



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 31, 2007**

**CONTACT:**  
Toby Rittner  
Executive Director  
(216) 920-3072  
[trittner@cdfa.net](mailto:trittner@cdfa.net)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Gahanna, Ohio Wins CDFA 2007 Practitioner's Showcase: Best TIF Program Award**

**Miami, FL** – The City of Gahanna, Ohio was selected as the Best TIF Program in the country at the recent Council of Development Finance Agencies' Annual Development Finance Summit in Miami, Florida on May 23, 2007. The three day Summit featured dozens of sessions and speakers and culminated with the 2007 Practitioner's Showcase: Best TIF Program competition to highlight and honor the community with the best Tax Increment Finance Program.

This year was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the showcase competition with CDFA looking for excellence, efficiency and expertise in creating critical mass, marketing Tax Increment Finance (TIF) programs, executing projects and raising the awareness of this important economic development finance tool. Over the past several years, TIF has emerged as the leading economic development finance instrument in the country and as its use has grown, so has the creativity and implementation increased tenfold.



CDFA Board Member Joe Branca (left) and Board President Frances Walton (far right) presents Gahanna Mayor Rebecca Stinchcomb and Development Director Sadicka White with 2007 Practitioner's Showcase: Best TIF Program award.

The Showcase finalists included the City of Gahanna, City of Kansas City, City of San Antonio and Washington, DC. These finalists were selected from a pool of applicants from across the country. During the Showcase event, each finalist was given 20 minutes to explain their program and provide details on why their city deserved to be recognized as the Best TIF Program in the country. The winning community was then selected by a live audience vote with nearly 200 attendees casting ballots.

The City of Gahanna, Ohio was selected as the CDFA's Practitioner's Showcase: Best TIF Program award winner. Gahanna is home to approximately 33,000 residents and is located on the northeast side of Columbus, Ohio. Sadicka White, Gahanna's Director of the Development Department presented the city's story, and inspired the audience through her tenacity and drive, which helped bring the city's Creekside development project to life. Gahanna Mayor Rebecca Stinchcomb attended the showcase to help present the Gahanna program and accept the award on behalf of the city. The City of Gahanna was presented a plaque by CDFA Board of Directors President, Frances Walton, Board Member, Joe Branca and CDFA Executive Director, Toby Rittner.

"CDFA is pleased to award the City of Gahanna with the 2007 Practitioner's Showcase: Best TIF Program award for their recognition as the best TIF program in the country. Out of dozens of great submissions and an excellent showcase, Gahanna has proven that TIF can and is being used to spur redevelopment, growth and investment in communities of all sizes. Congratulations to the City of Gahanna and all of the finalist for this significant achievement" said Toby Rittner, CDFA's Executive Director.

*CDFA is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation's leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing over 200 public, private and non-profit development organizations.*

###