



NEWS RELEASE

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CHARLEVOIX EARNS BLUEPRINTS FOR MICHIGAN'S DOWNTOWNS COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE 2007 MICHIGAN DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE

TRAVERSE CITY – Communities and individuals from across the state were honored today at the 2007 Michigan Downtown Conference awards luncheon at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City, Michigan. This annual conference is dedicated to bringing the best ideas, resources and educational sessions together to create an energetic environment to celebrate the growth of Michigan's Downtowns and the mind trust to solve the biggest challenges. Each year the conference is hosted in one of Michigan's destination communities, allowing plenty of time to see and experience the best of what our host city has to offer. We give back to our host city by making sure that there is time in our agenda for dining, shopping and sight-seeing.

The awards luncheon honored those around the state that have worked together within their cities and with state partners to take advantage of new initiatives and produce funding to revitalize Michigan's cities, towns and villages. Through these efforts, they give the residents of the state a vibrant place to live.

The *Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns Community of the Year Award* was all about a city that is planning and producing steps to create change and success within their city. **Charlevoix was awarded the Community of the Year Award** for many reasons, and here are some of the highlights of their plans:

- Two dozen action items for increasing activity and stimulating business in Downtown Charlevoix
- Executive Director hired to implement Blueprints
- A public hearing has been scheduled and funded to start the process of creating a downtown historic district.

The award for the City of Charlevoix was accepted by Keith Carey.

The Michigan Downtown Conference had several planning partners that made the conference a huge success, including the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the Michigan Downtown Association,

Community Economic Development Advocates of Michigan, Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Main Street Oakland County and the Michigan Historical Center.

MSHDA is a quasi-state agency that provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve safe and decent affordable housing, engage in community economic development activities, and address homeless issues. MSHDA's loans and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt and taxable bonds and notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. For more information on MSHDA programs and initiatives, visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/mshda.

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