

MICHIGAN DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION



BEST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
1855 Holdings | The RCA Building | DuoVino
Downtown South Lyon

10th Annual Awards

Submissions due September 8

YES! It is ok for you to nominate your own community for the MDA Annual Awards!

Winners of our 10th Annual Awards will receive their recognition during the MDA's Annual Statewide Michigan Downtowns Conference, held November 5-6, 2026, in Downtown Kalamazoo. **The deadline for award nominations is Tuesday, September 8, 2026.**

Email nominations to director@michigandowntowns.com with "MDA Award Nominations" in the subject.

Award Nomination Form & Details



Annual Conference

Downtown Kalamazoo

November 4-6, 2026

The Annual Conference will be held in downtown Kalamazoo November 4-6, 2026, at the Radisson. A special hotel rate for attendees of the Annual Conference is available by [clicking here](#).

The Michigan Downtown Association (MDA) is hosting its Annual Conference in vibrant Downtown Kalamazoo. The conference features educational sessions on today's most pressing downtown topics, including mobility, demonstrating the value and impact of downtown management organizations, real estate development, managing construction projects, effective social media and marketing strategies, and parking solutions that support businesses and visitors alike. The MDA is better than therapy and attendees will have numerous opportunities to build relationships with

peers through networking events, interactive discussions, and guided downtown walking tours. Leave energized with fresh ideas, practical resources, and a stronger professional network to help your downtown grow, adapt, and succeed.

Registration is now open and [available here.](#)



Sponsorship Opportunity

Annual Conference

Sponsorship of our Annual Conference is a wonderful way for your business to network with over 120 downtown stakeholders from across Michigan.

Our sponsors are able to display within the main session room, participate in all networking breaks, and enjoy breakfast and lunch with our attendees. A variety of promotional pieces are also offered for sponsors.

For more details, please refer to the information found below or call Dana at 248-898-9711.

See you in KZoo!

[Annual Conference Sponsorship Opportunity](#)



Important Dates

In an ongoing effort to support our members, DDAs, and TIF, the MDA will be sending a biannual newsletter to **YOUR board chair and vice chair**. Please forward your board's chair and vice chair contact information to Dana at:

director@michigandowntowns.com

The MDA's social media campaign, **'Summer Bucket List'** is live and encourages the exploration of our Michigan downtowns.

More details can be [found here](#).

Our **Annual Instagram Takeovers** have begun! We still have a few open dates for you! Please use the sign-up link found below.

Tuesday, September 8: [MIPDM Applications Due](#)

Tuesday, September 8: [Annual Award Submissions Due](#)

Yes, you can nominate your own project or community!

Tuesday, September 22: Board Chair & Vice Chair Let's Do Lunch, Virtual

Thursday, September 24: Walking Tour of Downtown Mt. Clemens and [FEATHER BOWLING](#) Networking Event

Saturday, September 26: Downtown Day

Wednesday-Friday, November 4-6: [Annual Conference](#), downtown Kalamazoo

MICHIGAN DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION



A CALL FOR MDA AWARDS NOMINATIONS 2026

The Michigan Downtown Association is asking for nominations for its 10th Annual MDA Awards. Winners will receive their awards during the MDA's Annual Statewide Michigan Downtowns Conference, held November 5-6, 2026, in Downtown Kalamazoo. **The deadline for award nominations is Tuesday, September 8, 2026.** Email nominations to director@michigandowntowns.com with "MDA Award Nominations" in the subject.

There are three categories for awards:

Downtown Projects (page 2-3)

Downtown Organization of the Year (page 4)

Downtown Director of the Year (page 5)

****Downtown Projects** can fall into any of the following categories. Nominated projects can be completed by a downtown organization, city, or private developer within a **member community** and will be evaluated for their impact on downtown and on the community. Please see page 2 & 3 of this document.

- Placemaking
- Promotions & Marketing
- Redevelopment Project
- Infrastructure/Streetscape Project
- Historic Preservation Project

****Downtown Organization of the Year** is an award given to an MDA member organization whose economic development impact was exemplary in the year 2025 through their organization and execution of a project(s). Please see page 4 of this document.

****Downtown Director of the Year** is an award given to a Downtown Director from a MDA member community whose leadership was exemplary in the year 2025. Please see page 5 of this document.

Award recipients will receive:

- Shareable social media images produced by New Moon Visions announcing receipt of organization/community/developer's award
- Proclamation sent to community's municipality announcing receipt of organization/community/developer's award
- Template of a press release announcing receipt of organization/community/developer's award
- Plaque or adhesive recognizing the receipt of the award (where applicable)
- Opportunity to present project during a future MDA event or webinar



Nomination Form for Downtown Projects

Each year, the Michigan Downtown Association presents its Annual Awards to downtown projects throughout the state that have revitalized downtowns in which they are located. Whether it is property rehabilitation, a public art project, a park improvement, streetscape or infrastructure project, or a marketing campaign, downtown projects can be nominated with the form below to be recognized for the role they have played to revitalize downtown, improve the quality of life for residents, and spur additional community investment.

A person MAY nominate one's own community or project. The project/ initiative MUST be completed and be located within a member community of the Michigan Downtown Association. All nominations must be for achievements/projects within the past 1-3 years. All projects must be completed and implemented to be considered for the award.

1. Organization Name:
2. Project/Initiative Being Nominated:
3. Type of Project:
 - a. Placemaking
 - b. Promotions & Marketing
 - c. Redevelopment Project
 - d. Infrastructure/Streetscape
 - e. Historic Preservation
4. Project Address (if applicable):
5. Community Population:
6. Contact Information for Project/Initiative:
7. Name and contact information of person making the nomination:
8. Please describe this project/initiative in a few sentences.

9. Why are you nominating this project/initiative? How has it impacted the downtown in which it is located? (250 words max).
10. Number of full and part-time jobs created (if applicable):
11. Total project cost:
12. Names of the primary project architect, engineer, and general contractor (if applicable):
13. Age and architectural style of the building/project(if applicable):
14. 3-8 photos (jpgs)of the project/initiative that best tells the story:

Please send nomination to director@michigandowntowns.com by September 8, 2026.