

Mary's Minute continued

We also celebrated our annual Awards of Excellence on Main Street in the amazing Venue at Coosa Landing, a former big box store that has been reimagined in the best possible way! The awards banquet is always a highlight for me, I so enjoy the opportunity to recognize the hard work of our directors, local boards, municipalities, and volunteers in each designated district – this is highlighted in the newsletter as well with a link to all the award winners. We especially enjoy showcasing an Alabama artist each year in the making of our awards. This year was Missy Miles and her creative and beautiful gourd art.

And lastly, let's recognize our host city for this years' conference – Gadsden! Downtown Gadsden Inc. Kay Moore, Executive Director was a joy to work with and we LOVED having all our sessions in beautiful downtown Gadsden. Our event locations included the newly renovated Kress Building owned by the Life Insurance Company of Alabama, Cultural Arts Center, and the Gadsden Museum of Art. We were blessed to have two sessions in the district featuring Tena King on Destination Retailing and the Campbell Family on upper story development, touring the amazing loft apartments they have completed. We certainly want to thank the City of Gadsden, DGI Board Members and Volunteers, Downtown Businesses and all our LAB sponsors for a wonderful experience – looking forward to next August in Opelika.