



**For Immediate Release  
Cornelia Main Street**

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## **CORNELIA MAIN STREET RECEIVES 2019 NATIONAL MAIN STREET ACCREDITATION**

*CORNELIA, GA (April 23, 2019)* – *Cornelia Main Street* has been designated as an accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards set by the National Main Street Center. Each year, the National Main Street Center and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street America programs to recognize their exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™

“We are proud to acknowledge this year’s 840 nationally accredited Main Street America programs that have worked tirelessly to strengthen their communities. said Patrice Frey, President & CEO of the National Main Street Center. “These programs deserve recognition for generating impressive economic returns, preserving community character, and celebrating local history. Main Street America Accredited communities are part of a powerful movement of changemakers, and their dedication to improving quality of life in the places they call home is inspiring.

In 2018 alone, Main Street America programs generated \$4.93 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 5,310 net new businesses, generated 25,301 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation of 8,146 historic buildings, and clocked 2.2 million volunteer hours.

The Cornelia Main Street performance is annually evaluated by Georgia Main Street of the Georgia Office of Downtown Development, which works in partnership with the National Main Street Center to identify the local programs that meet ten national performance standards. Evaluation criteria determines the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as fostering strong public-private partnerships, documenting programmatic progress, and actively preserving historic buildings.

In the fiscal year 2018, Cornelia Main Street had \$1.3 million in real estate transactions, 226 promotional events yielding 56,500 attendance, seven new businesses, 72 jobs, and \$7,134,013 in public private investment.

Community Development Manager Jessie Owensby said “The National Main Street program is imperative to the success of Cornelia’s Downtown Development Authority. It gives us a strategic plan template that makes it easier for us to plan and execute our projects as a team. The criteria for this accreditation is thorough, and we strive every year to not only meet the criteria, but also



to go above and beyond what is expected. We have been able to achieve that each of the years that we've been accredited. I am incredibly proud of the Cornelia DDA for accomplishing this feat, and I can't wait to see what's next for our community!"

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### **ABOUT CORNELIA MAIN STREET**

The purpose of the Downtown Development Authority is to stimulate and sustain economic development in downtown Cornelia by encouraging cooperation and building leadership. Its mission is to continue developing a vibrant commercial base centered on tourism and retail growth, while maintaining the peace and tranquility of our small town charm. The DDA serves non-profit and public purposes and is an institution of purely public charity.

### **ABOUT MAIN STREET AMERICA**

[Main Street America](#) has been helping revitalize older and historic commercial districts for more than 35 years. Today, it is a network of more than 1,600 neighborhoods and communities, rural and urban, who share both a commitment to place and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. Since 1980, communities participating in the program have leveraged more than \$79.12 billion in new public and private investment, generated 640,017 net new jobs and 143,613 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 284,936 buildings. Main Street America is a program of the nonprofit National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.