



Dandridge Community Trust Corp. A Certified Main Street Community

For Immediate Release:

Dandridge, Tennessee Selected as Recipient of 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations Award by National Trust for Historic Preservation

February 15, 2011 – The National Trust for Historic Preservation announces Dandridge, Tennessee as one of the 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Dandridge Community Trust nominated this certified Main Street Community for the authentic small-town experience appreciated by both visitors and residents. The selection process was based on a commitment to historic preservation, sustainability and revitalization, all key elements to a successful historic downtown district.

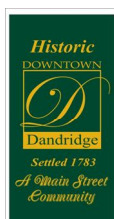
“Dandridge embraces its rich history through the preservation of our many buildings and landscape” said Barbara Garrow, President of Dandridge Community Trust, “Merchants and the town itself takes great pride in the vibrant downtown atmosphere which offers shopping, dining, and seasonal activities.”

A press conference will be held to formally announce the award on Feb. 15 beginning at 11 a.m., at the Historic Gass Building in downtown Dandridge. Nancy Tinker of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will present the award to Vice Mayor Mike Chambers of the town of Dandridge. Brief remarks will follow from Susan Whitaker, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; Patrick McIntyre, Jr., executive director of TN Historical Commission and Kimberly Nyberg, director of TN Main Street Program for the TN Department of Economic & Community Development.

“This very special recognition is a milestone moment for Dandridge,” said Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. “To be named a Distinctive Destination is a well-deserved honor for both the past and current leadership of this amazing community. Everyone involved is to be commended and congratulated for their successful efforts in preserving the beauty and heritage of Dandridge, resulting in this extraordinarily significant recognition by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.”

“Dandridge is a sweet little historic community that is visually beautiful—the people there have strong support for historic preservation and heritage tourism,” said Director Kimberly Nyberg, Tennessee Main Street Program. “What is interesting about Dandridge is that they are just a short distance from the hustle and bustle of big tourism spots like Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, and Dollywood, so the experience in Dandridge, is slower, softer and a wonderful glimpse into life in a small American town. That is the experience for people that live there and for the visitor--it is real.”

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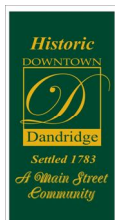
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Dandridge is one of the oldest towns in Tennessee and is the only location in the state to receive this exciting award in 2011. The town offers a unique mix of past and present. “Our small town hosts heritage and music events, a weekly seasonal farmers market, is located on Tennessee Crossings, a National Scenic Byway, as well as Tennessee’s Sunny Side and White Lightning Trails, and all to a backdrop of beautifully preserved buildings, which house shops, museums, and even our Town Hall,” states Garrow.

Following the announcement The Trust will host an online voting contest from February 15 – March 15 to determine which of the 12 destinations will be the 2011 Fan Favorite. Everyone is encouraged to participate by visiting www.preservationnation.org/ddd/vote and voting for Dandridge. All voters are entered to win a stay in a Historic Hotel of America. The Fan Favorite winner will be announced on March 16, 2011.

For information about the 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations Award, it’s award recipient or the nominating organization, please contact Tina Murrow, executive director of Dandridge Main Street at (865) 397-7420 x17 or office@mainstreetdandridge.com, or for downloadable press information visit www.mainstreetdandridge.com.

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