

2021 Missouri Municipal League Nomination Summaries

September 28, 2021



What is the MML Innovation Program?

The Innovation Awards program showcases municipal programs or projects that have been successfully implemented and demonstrate new approaches for solving municipal challenges. It may also serve as a model for other communities.

To enter, a municipality must be a member of the Missouri Municipal League. Only one entry per city will be considered. Joint or multi-city projects are welcome (population category will be based on the largest city in the project). Nominated programs or projects must be completed or well established.

The awards will be given in five categories:

- Extra Large (population more than 30,000)
- Large (population 15,000 to 30,000)
- Medium (population 5,000 to 15,000)
- Small (population under 5,000)
- Member's Choice - all nominees are eligible, and all members are welcome to vote.

Nominees for 2021 In Alphabetical Order

City of Bowling Green

21st Century Bowling Green

(Small City Category: population less than 5,000)

Bowling Green is in the process of reconstruction of the local airport and placing a limousine there for incoming pilots, setting up a Blue and Gold Military monument at the newly constructed and opened Visitors Center, and working with the Amish Community. The city is also expanding the playgrounds and parks. One park was just installed and dedicated with a KaBoom grant award playground in the Spring. The city will start construction in January-February on a family-friendly 25' x 45' splash pad with zero entry to 18" at the outside swimming pool. And the city will be promoting a museum and the Champ Clark Honey Shuck National Register house tours. Champ Clark was the only Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington D.C. from Missouri and from Bowling Green.

City of Branson

Embracing the Change

(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)

Instead of accepting defeat during a COVID-19 citywide shut down, the City of Branson's Parks & Recreation Department got creative to solve a municipal challenge by successfully reinventing itself and finding unique ways to reach its community during a global pandemic. During the citywide shut down, the community was not able to leave home and the Department found itself and its programs on the brink of being irrelevant. The project's objective was to come up with a new approach for fresh, impactful programs to serve a community who largely were not able to leave home. The Parks & Recreation Director, Cindy Shook, and her team successfully met this project's objective

and ended up making an immense positive impact on the community's well-being in a time when it was most critical. Examples of this project include a senior meal delivery program, new virtual programs, and online pool ticketing. Many of these new programs and ideas have led to permanent positive innovation, process streamlining, and an increase in the Department's digital platform which provides relevant and quality online, in-person, and outdoor recreation opportunities for the community. These are programs that could benefit many other cities across Missouri who are facing a similar problem.

City of Des Peres

The Des Peres Times - A Temporary Publication Dedicated to COVID-19 (Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)

The emergence of COVID-19 and its eventual shutdown of St. Louis County created some significant challenges for the City of Des Peres in terms of finding ways to effectively communicate with the public on a timely basis. That problem was magnified following the abrupt closure of the local newspaper forcing staff to explore creative ways to establish a dialogue with the residents using non-traditional means. With those challenges in mind, Des Peres staff spontaneously made the decision to develop its own weekly e-newsletter captioned "The Des Peres Times" dedicated to providing the most current information on COVID-19 with a particular emphasis on emergency preparedness, continuity of service, mandatory health measures, and facility updates. That effort was spearheaded entirely by the management team who spent considerable time each week interpreting the latest information handed down by the relevant health authority, understanding the operational impact of those guidelines, drafting content explaining the changes, and designing the newsletter to be published online using the city's website and social media pages. The end result was a highly successful impromptu publication that spanned 15 total weeks which generated a significant following of both residents and non-residents alike, all without the benefit of employing communications or public relations staff.

Ellisville - Sculpture on the Move!

(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)

Sculpture on the Move is a unique program designed to foster relationships between communities and artists, as well as grow art appreciation across the region. In 2017, twelve municipalities met to develop a program that would promote the arts, introduce artists to municipal work practices, and provide municipalities with a basic understanding of developing an arts program from beginning to end. In response, they created a multi-city sculpture loan program where each city would select an artwork to display for two years, then it would return to the selection pot, to potentially be chosen by another city and moved around the region. This group of cities became known as the Creative Cities Alliance (CCA) and together they created the call for art, organized entries, and created the sculpture draft process. Additionally, the CCA assisted municipalities through the contract, artwork delivery, and installation process. This program has grown tremendously in the past four years and currently showcases over forty sculptures in more than twenty Missouri municipalities! As of 2021, the Sculpture on the Move program has funded \$95,000 in sculpture loans across the state. You can

see the current sculpture collection from the Creative Communities Alliance on the Otocast App.

