

vested in the Main Street improvements. That brought increased business to the small city economy and also instilled community pride in the residents.

The Casino Star Theatre's owners said the MPNHA contribution came at a time when it absolutely made the difference between either moving forward with the restoration project, or not—possibly for good. Though relatively small in the overall scope, the MPNHA's help was pivotal.

The MPNHA is pleased to have made that kind of a difference — not just in Gunnison but in communities all along the more than 400 miles of routes that serve as the geographical "roots" of the MPNHA.

Recognition Of Success

The MPNHA and its leadership have been recognized on several occasions:

- In 2003, the National Association of Development Organizations gave the U.S. Heritage Highway 89 Alliance its Innovation Award for its "creative approach to regional planning and organization." The award recognized the consensus-building (i.e., partnership) efforts of the Heritage Highway 89 Alliance as a precursor to National Heritage Area designation.

- In 2011, a project championed by the MPNHA received the Rural Honors Award at the annual Utah Rural Summit. The Big Rock Candy Mountain project in the MPNHA's Sevier Valley district was recognized for improvement and development of a tourism resort and recreation facilities built around the scenic beauty and railroad and mining heritage of the district. A partnership of nine individuals and entities, public and private, fueled the effort. The award was given in recognition of those partnerships.

- In 2010, the Six-County Association of Governments gave Monte Bona its Regional Recognition Award for the development of the MPNHA. The citation credited the organization with contributing to economic growth and job creation in the six-county area. (Four counties in the regional association of governments — Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, and Wayne — are in the MPNHA).



Monte Bona, executive director of MPNHA, with Kaitlin Paxton, attendant in the Utah Days of '47 royalty, after Bona was named a Pioneer of Progress in 2015. The Days of '47 is a nonprofit organization based in Salt Lake City that sponsors an annual celebration of the day the Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. The organization gives several awards each year to modern "pioneers."

- In 2012, The Utah State Division of History bestowed its Outstanding Contribution Award on MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona in recognition of his outstanding efforts in preserving the history of Sanpete County.

- In 2012, Panguitch Main Street, a nonprofit organization and MPNHA partner, received the Heritage Award from the Utah Heritage Foundation, a statewide preservation organization. The Panguitch group was lauded for its success in preserving pioneer-era homes and commercial buildings on the town's Main Street.

- In 2013, Preservation Utah presented MPNHA Executive Director Monte Bona with its Heritage Award for "having a vision that utilizes historic preservation and (for) working tirelessly throughout Central Utah to save historic buildings."

- Wasatch Academy has received awards for three projects in partnership with the MPNHA, with a total value of \$3.9 million.

In 2014, the Wasatch Academy received a Heritage Award for Stabilization, Renovation or Rehabilitation, from the Utah Heritage Foundation, for its efforts