



**For Immediate Release**

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**Stella Hotel and Ballroom Selected as Finalist for Prominent Economic Development Award**

**Madison, WI** – The Stella Hotel and Ballroom in Kenosha, WI has been selected as a finalist for the Wisconsin Economic Development Association’s (WEDA) Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse award. The award is part of the Community and Economic Development Awards (CEDA) program established by WEDA to recognize businesses, projects and organizations that are making significant contributions to Wisconsin’s economy.

The Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse award honors innovative real estate redevelopment projects that have had a positive impact on a community’s economy, including job growth and increased tax base.

The restoration and expansion of the historic Heritage House in Kenosha has greatly contributed to the continued revitalization of the downtown area and has met a huge need for additional hotel and event space in the area to support increased business and tourism. The redevelopment project has transformed the Heritage House, used over the last century as an Elks Club and banquet facility, into the new 80-room boutique-style Stella Hotel and Ballroom. The \$26 million hotel project, which includes a 275-person historic ballroom, created 388 construction jobs and 76 permanent jobs. The project was financed with private investment secured by local tax increment financing and a mix of state and federal tax credits.

The Stella Hotel project is among 17 finalists selected for the 2019 CEDA Awards. There are two to three finalists in the following six award categories: Business Retention & Expansion; Economic Development Initiative; Economic Driver; Private-Public Partnership; Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse; and Talent Development. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties Association and WEDC have partnered with WEDA to present the CEDA Awards program.

Finalists have been screened by an impartial panel of WEDA members and partners, and winners will be unveiled at a ceremony on September 11, 2019, at The Edgewater Hotel in Madison. The event is open to the public. For more information on the CEDA Awards, please visit [weda.org/events/awards/](http://weda.org/events/awards/).

**About WEDA:**

For over 40 years, WEDA has been dedicated to expanding Wisconsin’s economy through advocacy, education and providing resources to promote economic growth. WEDA is a statewide trade association comprised of economic development professionals, businesses and organizations who strive to make Wisconsin a better place to live, work and do business through economic development. For more information, visit our website at [www.weda.org](http://www.weda.org).

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