**Excelsior Springs – Rainbow Splash Park
(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)**

Excelsior Springs had a blighted swim pool that was built in the 1960's and closed in 2014. The blighted property with the swim pool was donated to the City of Excelsior Springs in 2018. Excelsior Springs Parks & Recreation was awarded a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant in 2019 for \$250,000 to renovate the blighted property into a brand-new splash park. Excelsior Springs Parks & Recreation has performed much of the renovations internally. However, they also contracted with Playscapes Recreation to install the splash pad in June 2020. The plan for this site has been to take a dangerous and blighted property, which is visible from a busy highway through the city and turn it into a state-of-the-art aquatic facility that will be free and available for all to use. The site includes renovations to a restroom facility; shelter area; property fencing; pump house; parking lot; walkways; and the demolition and filling in of an old swim pool.

**Festus - Santa's Mail
(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)**

Annually, the City of Festus Parks Department sets up Santa House at Schneider Plaza in downtown Festus. During December, Santa invites children to Santa House to find out what they would like for Christmas – this visit is free, and friends and family members are welcome to take photos during the visit with Santa. Despite the City's best efforts, the enclosed space of Santa House and the possibility of frequent close contacts during the COVID-19 global pandemic, meant visits to Santa House had to be cancelled. City staff installed a new feature to Schneider Plaza, a mailbox for Santa's Mail, where children could write letters to Santa. The City's YouTube Channel (www.Cityoffestus.org/livestream) is where Santa read all the letters each Friday in December leading up to Christmas – City staff constructed a studio with backdrop and decorations for the weekly letter-reading session. Additionally, "Santa" is a member of City staff. Santa's Mail received close to 100 letters and pictures from area children, and the 3 episodes are the most viewed videos on the City's YouTube Channel. An example of one of the Santa's Mail episodes can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/ul-kt31dzts>.

**Florissant – Summons of Joy Program
(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)**

In December of 2020, the Florissant Police Department, in conjunction with North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice, kicked off their annual Summons of Joy program. This was the sixth year for this program. This past December, Officers interacted with citizens through minor infraction traffic stops, but instead of receiving a citation or a warning, the citizens were given a Summons of Joy and a \$100 gift card. The goal of this program is to continue to foster positive relationships with the community and spread some holiday cheer. The men and women of the Florissant Police Department would like to thank NCCU and their parishioners for donating enough money to purchase 40 \$100 gift cards. The Summons of Joy program

was originally coordinated by Florissant Pastor John Higgins and then Police Chief Tim Lowery, who wanted to build strong relationships with citizens of the community. The City of Florissant has always been a tight knit and diverse community and will always come together in time of need. It is important to continue to build positive relationships with the community to make the city vibrant and welcoming to all. Video link to program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sf36cn53470>

**Goodman – Parks Playground Initiative
(Small City Category: population less than 5,000)**

The City of Goodman recognized playground opportunities within the community were aging and inadequate. There was a need for the establishment of a plan to develop a safe play environment for the children of the community. The City had recently rebuilt a Goodman community building, that was destroyed in a tornado. The community building is on a property adjacent to the Goodman ballpark but there was no playground equipment in this area to promote safe, physical activities for the children. After much research into costs and possibilities, the City was able to purchase safe playground equipment for this area. With much assistance from monetary donations from citizen donations and the Goodman Betterment Club, the City was able to complete the project. Keeping the community updated and aware of this undertaking was essential in being able to complete the installation of the playground equipment and developing a safe play environment for the City.

**Grandview – Project Pandemic
(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)**

In 2020, every municipality, county, and state faced one large and unexpected challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic. In Grandview, every department and every city staff member was needed to help tackle the safety, financial, logistical, and operational challenges presented by the novel virus and ultimately a statewide stay-at-home order. Grandview quickly went to work on the Pandemic Project with a plan and four goals at hand: protecting jobs, protecting revenues, protecting people and staying connected with the community.

**Kansas City - #InclusionRevolution
(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)**

The City of Kansas City has been working with Variety KC, the children's charity, to create an environment that is so much more than just accessible and compliant to their citizens with special needs but that creates a society accessible to all regardless of cognitive or physical ability. Kansas City has been and will continue to make conscious efforts on all levels to create the pinnacle of inclusivity for those in their communities with special needs. Regardless of age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status, everyone deserves to "Be active, Be Social, and Belong." The efforts made in Kansas City have been more than just a singular project but instead a series of projects throughout the city to revolutionize inclusivity. Kansas City's drive to create this environment has been valuable and well received, including many "firsts" for the city, state, and even the United States. Having partnered with an organization like Variety KC has proven that this is an achievable effort not only in the city limits but in neighboring communities and

can be applied throughout the country. The #InclusionRevolution has begun and Kansas City and Variety KC are at the helm with countless other organizations already hopping on board.

