



American Planning Association  
**Texas Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Contact* Doug McDonald  
*Telephone* 214-801-7792  
*Email* [texasapa@gmail.com](mailto:texasapa@gmail.com)  
*Website* [www.greatplacesintexas.com](http://www.greatplacesintexas.com)

## NEWS RELEASE

### Texas Chapter of American Planning Association Designates Downtown Roanoke's Oak Street as a Great Place in Texas

Dallas, Texas, March 31, 2020— The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association announced today that Oak Street in Downtown Roanoke, Texas has been designated a Great Texas Street by the state chapter's Great Places in Texas program. Great Places in Texas exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value. This year marks the fourth year of the Great Places in Texas program, which is modeled from the American Planning Association's ongoing [Great Places in America](#) program.

*“A Great Street takes more than just a nice streetscape—it takes long-term, consistent dedication to a vision. Roanoke's Oak Street embodies this, employing a focus on the downtown corridor as a smart investment in the City's future not just economically, but culturally. It sought to create the environment of a thriving street at the cultural center of place through smart infrastructure investment, public facilities focus and, perhaps most importantly, putting in place a regulatory environment that promotes organic, incremental investment by property owners much like what occurred at the City's founding. Now home to a thriving foodie scene, Oak Street has become not just a cultural destination for the immediate community, but a destination within the region for its authenticity.”*

- Chance Sparks, AICP, APA-Texas Chapter President

Through Great Places in Texas, the Texas Chapter of APA recognizes unique and authentic characteristics found in three essential components of all communities — streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces. APA Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live every day, places that are enjoyable, safe, and desirable. Such places are defined by many characteristics, including architectural features, accessibility, functionality, and community involvement.

Chet Garner, creator, producer, writer, and editor and host of the 9-time Lone Star Emmy Award winning “[The Daytripper](#)” is the spokesperson for the program. The five other Great Places in Texas designees for 2020 are:

- Bishop Arts District – Dallas, Texas
- Downtown Harlingen – Harlingen, Texas
- Southlake Town Square – Southlake, Texas
- Santa Fe Plaza and Market Trail – Temple, Texas
- Travis Park, San Antonio, Texas

Announcements will be made throughout the day on the Texas Chapter’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages. For more information about the 2020 Great Places in Texas, as well as a list of the Great Places in America designees located in the state, visit [www.greatplacesintexas.com](http://www.greatplacesintexas.com).

*The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning -- physical, economic, and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. APA has offices in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Ill, and Shanghai, China. For more information, visit its website at [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org).*

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For questions, please contact Cody Petree, Assistant City Manager with the City of Roanoke at [cpetree@roanoketexas.com](mailto:cpetree@roanoketexas.com) or Doug McDonald with the American Planning Association – Texas Chapter at 214-801-7792 or [texasapa@gmail.com](mailto:texasapa@gmail.com).