



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Artesia, CA National America in Bloom Awards Results Announced**

(COLUMBUS, OH): Honors for the prestigious 2012 America in Bloom (AIB) national awards program were announced at the annual awards held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on September 22.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom participation is helping participating towns achieve their potential. The accomplishments and progress shown by this year's towns and cities is remarkable."

Artesia, CA was judged on six criteria: overall impression, community involvement, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscape, and floral displays, across four sectors: municipal, residential, commercial, and community involvement.

Specially trained judges visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Additional competitors in this category were Arroyo Grande, CA; Madisonville, KY; Holliston, MA; and Washington, MO.

Artesia competed in the population category of 13,001 - 25,000, receiving a four bloom rating, a special mention for its efforts in landscaped areas, and a special award for the most effective use of bold foliage.

The judges, Evelyn Alemanni and Jack Clasen, commented, " Congratulations to Artesia on your second year of participation in the America in Bloom national awards program. We applaud you on the remarkable progress you have made and are pleased to award Artesia a four bloom rating.

Successful completion of projects such as the attractive welcoming medians on Pioneer Blvd, the creation of a fire station museum, the development of a water conservation demonstration garden at city hall and the Artesia library, and the Niemes School nature center, demonstrates that the city has the vision, leadership, and impetus to keep moving forward on positive projects that make a difference to all of the people who are so proud to call Artesia home."

Registrations for the 2013 national awards program can be submitted until February 28, 2013.

*America in Bloom is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements.*

*America in Bloom provides educational programs, resources, and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.*

For more information, visit [www.americainbloom.org](http://www.americainbloom.org).

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