**Kimberling City – Dog Park Build – No “Bite” Out of the Budget
(Small City Category: population less than 5,000)**

How do you build a dog park without any money? Be like a "bulldog" and work at it until it's done! That is what the Kimberling City Parks Board members are, they are "bulldogs". With no funds, they set a goal to build a dog park in Kimberling City in 2020. Other budget funds were tied up building the City's first playground park for children. Did they sit back and howl, or did they get to work? The members worked like dogs! The Park Board discovered the City had unwanted vacant properties that probably never would be used for public use. They convinced the Board of Aldermen to sell the properties, with all proceeds going into a separate Park Board account. The Aldermen could have told them to "go for a walk," but they agreed. Funds from the sale of properties, fundraising events, and private donations were enough to build a dog park. The public got a "good boy treat" that everyone has enjoyed! A new dog park and no bite out of the budget!

Kirkwood – Kirkwood Recycles – A Mobile App with a Waste Wizard and Recycle Quest Game

(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)

In 2019 the City of Kirkwood was faced with the task of stabilizing the cost of its curbside recycling program due to changes in international markets, specifically China's decision to limit the importation of mixed recyclables from the U.S. due to high contamination levels. These changes caused the City to pay \$380,284 in 2019 to operate its recycling program, compared to a revenue stream of \$131,715 from the program in 2018. In order to stabilize the cost of the curbside recycling program the City found it important to decrease the amount of trash residents put in their recycling by developing a sanitation Waste Wizard & Recycling App. The City applied for and received a grant from the Saint Louis County Department of Health Waste Management Program to reduce contamination in the City's curbside recycling program. The grant allowed the City to contract with SCS Environmental Consultants and Engineers and ReCollect (a waste technology company) for the development of a multi-faceted education and engagement campaign (EEC), and characterization of the quantity and composition of contaminants in Kirkwood's recyclables before and after the EEC to determine its effectiveness. The EEC included the development of a Recycling App which was highly successful.

Macon - City Website Redesign and Codification Integration

(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)

Macon's goal was to redesign, develop, and implement a new website that would serve as the public face of the government and the community. The main objectives were to enhance user experience through simplified content management, providing better information and customer service to the City, and to meet high standards for design quality and visual appeal. Additionally, the City wanted the website to seamlessly

integrate with the City's code of ordinances to allow for a hub of information for staff and residents alike. To make accessing this information easier they wanted the website to offer a unified search with the City's municipal code, allowing search results to be filtered by the code itself, highlighting every instance of the term or phrase searched. This means staff and residents now have the capability to search the website and the code simultaneously or individually. These objectives were achieved, along with so much more. With the help of local government services provider, Municode, Macon was able to provide its residents with the type of modern solutions and connectivity that every municipality should strive to have these days. Hopefully, neighboring local governments will see the benefits of applying such solutions, if they are not already doing so.

**Manchester – ManchesterCares
(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)**

In 2020, the City of Manchester created a citywide program called “ManchesterCares.” It had a defined mission of providing help, volunteers, and care to those in need throughout the region. Organized by officials from the city, the intent of organizers was to give more than what is expected in their day-to-day duties to the Manchester community. ManchesterCares encourages City employees and elected officials to identify areas of need within the community and discover solutions to those needs by collaborating with community stakeholders and volunteering personal time to reduce the identified needs. ManchesterCares organized numerous community events in 2020, including the inaugural Veterans Resource Event; seven American Red Cross blood drives; two city-wide food drives that produced donations of over 4,000 pounds of food and 6,000 items to benefit local food banks; and four ballot notarization drives where over 150 residents had their ballots notarized by volunteer notaries. A core principle of the ManchesterCares program is to lessen the distance between community resources and those in need. By building on individuals' strengths, commitment to serve and fostering collaboration, municipal officials and community stakeholders successfully lessened areas of need using resources from ManchesterCares.

