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# City awarded for celebrating its history, heritage

January 29, 2014 | Jan Engoren jengoren@tribune.com

Boynton Beach has won the 2013 Florida Municipal Achievement Award from the Florida League of Cities for its efforts in creating educational opportunities and forums to teach, share and celebrate the city's history and heritage.

On Jan. 21, Pensacola Commissioner P.C. Wu, president of the Florida League of Cities, presented the award trophy to the city.



Pensacola Commissioner P.C. Wu, president of the Florida League of Cities, ... (submitted photo, EPG)

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In its fifth year, the goal of the Florida Municipal Achievement Awards program is to focus public attention on excellent, innovative projects that address a local need, promote active municipal participation by residents and improve environmental conditions.

"It is an honor to salute Warren Adams (the city's historic preservation planner) and the city of Boynton Beach with the coveted Florida Municipal Achievement Award for your outstanding Heritage Education Program," Wu said.

Adams took on his role two years ago and has created an historic preservation program that is recognized throughout the state as a model program within a municipality.

Eleanor Krusell, the city's communications manager, said, "We're very proud of Warren and his accomplishments. He's received many accolades this year, but this is a significant one, being recognized state-wide. This is pretty cool."

"The association was adamant that the submitted application was creative and surpassed other applicants," she said.

Adams spearheaded the city's initiative to create information boards with QR codes and a smart phone application highlighting 50 cultural sites within the city on two heritage trails.

"With Warren's idea of implementing Quick Response Codes and a smart phone app for people to learn about the city, it's impressive for a city our size to be on cutting edge of social media. Warren is very visionary," Krusell said.

As part of the state's commemoration of Juan Ponce de Leon's arrival to Florida in 1513, the program was themed, "History Happened Here: A Celebration of the Great History of Florida's Cities," and the League of Cities launched the "History Happened Here" campaign.

Boynton Beach was the top winner in the category of "Teaching Your City's History and Heritage."

Qr Codes

"This is good for the city because we're starting to showcase [Boynton Beach](#) and show there are a number of significant sites in the city," Adams said.

"Winning this award will publicize our efforts. The award comes at a great time. People are taking notice of [Boynton Beach](#) and this will encourage more people to visit the city and help the city move forward."

Both the information boards and the QR codes will take users to an online interactive map with narratives, historic images, video, and audio in English and Spanish and possibly Creole.

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Adams said he is also excited about his upcoming initiative: spotlighting former Leisureville artist and resident, Conrad Pickel, who died in 1994.

Pickel was a renowned artist who created more than 700 stained glass windows, many of which can still be found in [Boynton Beach](#).

He had a studio on Federal Highway next to the Woman's Club, called Gallery Fantasia, which is run by his son, Paul Pickel.

Adams is planning events for May, including an exhibit at the library, bus tours and a presentation about art and architecture by Paul Pickel.

In addition to the trophy, the city will be spotlighted in the special Florida League of Cities "Best Practices" publication, featured in the league's award-winning publication, "Quality Cities", and be on the league's website and Facebook page.

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