

For Immediate Release



Georgia Tourism Product Development Grant Awarded for Downtown Kingsland

New grant will provide financial support for Restoration of Kingsland's Historic Downtown Clock and Carillon

CITY OF KINGSLAND (3/6/2018) - The City of Kingsland and the Kingsland Downtown Development Authority announced today that it has been awarded a Georgia Tourism Product Development Grant to fund restoration and refurbishment of the Historic Downtown Clock and Carillon in downtown Kingsland. The grant awarded by the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is a new grant created to support the development of new tourism product. Work on the restoration and refurbishment began this morning and is estimated to be completed by Thursday, March 8, 2018.



“The Kingsland Downtown Development Authority (KDDA) is thrilled to have received this state grant for the restoration of the downtown clock. The KDDA Board of Directors voted unanimously to use the proceeds from the Catfish Festival to provide the matching funds to apply for this grant and to restore the clock to its former glory. We are all looking forward to hearing the carillon’s beautiful music playing throughout downtown Kingsland once again,” stated KDDA Board Chair Brandy Fournet.

Mayor Smith added, “This clock has been an icon in the downtown area for over 30 years. For decades, the clock – and its chimes – served as an oratory attraction and symbol for downtown patrons. The City of Kingsland is appreciative that the Georgia Department of Economic Development has chosen our city to invest and support.”

In an effort to further tourism product development within the state, Georgia Tourism offered this inaugural grant to communities who have participated in a Tourism Product Development Resource Team program. This program works to evaluate a community’s potential for tourism growth and development through innovative, unique experiences based on a community’s local culture and heritage. The Kingsland Convention & Visitors Bureau hosted a Resource Team in April 2017 and the state team returned this past October with their report of recommendations which can be found here: <http://www.marketgeorgia.org/resource/kingsland-tourism-product-development-report>

“One of the greatest needs in creating new tourism product is funding,” said Cindy Eidson, Director of Tourism Product Development with the Georgia Department of Economic Development. “By assisting these projects financially we have the opportunity to support the implantation of new product and programs to bring more visitors to a community.”

Kingsland is one of 11 communities who were awarded Tourism Product Development grant funding. This funding allows the local community to build new product resulting from the recommendations made by the Tourism Product Development Resource Team members or projects the community has developed as an expansion of the original resource team report.

For more information about the GDEcD grant award or the Tourism Product Development report, contact Tonya Harvey at (912) 729-5999 or by email at tharvey@KingslandGeorgia.com.

For more information about the Historic Clock refurbishment and project status, contact Paula Chamberlin at (912) 729-2848 or by email at pchamberlin@kingslandgeorgia.com.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state's sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, aligning workforce education and training with in-demand jobs, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. www.georgia.org

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