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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Finalists announced for the 2020 Texas Downtown Association President's Awards Program

Finalists for the 2020 President's Awards Program were recently announced in Austin. For over 30 years, the awards program, sponsored by the Texas Downtown Association (TDA), has recognized outstanding projects, places, and people of Texas downtowns.

The City of Celina submitted entries in two categories this year, Best New Construction over \$250k and Best Renovation/Rehabilitation/Restoration in the over \$250k category. Both submissions are among the 2020 finalists.

The Best New Construction category recognizes excellence in new construction in downtown or commercial districts. New construction projects should be compatible and complementary to the existing downtown or commercial district. The nomination went to the Huddleston Building at 322 W. Walnut Street. City Manager, Jason Laumer, stated, "This is the first new construction in Downton Celina in 20 years. We needed to work with the Historic Preservation Commission to construct a building that was both modern and fit the aesthetics of downtown." He also noted that the downtown area's growth was a vital component of the City's Downtown Master Plan. The construction of the Huddleston Building was a key kick-off point to revitalization.

The Best Renovation/Rehabilitation/Restoration category recognizes excellence in the rehabilitation or restoration of interior or exterior existing buildings. The restoration must focus on retaining materials from the most significant time in a property's history while permitting the removal of materials from other periods. This nomination went to The City of Celina Council Chambers.

The Methodist Church of Celina built the structure located at 112 N. Colorado in 1926 for \$30,000. Later, the church became known as the First United Methodist Church of Celina. The building served the church as the sanctuary, offices, and meeting space. Over time, there were several improvements to the building, including air conditioning and carpet installation. The building housed the First United Methodist Church of Celina up until 2012. As a historical building and strategically located in the City of Celina's Historic Downtown Square, the City knew the building was essential to preserve and protect. After purchasing the building, the City did minor renovations to update the space for city offices. In 2019, the building underwent extensive renovations. Today, the building serves as City offices and Council Chambers for public meetings and events.

TDA was established in 1985 to connect and serve communities that are committed to downtown vitality. The organization is an independent, statewide nonprofit representing cities and towns of all sizes, economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, local associations, small businesses, and individuals.

"As finalists, this speaks to the vision and investment the community is making in Downtown Celina." -
Rebecca Barton, Downtown Development Manager



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One hundred and four entries were submitted in eleven different categories from communities across the state. Due to the number of entries, the entries were divided up into two categories – Design and Achievement – with separate judging panels for each group.

Winners will be announced virtually, on the TDA Facebook page, in a series of Award Announcement Videos as follows:

- Design Awards: Tuesday, October 27 at noon
- Achievement Awards: Wednesday, October 28 at noon
- People Specialty (Individual Awards): October 29 at noon

The award announcements will lead to the kick-off of the virtual 2020 Texas Downtown Conference from November 9-12. For more information about the President's Awards, Conference, or other programs of the Texas Downtown Association, please visit www.texasdowntown.org. Applications for the 2021 awards program will open in the spring.

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