

MAIN STREET ND

MAIN STREET BEST PRACTICES: TUTTLE

Population: 79

Type of project(s): Historic Renovation, Mixed-Use, Downtown Revitalization, Public Participation

Project Description and Goals: Tuttle Rural Innovation Center is the result of a years-long effort to restore the Tuttle School, which closed in 2007. Their vision was to preserve the historic character of the school while providing workforce development and other community resources.



TRIC officially opened its doors in January of 2018 and is now a mixed-use facility that supports economic and workforce development throughout the region. It features a community gathering space, space for business incubation, and a venue for educational opportunities. By turning this building into a community gathering place with a commercial kitchen and gym, Tuttle is adding vibrancy to their town. Investing as much time and resources into creating a sports complex that is welcoming to all shows that community members take great pride in their town and strengthens their sense of identity. This facility is now an asset to surrounding communities and can potentially help attract and retain young families and a talented workforce.

How They Did It:

- The community had maintained the building for years and worked to bring in resources and develop a vision for the facility.
- The community organization took advantage of diverse funding streams to refurbish the school.
- They held community cafes to solicit input from community members and have worked with a wide variety of state, federal, and national partner organizations.



Tuttle was the winner of the 2018 Main Street Excellence Award!

This is a Best Practice Because:

- The Tuttle community has created a model that can be emulated in other communities across the state, integrating local food and economic development opportunities.
- The multi-use facility is an efficient use of space and infrastructure.
- By choosing to use existing infrastructure Tuttle is making fiscally-sound decisions.
- The historic character of the Tuttle School has been preserved, celebrating local heritage.
- Choosing to locate this asset on Tuttle's main street will allow the community to bike or walk to the space and adds vibrancy to the town center.
- This mixed-use building adds activity and vibrancy to the area.



Learn More:

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