**Maplewood - Maplewood Transit Stop Transformation Project
(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)**

The “Maplewood Transit Stop Transformation Project” converted the Maplewood MetroBus Stop (located at the southwest corner of Manchester Rd. and Marshall Ave.) into a fun, artistic space that encourages active play, cultivates community and increases transit use. The transformed, ADA accessible site now boasts vibrant colors and green spaces. New shelters, a glider, and a bench were installed, and lighting and better sight lines were incorporated to improve visibility, safety and security. There is now more waiting space, better access to the adjacent green spaces and a hopscotch game that adds an interactive, playful element to the design. The site also features an art installation, created by a local, award-winning painter and mixed media artist, that graphically depicts Maplewood landmarks, celebrates the identity of the City of Maplewood and expresses a deep understanding and commitment to equitable development. Major partners included Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT), AARP in St. Louis, City of Maplewood and Citizens National Bank. This project is easily adaptable in

other communities. CMT is looking for partner communities in the St. Louis region for future bus stop transformation projects. Currently, CMT is working with St. Clair County Transit District and the Emerson Park Transit Center in the Metro East.

Mexico – Asphalt Recycle for Patching
(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)

Pothole patching is a common maintenance activity. The City of Mexico has put that activity together with an asphalt mix made in a recycler, resulting in an environmentally sustainable solution. The asphalt from utility patches and other street cuts is recycled to patch potholes. The old asphalt is rejuvenated with an agricultural product produced from corn. The resulting mix costs about one third the cost of virgin hot mix.

Nixa – Easter Egg Hunt
(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)

There's a pandemic! How does the City of Nixa engage their residents during a "shelter in place" order? This was a question Nixa Parks and Recreation asked themselves as they shut down their parks department and community center due to COVID-19. The answer was, a home delivery easter egg hunt. With the goal of putting smiles on the faces of their community and providing an event the citizen would typically be a part of, the home delivery easter egg hunt was the answer. The overall project was a huge success in engaging their community and providing a service to put smiles on faces and serve the community through a "feel good" story in a time of uncertainty. The engagement of the community to this project was not only exciting it let the community know their City was here, it was still working for them, and that they would be stronger on the other side. Staff was able to quickly put this project together and implement the necessary precautions to ensure a safe and fun program.

O'Fallon - Shape of Community Rotating Sculpture Exhibition
(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)

The City of O'Fallon's rotating sculpture series, *The Shape of Community* is a citywide, temporary sculpture exhibition, featuring large-scale works of art in prominent areas throughout the city, loaned by artists for an 18-month period. This exhibition is unique to the entire St. Louis metropolitan area, and will attract people to visit sculpture sites, indoor exhibition spaces throughout the city and driven by the city website and the Otocast application for phones. O'Fallon is the largest city in St. Charles County and the seventh largest in the state of Missouri. Originating as a railroad community in the 1850s, O'Fallon was a small, rural community until the 1980s when it began growing, first into a bedroom community to St. Louis and now, an important residential community as well as home to major regional employers and sports and recreation destinations. O'Fallon has grown rapidly, in no small part due to its quality of life. It is well known that people choose to be in O'Fallon because of its excellent parks and schools, its safety, and its friendly and welcoming spirit. In addition, many residents feel that art, culture and history are an essential part of the quality of life in O'Fallon.

Olivette - Virtual Community Center
(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)

The Olivette Parks and Recreation Department created a full-service, interactive, Virtual Community Center to keep the community informed, active and engaged during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The project was completed three weeks into the St Louis County stay-at-home order and was the first 'Virtual Community Center' launched in the state of Missouri. Once live, the Virtual Community Center was updated daily with new activities each weekday through June 2020. Virtual programming continues to date with weekly postings, instead of daily postings and live online classes taught from inside the Center. The site has been well utilized by residents of all ages and allowed the senior fitness class to continue. Duplication of this effort in other municipalities would be easy and cost effective.

Ozark - Junior Police Academy

(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)

In 2019, the Ozark Police Department created an outreach program, focusing on positive interactions with the youth of the community. In July and August, police department held their first Junior Police Academy for children ages 6-17. The Junior Police Academy focused on positive interactions, educating youth on the role police officers fill within the community and inspiring children to become future leaders of the community. The theme of the Junior Police Academy is "Hero in Training".

