

Revitalized

Project leaders honored for Sunday Market Square renovations

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ST. CROIX — Architect William Taylor took on the challenge of rescuing Sunday Market Square, also known as "Time Square," in Christiansted, and in result, was awarded a merit award for "Excellence in Highway Design" for the best historic preservation project Monday afternoon at the VI Department of Public Works.

Division Administrator Roberto Fonseca-Martinez and Division Engineer Melissa Ridenour, both representatives of the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, a division of the Federal Highway Administration, were present at the awards ceremony. They said that annually the division spends \$35 to \$38 billion for the purpose of providing better transportation for the states east of Mississippi to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

"This project served for good transportation and to make the community better," said Ridenour. "It wasn't a huge project, but it made a difference at that location."

In the past when Taylor worked with the Tri-Island Economic Development Corporation, also called TIED who owned many of the buildings lining the square, he created a design for what he hoped the new Christiansted square could look like. When Taylor became employed with the St. Croix Foundation he pushed the idea to have Time Square revitalized and the Federal Highway Administration provided funding.

Taylor said a painting drawn in 1830 by St. Thomas native Camille Pissarro was recovered and used as a vital tool in the restoration of the town, specifically to accurately locate the square's well and drainage culvert headwall.

Taylor and Time Square were



William Taylor, planner and architect for the Sunday Market Square project, receives an Award of Merit for Historic Preservation from Melissa Ridenour, division engineer with the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, during a presentation at the VI Department of Public Works on Monday.

featured in an October 2006 issue of Clem Labine's Traditional Building and it was said that the deterioration of Sunday Market Square began with the falling of nearly 200 trees so that local power companies could install poles and lines. Taylor later tells the publication that his design

was a deliberate attempt to incorporate vehicular and pedestrian use back into market square.

On Monday afternoon Public Works' Commissioner Darryl Smalls and Ridenour were presented awards from Fonseca-Martinez.

Ridenour then presented an

award to Taylor and Deborah Belliveau, manager of Tip Top Construction, who is said to have the best track record on island and the construction company for restoration projects. With the new look, the group says they hope entrepreneurship increases in town.

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