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Historic Downtown Delaware, Ohio, Named One of 13 Great Places by the American Planning Association

In the program's 12th year, APA Recognizes 13 Great Neighborhoods, Streets and Public Spaces

Washington, D.C.— The [American Planning Association](http://www.americanplanning.org) (APA) has named Historic Downtown Delaware, Ohio, as one of four Great Neighborhoods on APA's annual [Great Places in America](http://www.greatplacesinamerica.org) list, which starts the countdown to National Community Planning Month in October.

“We are thrilled that Downtown Delaware is officially a national award-winning Great Place in America,” Mayor Carolyn Kay Riggle said. “Planning is behind the places communities value most and our Downtown has been our city’s most defining element for more than 200 years. We are honored to be one of only four Great Neighborhoods in the nation recognized, and among the American Planning Association’s best of the best.”

APA’s Great Places in America program recognizes the streets, neighborhoods and public spaces in the United States demonstrating exceptional character, quality and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. The Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets and Great Public Spaces of 2019 are places that are unique and exemplary in their success stories of revitalization, cultural identity, and strong community connection.

“The neighborhoods recognized this year demonstrate the importance of planning in creating vibrant and sustainable communities,” said Kurt Christiansen, FAICP, APA president. “Downtown Delaware is a national example of how to balance historic character with the evolving desires of the community.”

Downtown Delaware, Ohio, was one of many American downtowns that struggled to compete with the rise of mega malls and big box stores in the late 20th century. Over the last several decades, Downtown Delaware has led revitalization efforts to transform vacant space into a booming, multi-use hotspot for local businesses and events. The downtown currently has over 310,000 square feet of commercial space, about 200,000 square feet of which is retail use. Other uses of the downtown space include offices, restaurants, breweries, art venues, senior housing, and the main branch of the city’s library. Through community-driven planning events and activities, Downtown Delaware has united its residents and stakeholders in a shared long-term vision to preserve the core of this neighborhood and build upon it for the future needs and desires of the community.

The community will come together to celebrate Historic Downtown Delaware's designation as a Great Neighborhood in America on **October 17, 2019 at the downtown patio, at William and Sandusky streets**. A short program beginning at noon will be followed by a downtown walking tour led by city staff and elected leaders.

In addition to Historic Downtown Delaware, APA has also recognized the following Great Neighborhoods in 2019:

- Downtown Lee's Summit – Lee's Summit, Missouri
- Downtown Patchogue Village – Patchogue, New York
- Short North Arts District – Columbus, Ohio

Since launching the Great Places in America program in 2007, APA has recognized 303 neighborhoods, streets and public spaces around the country. Designees are selected annually and represent the gold standard for a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for the future.

For the sixth year, members of the public can suggest their favorite public space, neighborhood, or street to earn a "People's Choice" designation. Throughout October, individuals can offer suggestions via APA's social media channels using the hashtag #APAGreatPlaces. APA will select five finalists that the public can vote on via APA's website. The "People's Choice" winner will be announced **October 30, 2019**.

For more information about APA's Great Neighborhoods, Great Streets and Great Public Spaces for 2019 and previous years, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces.

Learn more about APA's National Community Planning Month by visiting www.planning.org/ncpm.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides vital leadership in creating great communities for all. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the profession of planning – physical, economic and social – to foster quality of life for all residents. The 45,000 members work in concert with community members, civic leaders and business interests to create communities that enrich people's lives. Through its philanthropic work, the APA Foundation helps to reduce economic and social barriers to planning. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Learn more at www.planning.org.

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