add a wheelchair lift to replace an outdated and obtrusive handicap ramp
- replace the roof on the Heard-Craig House, Carriage House and Heard-Craig Hall
- rebuild sub-flooring in the Carriage House, add wood flooring, add structural supports
- replace in-line gutters on the Heard-Craig House and repair/replace damaged wood
- rebuild concrete steps on Heard-Craig Hall
- strengthen and straighten porch supports on the Heard-Craig House
- paint the House and Carriage House

The Heard-Craig House has visitors from throughout the world and the comment we hear the most is how impressive and well maintained the home is. We would not have been able to provide the level of care needed for this impressive historic landmark without the generous funding provided by the City of McKinney. Recognition from the Texas Society of Architects would not only be an honor for our city, but it would provide encouragement for our city government to continue their support of our historic treasures. I greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Johnson
Executive Director



107 N. Kentucky

McKinney, Texas 75069

(214) 726-9251

May 22, 2012

Ms. Val Glitsch, FAIA
Chair, Honor Awards Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, Texas 78702-2754

Dear Ms. Glitsch,

I would like to recommend the City of McKinney for the Texas Society of Architects Citation of Honor award.

The great strides that the City and its community partners have taken over the last 10 years to enhance and preserve our great downtown are tremendous. The City is quickly becoming one of the great small cities in America (top five places to live in America—Money Magazine 2010) to live and work.

Seven years ago I decided to move my company to McKinney from Dallas. The biggest determining factor was the historic downtown and the vision of the City of McKinney and its leaders. Since opening our first restaurant in McKinney in 2007, we have since created an Italian restaurant and an entertainment nightspot to take advantage of the crowds that come to downtown in the evenings. I have opened 20 restaurants around the country over the last 30 years. The City and its leadership are hands down the best city I have ever worked with.

McKinney and its leaders have done an outstanding job preserving its history, historic buildings and architecture. Even though the City is one of the fastest growing in America, the historic downtown still has a small town feel to it. The first time I experienced the square, I thought I walked into a Norman Rockwell painting.

The City of McKinney encourages business on our historic square to preserve its architectural history while maintaining the correct balance to create spaces for the 21st century. I can't think of a better recipient for such a distinguished award than the City of McKinney

Sincerely,

Rick Wells



22 May 2012

Ms. Val Glitsch, FAIA
Chair, Honor Awards Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, Texas 78702-2754

A Division of Independent Bank

Dear Ms. Glitsch and Honors Committee:

Greetings! Thank you for the opportunity to share a bit of history about the historic downtown of McKinney, Texas. When I moved to McKinney in 1989, the downtown area was desolate, with a Dollar General on every corner, and a vacancy rate of well over 50%. Empty buildings were in various states of disrepair, stray cats roamed the interiors of abandoned structures, and the sidewalks were rolled up at five.

Now, 23 years later, through the efforts of the City of McKinney, McKinney Mainstreet and various local business owners, our downtown is one of the best in the country. Commercial and residential renovations marry old fashioned architecture with modern convenience. It's the best of both worlds, and our city takes great care with high standards of maintaining architectural integrity on every project. Even our brand new fire station is in keeping with the downtown ambiance and style. In the center of downtown, our historic courthouse, which sat empty for decades, is now the McKinney Performing Arts Center. Once considered for demolition, the MPAC is now the centerpiece of our town. From silent movies to "American Idol" watch parties for our favorite local singer, to Chamber functions and church services, the MPAC makes an impact every day.

During the day our downtown is filled with shoppers. Every first floor retail space is occupied, and when a spot becomes available for lease, it is quickly snapped up. In the evenings, restaurants of every sort are filled to the brim, and outdoor patios are the best seats in town. There are several active music venues, and our downtown is now a popular destination for "the young folks" coming up from Dallas. In short, downtown McKinney is THE place to be!

It would be a huge honor for our city to receive the Citation of Honor from the TSA. I'd love to give you a personal tour of what I now consider to be my city! As a past Chamber of Commerce president, and winner of the 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year award for McKinney, it gives me great pride to share my city with you.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Simpson Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Sara Simpson Thomas



May 21, 2012

Ms. Val Glitsch, FAIA
Chair, Honor Awards Committee
Texas Society of Architects
500 Chicon Street
Austin, Texas 78702-2754

Dear Ms. Glitsch and Honors Committee:

The McKinney Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the City of McKinney's nomination for a Citation of Honor from the Texas Society of Architects.

The revitalization of Historic Downtown McKinney through a public-private partnership has provided residents with a beautiful, vibrant city center that attracts visitors and new businesses. As a result, the community has realized a boost in tourism and increased dollars for the local economy. The Chamber of Commerce recognizes and supports the sustainable values associated with renovation and preservation. An attractive downtown environment keeps buying local which conserves energy and resources; less fuel for transportation, less maintenance, and ensures that sales taxes are reinvested in the community.

Between 1999 and 2009, as the city was experiencing an influx of residents and rapid growth, community leaders took on major capital initiatives to revitalize the Historic Downtown Square. The city partnered with Collin County and the State Historic Preservation Office in the first initiative to rehabilitate and reuse the historic, vacant courthouse at the center of the Square. Three separate studies examined the best use of the space, and city leaders agreed to give the courthouse new life as the McKinney Performing Arts Center (known throughout the community as MPAC). Construction of the \$9.5 million project was primarily funded by the McKinney Community Development Corporation and included repurposing the courtroom into a 427-seat theater. MPAC is at the heart of Historic Downtown McKinney, where it offers cultural, artistic and educational opportunities.

The second and third major initiatives went hand in hand – the Town Center Study of the Square and surrounding neighborhoods as well as the redesign/reconstruction of public infrastructure within the Historic Downtown Square. When the \$2.6 million project to reconstruct the downtown Square was completed in 2008, it incorporated a community-based vision. Pedestrian-friendly features include reducing travel lanes for vehicular traffic, widening of sidewalks to encourage walking and outdoor café-style restaurant seating, increased landscaping, additional lighting and increased parking areas. The downtown streetscape includes landscaping, irrigation, lighting, seating, waste receptacles, upgraded utilities and drainage infrastructure. These sidewalk furnishings provide shade, a sense of place and a safe sustainable environment for residents and visitors.

With these improvements, the Square received new life, renewed purpose and a vision for the future. Dozens of historic commercial buildings have been renovated and restored by private developers and business owners. Diverse, unique businesses and restaurants have opened on the Square, including a four-story boutique hotel and ballroom. The cost of commercial and residential space on the Square has seen a sharp increase in the cost per square feet and in lease rates.

Improvements have expanded beyond the downtown area as well. Nearby, the city's historic Flour Mill and Cotton Mill have are being used for commercial space, while additional renovated historic landmarks are now home to restaurants and retail sites.

McKinney's Historic Downtown Square has been re-established as the public gathering place for community events and festivals, and the city's Main Street Program and Convention and Visitors Bureau have been able to capitalize on the beauty and safety of the Square to draw visitors to the area.

The McKinney Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the City of McKinney in all efforts that encourage the growth of local jobs and businesses and wholeheartedly supports the nomination for the Citation of Honor.

Best regards,

Margaret Smolen
Director of Communications
McKinney Chamber of Commerce

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Medical Center of McKinney
Walmart

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Ebby Halliday Realtors
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