

Nicholasville Recognized as Renaissance on Main Certified I City at the 2005 Governor's Local Issues Conference

Louisville, KY – Nicholasville was one of 113 cities recognized at the 30th Annual Governor's Local Issues conference held recently at the Galt House East. Renaissance on Main, the downtown revitalization program, awarded 64 Kentucky cities with the rank of Certified I or Certified II, 35 cities with the rank of Candidate and 14 cities with the rank of invited. Nicholasville was awarded a certificate naming it one of only 36 Certified I Renaissance on Main communities in the state. Each city was recognized at the 2005 Governor's Local Issues Conference luncheon.



Representatives from Nicholasville accept the certificate naming Nicholasville as a Renaissance on Main Certified I Community at the 2005 Governor's Local Issues Conference luncheon held recently in Louisville. Pictured l-r Ellen Williams, Commissioner of the Governor's Office for Local Development, John Nickell, Jessamine County Fiscal Court Commissioner, Judge William Neal Cassity, Jessamine County Judge Executive, Carola Hartley, Executive Director of Nicholasville Now!, W. A. "Butch" Mellott, Nicholasville Now! Board of Director, Honorable John Martin, Mayor of the City of Nicholasville, Brian Goettl, Jessamine County Attorney and President of Nicholasville Now! and Renee Alexander, Executive Director of Kentucky Renaissance on Main program.

Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence, who addressed the luncheon crowd of over 500 local officials, noted that tremendous popularity and success of the Renaissance program. "The Renaissance on Main program has worked closely with local government to help them fashion and maintain exciting economic development opportunities while creating a fun atmosphere that people enjoy. The cities recognized here today have shown a commitment to creating these energetic downtowns which are the pulse of many communities."

Cities that are Certified I Renaissance on Main cities are eligible for funding up to \$150,000.00. Certified II cities can receive up to \$75,000.00 for their downtown projects. Candidate cities are communities that have been in the Renaissance program in the past. Invited cities have never been involved in the Renaissance program. Cities can use their Renaissance funds to restore buildings, to renovate sidewalks and streetscapes, to create facades and numerous other projects in order to create an overall downtown improvement to attract and retain businesses.

Renaissance on Main is also under the direction of a new executive director. Renee Alexander, a former executive assistance for the Renaissance on Main program, takes the place of Ginger Wills, who went on to become the executive director of the Office of Rural and Secondary Roads in the Transportation Cabinet.

Commissioner Ellen Williams of the Governor's Office for Local Development, says Alexander was a great candidate for the Renaissance program. "Renee brings programmatic knowledge and a good

relationship from her previous role as an executive assistance to the Renaissance on Main program. She has a great understanding of the issues that cities face in dealing with their downtown development.”

The downtown revitalization program, which focuses on Kentucky cities, was originally established in 1996 to represent an alliance of both state and non-state agencies and organization focusing resources, funding and expertise on historic preservation. The Renaissance on Main program extends that focus to economic development.

The Renaissance Alliance, an advisory committee to Renaissance on Main, is comprised of members from the Governor’s Office of Local Development, where the program administratively resides, and representatives from the Kentucky Heritage Council/Main Street Program, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Kentucky Department of Tourism, the Kentucky League of Cities, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati and the Kentucky Housing Corporation.

Representing Nicholasville at the luncheon were Brian Goettl, Jessamine County Attorney and President of Nicholasville Now!, Carola Hartley, Executive Director of Nicholasville Now!, Butch Mellott, Nicholasville Now! Board of Director and Mayor John Martin from the City of Nicholasville. Others in attendance at the luncheon were Judge William Neal Cassity, Jessamine County Judge Executive and John Nickell, Jessamine County Fiscal Court Commissioner.