



CONTACT: Lisa Enourato, City of Ketchum, LEnourato@ketchumidaho.org or 208-720-9766
Jo Murray, City of Ketchum, jo@jomurray.com or 208-726-5869
Roberta Rewers, APA, rrewers@planning.org or 312-786-6395

Ketchum’s Main Street Named One of 15 Great Places in America by the American Planning Association

APA’s Annual List Recognizes 15 Great Neighborhoods, Streets, and Public Spaces

Washington, DC— The American Planning Association (APA) today named Main Street in Ketchum, Idaho, as one of five Great Streets on the organization’s annual [Great Places in America](#) list, which marks the kick-off of APA’s National Community Planning Month celebration.

As part of National Community Planning Month, APA’s Great Places in America program recognizes 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 2016 are places that are unique and exemplary in their amenities and infrastructure, cultural identity, and use of sustainable and innovative practices.

“This year’s designees highlight the power of a single well planned street to stimulate economic activity and energize an entire community,” said Carol Rhea, FAICP, president of APA. “We applaud those who have worked hard through careful planning, public engagement, and innovation to create better places to live, work, play, and visit—one street at a time.”

Nowhere is the quirky spirit of the Mountain West stronger than on Main Street in Ketchum, Idaho. The main thoroughfare of this tiny Idahoan town hosts unique festivals that are only enhanced by a pedestrian-focused design.

“The investments the city has made in the community is a statement about the future of Ketchum,” Mayor Nina Jonas said. “Community values and a strong sense of place have become priorities in the global economy. Ketchum, as a lively destination that focuses on quality of life, embraces sustainability and promotes walking and transit access, has a distinct advantage in economic success.”

Ketchum plans to celebrate its Great Places in America designation with local businesses, residents and visitors on October 20 in Town Square.

In addition to Main Street, APA also recognized the following streets this year:

- Sherman Avenue - Coeur d’Alene, Idaho
- Arthur Avenue - Bronx, New York
- South 24th Street - Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Main Street - Davidson, North Carolina

Since launching the Great Places in America program in 2007, APA has recognized 260 neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces around the country. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for the future.

For the third year, members of the public can suggest their favorite public space, neighborhood, or street to earn a “People’s Choice” designation. During the first half of 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 is announced in early November 2016.

For more information about these streets, as well as APA’s Great Neighborhoods and Public Spaces for 2016 and previous years, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces.

You can also find more information on National Community Planning Month by visiting www.planning.org/ncpm.

The American Planning Association is an independent, not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning -- physical, economic and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. For more information, visit www.planning.org.

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