Raymore - T. B. Hanna Station Renovation Project

(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)

The City of Raymore has made inclusivity and access a key part of the Parks and Recreation plan after becoming recognized as a Gold City Community For All Ages. In determining needed upgrades to various city parks, T.B. Hanna Station was identified as a park that would allow for a large impact in a fairly small area in the middle of Raymore's Original Town district. Working with various groups to determine how best to include all residents in the park, T. B. Hanna Station has become a truly unique park within not only the City of Raymore, but Cass County and the State of Missouri. It is the first year-round community park in the state, and one of just a few in the entire country celebrating inclusivity with two fully accessible play spaces that residents and visitors of all abilities can enjoy.

Raytown - NEER Asset Management Implementation

(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)

The City of Raytown used a new technology platform to help the city determine the condition and risk in their pipes and manholes for the sanitary sewer network. This effort will help the City develop a Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years and prioritize maintenance projects to their sanitary sewer system. The City can now track all maintenance and inspection records within the system and the platform will continuously update the risk scores and condition assessment based on the new information provided. This provides the City with a long-lasting asset management tool that pushes the City into the 21st century with their asset management program.

Savannah - Innovative Funding Solutions for Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades

(Small City Category: population less than 5,000)

The City of Savannah's infrastructure project marks the first time in Missouri history that funds from a State Rural Sewer Grant were coupled with monies from a Lease/Purchase Agreement to construct a major municipal project. Overall, the project is valued at \$1.3 million. The City needed to fund and construct ultra-violet disinfection equipment (and associated infrastructure) at its wastewater treatment facility according to a tight schedule. At this project's inception, the City was rebounding from the unfortunate and untimely passing of its former Mayor, overcoming communication issues related to COVID-19 and adjusting to the municipal utility's fiscal uncertainties due to the pandemic. Irrespective of these challenges, the City stayed on track with its regulatory obligations. This innovative project, led by Burns & McDonnell, was completed by balancing the needs and requirements of two regulatory branches within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and a State Municipal Association (Missouri Public Utility Alliance). An innovative approach to funding made this project possible. Project funding was acquired by simultaneously winning a State Rural Sewer Grant for \$500,000 (one of only two awarded in Missouri) and obtaining funds from a \$800,000 Lease/Purchase Agreement. This funding path had never been contemplated and successfully completed in state history.

Springfield - SGF Yields - Pedestrian Safety Campaign

(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)

SGF Yields is Springfield's answer to the increase of pedestrian fatalities across the nation and on their local streets. The latest Governor's Highway Safety report estimates that pedestrian fatalities have risen by 53% from 2009 to 2018, while all other traffic fatalities have increased by only 2%. The pedestrian safety program is designed to educate the public about right-of-way laws and helps change local attitudes amongst pedestrians and drivers, so that Springfield can become a safer and more pedestrian-friendly community. SGF Yields brings traffic safety education to the elementary school kids and need-to-know traffic rules to adults in a playful way. The program is executed through Public Works, in cooperation with the Springfield Police Department and utilizes engineering, education and enforcement, and also public art, and techniques such as "social norming" and "positive mental association". The program has been popular with the public and studies confirm that the program is measurably successful. Other communities and states have inquired about SGF Yields and hence the city is currently working towards a sharable version of the program, so that other cities may make headway in pedestrian safety.

St. Charles - Virtual Road Show

(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)

Beginning in 2017, the City of Saint Charles annually hosted townhall style public meetings to showcase the major capital improvement projects. Information on upcoming and current construction projects was provided along with long range planning for future projects. The public was engaged and gladly participated in the decision-making process on upcoming projects. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic created unique

challenges with public interactions. The City quickly adapted to develop the “Virtual Road Show.” A new website was dedicated to Virtual Road Show, which featured videos of city employees highlighting the major, upcoming projects to provide the public with an interactive medium to view and express their opinions on the numerous projects and developments planned throughout the city. The Virtual Road Show event went live on May 1, 2020 and ended on July 6, 2020. During the two months, the website received 5,313 views of which 4,336 were unique views. For comparison, in 2019 the total attendance during the in-person Road Show meetings were less than 400 people of which 122 provided public comments. The Virtual Road Show enabled the city to reach a larger audience and receive more public input. The Virtual Road Show will continue in 2021 and beyond.

St. Peters – Crushing Covid-19

(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, the city moved swiftly and elected officials, staff and community volunteers implemented solutions to meet the needs of residents and staff. The team crushed these challenges by: conducting City business remotely using new processes and software; protecting the health of the police force by splitting between two locations to prevent Covid spread; communicating health and safety information to residents by utilizing e-newsletters, electronic billboards and SPTVNOW.net; initiating a utility tax refund program processed by phone rather than in-person; connecting with seniors in Meals on Wheels program by sending cards, letters and artwork with meal deliveries; introducing road construction projects and soliciting feedback through virtual town hall meetings; supporting residents’ quality of life during lockdown by providing virtual special events, concerts, art shows and fitness videos; and providing an outdoor event space built by parks staff when there was a demand for an outdoor wedding venue.

