



NEWS RELEASE

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Market Square in Knoxville to Receive National Designation as Great Public Space in America

Knoxville, Tennessee – EMBARGOED for Publication or Use until 12:01 a.m. EDT Wednesday, October 4, 2017 – The American Planning Association (APA) recently named Knoxville’s Market Square as one of five Great Public Spaces on the organization’s annual [Great Places in America](#) list. Market Square will formally receive its national designation from the American Planning Association on Friday, October 6. An official announcement will be made at Market Square at 7:00 p.m., just before this week’s Movie on Market Square.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, APA’s Great Places in America launches National Community Planning Month and 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 2017 are places that are unique and exemplary in their amenities and infrastructure, cultural identity, and use of sustainable and innovative practices.

Located in the heart of downtown Knoxville, Market Square is a testament to the effectiveness of community-driven planning and how a diversity of uses and historic preservation can work together to revitalize an area. The Square is deeply rooted in the history of Knoxville and, despite a devastating fire and multiple economic downturns, continues to flourish today. The mix of these distinctive buildings with the activity taking place in the Square truly makes it Knoxville’s front yard.

To date, APA has designated 275 Great Places around the country. Knoxville’s Gay Street was also recognized as one of the Great Places in America by the American Planning Association. The downtown avenue was named to its top ten America’s Great Streets in 2012. To learn more about this year’s Great Places and previous designees, visit www.planning.org/greatplaces.

For more about National Community Planning Month taking place throughout October visit www.planning.org/ncpm.

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Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission

The Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) was established in 1956 by Knoxville and Knox County as the agency responsible for comprehensive county-wide planning and administration of zoning and land subdivision regulations and remains so today (except for the town of Farragut). Funding for MPC activities comes primarily from city and county appropriations and from federal grants for specific studies. The Commission prepares and adopts a general plan, reviews subdivision regulations and site plans, prepares and recommends zoning ordinances and maps to the Knox County Commission and Knoxville City Council, reviews proposed zoning amendments, and prepares a capital improvements plan for the City of Knoxville. For more information, visit our website: www.knoxmpc.org