

MEDIA RELEASE

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PADUCAH RECEIVES KENTUCKY'S CULTURAL DISTRICT CERTIFICATION

Frankfort, KY – In a presentation at the state Capitol today, Paducah received the Kentucky Cultural District Certification award presented by First Lady Jane Beshear and Madeline Abramson, wife of Lt. Governor Jerry Abramson on behalf of the Kentucky Arts Council. The certification of Paducah and four other communities in Kentucky were selected by an independent panel of reviewers from a pool of 26 applicants.

The Cultural District Certification program, administered by the Kentucky Arts Council, is designed to encourage community engagement and partnerships that facilitate the stimulation and promotion of local cultural, economic, community, tourism and social assets.

Gayle Kaler, Paducah Mayor Pro-Tem, was on hand to receive the award on behalf of the City of Paducah. She stated, "This award shows the importance of keeping the history and culture of Paducah alive."

According to the Kentucky Arts Council, "Cultural Districts are established to encourage city and county governments to partner with a local community nonprofit or for profit organization, businesses, and individuals to enhance the quality of life for its citizens. Kentucky's program is designed to showcase each community's unique character and assets. The arts and areas with historic structures attract residents and tourists who also support adjacent businesses such as restaurants, lodging, retail and entertainment. These districts attract a diverse and well-educated workforce — a key incentive for new and relocating businesses. These districts contribute to the creativity and innovation of a community."

Lisa Thompson, Executive Director of PRA stated, "The Paducah Renaissance Alliance served as the catalyst for achieving the Cultural District Designation by spear-heading the application process and building partnerships among local arts and cultural organizations, city officials and area businesses. The large application took many hours of time, by a host of people, all working towards the future of Paducah and the community."

The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, creates opportunities for Kentuckians to value, participate in and benefit from the arts. Kentucky Arts Council funding is provided by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.