



Tourism Partner of the Year 2023-24 - Staff Recommendations

Floor nominations of other candidates will be accepted from Board members during the meeting.

Fairfield Inn

- Despite the Fairfield Inn only being open about two years, they have stepped up on every occasion to be one of our **top** hotels when it comes to hospitality and welcoming guests to McKinney. When we sent a videographer in to do some video work for us, he praised this staff as being the best he worked with out of all our hotels. And in the words of our sales manager, “They have hustled, brought in great business, and respond to every RFP sent to them in an expedited manner. Their front desk staff is the **ONLY** McKinney hotel staff that knows and remembers our faces; they greet everyone personally and when visitors ask for recommendations of things to see/do/eat, I’ve never heard the front desk send anyone away from McKinney. I would say they wouldn’t even need hospitality training if it was offered!” High praise indeed!

Jump Into Art Studio

- We have a strong ongoing partnership with Jump Into Arts Studio whose artists lead free public art walking tours in conjunction with Visit McKinney as well as offering a robust class schedule that brings people here for overnights. And Magda Dia has included our website link on her website to make booking rooms and planning visits easy.

Rick Wells/The Wells Group

- When you dine at Rick’s Chophouse or Harvest at the Masonic, or you stay at The Grand Hotel, you will experience first-class hospitality. From the time he opened Rick’s Chophouse in 2006 to the late 2023 reopening of Harvest, Rick Wells and The Wells Group have brought such a phenomenal reputation and word of mouth as well as glowing reviews and press coverage to our downtown. This in turn attracts locals and visitors to our historic square to have an impressive culinary and overnight experience for which they happily put money into our local economy! This year, his businesses hosted the Community Leaders of America whose members raved about the overnight accommodations, the food, and the hospitality. The Grand Hotel is full most of the time with wedding guests, people celebrating special occasions, and corporate travelers. There’s no doubt about it – Rick Wells and The Wells Group have made an enormous impact on tourism in McKinney.

The Stix Icehouse

- This restaurant/venue knocked it out of the park for us twice in 2023. First, we called upon them, practically last minute, in July to host the DCI Drum Battle event because TUPPS wasn’t open yet. They pulled together an abbreviated quick menu and opened on a Monday when they are usually closed, and it was a huge success! Then in October, we hosted the TxDOT Travel Counselor education tour lunch at Stix. The staff asked for orders before we all got there, they had place cards on the tables, and had the food out in a matter of minutes. The staff was excellent and everyone loved it.