Warsaw – Building on Success to Capitalize on the Future

(Small City Category: population less than 5,000)

The City of Warsaw’s objective was to rebuild the crumbling city infrastructure and reverse the economic distress by making it an inviting place to live, enjoy recreation and conduct business. With limited resources in 1997, the City committed to writing grants and training employees to provide in-kind grant match to construct many of the projects that have received state and national recognition. Today the City is seeing increased sales tax revenues, visitors, businesses and new residences. By investing in the City’s underground utilities, maintenance is decreasing while gaining increased sewer treatment capacity for future expansion of the city. All of this has been achieved by a 24-year commitment to planning and implementation that allowed the various city fund balances to increase, while also, carefully investing from these funds for the improvements. Mark Werthman with the Economic Development Administration, has stated that the City of Warsaw is an example for communities on how to create a plan, successfully implement, complete the plan, and then focus on new planning. Numerous elected officials, including current mayor Eddie Simons have led the 24-year process of revitalization. Mayor Simons was elected to the Board of Alderman in 2006. He became the mayor in 2012.

Webster Groves - A Tribute to Webster Groves' Historic African American Community

(Large City Category: population 15,000 – 30, 000)

Webster Groves is home to a neighborhood, North Webster, that is one of the oldest African American communities in Missouri. North Webster has historic significance for the early educational opportunities it provided, the stability of its families, homes, and churches, and the many successful, well-known African Americans that have called North Webster home. The City of Webster Groves, in renovating a park adjacent to the dominant entrance to the North Webster neighborhood, was presented an opportunity to recognize and honor this historic community. Through a process of good intentions and good people working together, Webster Groves is now home to a lasting tribute to its North Webster neighborhood. Representatives from the North Webster Neighborhood Coalition, the city's Arts Commission and Parks Department began a journey to create a permanent recognition in the Park. Working together, this group learned about art forms, researched sculptures, interviewed artists, and laughed and built friendships. In the beginning, no one could have imagined the impressive result that came from the group's commitment and passion. Today, a significant, 11 1/2-foot bronze sculpture with etched vignettes of the community's past, the work of well-known artist Preston Jackson, soars at a dominant corner in the city. This sculpture provides a recognition of this neighborhood for generations to come.

Wentzville - Public Hearing Engagement Initiative: Phase One

(Extra Large City Category: population more than 30,000)

In 2020, the City of Wentzville launched an initiative to improve awareness of and increase engagement in the City's public hearing process. The first phase of this initiative involved a complete redesign of their public hearing notices. The Communications Office worked closely with the Planning and Zoning Division to design new signs consisting of three key elements: specific letter-color combinations, public hearing details and a QR code. The letter-color combinations indicate what type of project is taking place on the property where the sign is posted. Each sign includes the project application number and public hearing details for that application. The signs' QR codes provide access to public hearing agendas and schedules. After launching their public education campaign, the City was able to reach roughly 18,300 residents (an estimated 73% of the target audience) with informational materials about the new notices. This data indicates that the first phase has been successful in the goal of increasing awareness. The new notices help residents recognize local developments, access more information and, thus, be more apt to provide public feedback. It is believed that these signs will be part of a larger solution to the issue of public engagement.

**Congratulations to the 2021 Innovation
Award Winners!**

City of Springfield

*(Extra Large City Category:
population more than 30,000)*
SGF Yields - Pedestrian Safety Campaign

City of Ozark

(Large City Category: population 15,000 -30,000)
Junior Police Academy

City of Branson

(Medium City Category: population 5,000 – 15, 000)
Embracing the Change

City of Warsaw

(Small City Category: population less than 5,000)
**Warsaw: Building on Success to Capitalize on the
Future**

City of Mexico

(Member's Choice Category)
Asphalt Recycle for Patching

**Thank you to all those municipalities
that submitted nominations
for this year's
Innovation Awards!**

It is truly appreciated!

Remember...

**if you have a great innovative
program or project that your
municipality has implemented, 2022
applications can be submitted
starting Dec. 1, 2021!**



Growing Our Communities Together