

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



3RD QUARTER 2020
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

DOWNTOWN AKRON PANDEMIC RESPONSE

DAP Distributes \$100,000 in Covid-19 Recovery Grants

In August 2020, Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) announced a new grant designed to support for-profit businesses located in the 42-block Special Improvement District in downtown Akron. The Downtown Akron COVID-19 Recovery Grant was made possible by the Akron/Summit County COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund, and it was created to provide assistance to retail, personal service, entertainment and restaurant businesses in the downtown Special Improvement District.

After a month-long process of accepting grant applicants, DAP worked with a multidisciplinary team of professionals including local government, law, nonprofit, philanthropy and private sector businesses to design the blind selection and award process. Once the list of awardees was determined, DAP notified all of the businesses that applied, regardless of whether or not they were chosen to receive a grant. In all, DAP awarded 72 businesses grant funds by September 18, 2020.

Recovery Grant Stories

Sapreea English, owner of Hair Geek Studio, opened her doors downtown in June of 2017 with help from DAP's Pop Up Retail program-now Start Downtown-supported by Burton D. Morgan Foundation. Over the past three years, her passion for Akron has shone beyond her efforts in serving clients in the salon. As a community organizer for school backpack giveaways, by collecting prom gowns for students and helping find child care for single parents.

"I worked triply hard to ensure that I remained open and continued to be the example that I set out to be! It was important to be downtown to be in the center of all demographics.

Not only am I still able to support the inner city where I grew up, but my business adds to its essence. I've always wanted to see my city grow and it's important to me to be a part of that growth in the right direction," said English.

Charlie Somtrakool has operated Cilantro Thai and Sushi near the corner of Main and Exchange Streets for more than ten years. Throughout the pandemic, Somtrakool has deployed numerous strategies-from delivery and curbside service, to distanced seating and constant cleaning-to keep his team employed and able to provide for their families. Somtrakool was born in the United States but grew up in Thailand. He came back to the United States for

Because minority-owned and retail, personal service, entertainment and restaurant businesses have been significantly challenged throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the grant prioritized assistance to minority entrepreneurs and storefront/retail businesses.

"While we're very glad to get this grant money into businesses downtown, it's no substitute for the revenue brought in by customers. We all can play a part in helping to make sure our small businesses remain when COVID-19 is a distant memory. You can support businesses by purchasing gift cards, frequenting storefronts while wearing your mask and practicing safe distancing, using carry out as opposed to delivery when possible, and ordering online," Graham said. "Every effort makes a difference."

The Akron/Summit County COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund was created through a partnership of United Way of Summit County, the City of Akron, the County of Summit, Akron Public Schools, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Summit County Public Health and Job & Family Services.

education and found his passion for entrepreneurship and hospitality. He has built the business from the ground up with patience, grit and commitment to service.

Michael Martell and Claudia Zeber-Martell of Zeber-Martell Gallery and Clay Studio have operated for almost 35 years.



The couple slowly built their Northside business from a small space tucked away in the 43 Furnace building to a beautiful, street-facing gallery of locally and nationally-crafted art, jewelry and ceramics. No strangers to resilience and the entrepreneurial spirit, the ceramicist/painter duo worked for years driving all over the

country to sell their work in the show circuit. It wasn't until 2011 that they were able to invest in building out their new space and operate as a storefront.

"These are definitely challenging times," said Zeber-Martell. "People naturally still want to enjoy beautiful things in their lives, even when their budgets are smaller. We've been able to customize the products we create to meet our customers where they are. Our sales are definitely down, but we are staying open, and we are keeping our staff on the payroll. We are just really grateful to be able to do this work, and to have our community support us."

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENTS

Take a Load Off, New Public Seating and Amenities

In September 2020, DAP celebrated the launch of two new outdoor seating areas to enhance the public space of the Northside Green. The furniture consists of modular seating, solar-powered lighting and pergola-like overhead elements, creating a beautiful, durable and functional system of public seating. The new seating was fabricated by Dominic Falcione of Krunchworks Design, who also created the parklet on North High St., (outside of Akron Coffee Roasters, Chill Artisan Ice-Cream, High St. Hop House and the Nightlight Theatre).

The addition of the outdoor furniture to the Northside Green completes a series of updates and improvements to transform an otherwise inert space between two rows of parking spaces into an inviting oasis for visitors, shoppers and people enjoying lunch or music outdoors.

DAP President and CEO Suzie Graham said, "Each component of downtown's public space is an invitation to all people to visit downtown, see themselves here and know that they are welcome and needed for the city to be a great place to live."



The Northside Green's public seating was made possible through support from the Knight Foundation and the city of Akron. [Find out more on downtownakron.com](https://downtownakron.com)

A New Outlet for the Akron Sound

In August 2020, DAP introduced an innovative portable busking station, created by EarthQuaker Devices and Puzzle Creative Solutions, which can be used by anyone in the Northside Green for impromptu outdoor music performances.

DAP Director of Engagement and Events Kelli Fetter said, "The busking station is a custom-made cabinet on wheels with a stool, small chalkboard sign and a rechargeable, battery-powered

amplifier, complete with four EarthQuaker Devices effects pedals. We're actively seeking cool names for the station on DAP's social media channels."

To borrow the busking station, performers should visit the shared checkout desk in the entrance area of the Northside Marketplace. The station is available for use in the Northside Green only, and can be checked out Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Find out more on downtownakron.com](https://downtownakron.com)



DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENTS



Downtown Beautification

In August 2020, DAP and volunteers from Door #2 Studio repainted Lock 2, a beautiful pocket park open to all. Located along the historic Ohio & Erie Canal, Lock 2 is one of 19 locks once used to move canal boats. It's on the Towpath Trail in between Akron Children's Hospital and Canal Park Stadium and is a great place to enjoy lunch outdoors, or just spend a quiet moment outside.

The revitalization of Lock 2 was completed in 2017 by Akron Civic Commons in partnership with Hazel Tree Design Studio.

Earlier this summer, DAP and a group of volunteers repainted the mural at the Northside Green—created in 2018 by Akron artist and owner of Totally Tangled Creations, April Nicholson-Couch. The artist returned in May 2020 to update the design by adding monarch butterfly motifs. DAP worked with Summit Metro Parks and Keep Akron Beautiful to add pollinator-friendly plantings to the flowerbeds and plant containers to attract migrating monarchs and other pollinators.

Throughout summer 2020, DAP and a team of ambassadors worked to plant and maintain many downtown plant containers. Beautification is an important aspect of DAP's mission to build and promote a vibrant, valuable downtown—from plantings to creating/activating public spaces for all to enjoy, and more. DAP's ongoing beautification efforts have been supported by the Corbin Foundation.

Concerts in the Commons

The *Physically distanced. Socially connected. Healthy downtown.* campaign was expanded in August to include Concerts in the Commons, a live music series every Monday from 6 to 7 pm featuring a different local artist performing in a different public space downtown each week. Through a partnership with Live at AV Club, the concerts were live-streamed to DAP's Facebook page, and passersby in the public spaces were encouraged to stay and enjoy the performances, while wearing masks and physically distancing.

DAP Director of Engagement and Events Kelli Fetter said, "Concerts in the Commons grew from our desire to activate the great places to spend time in downtown. With so many artists mastering ways to live stream performances, it was only natural to make the concerts accessible virtually as well as in person."

Performers have ranged from rock and roll, to R&B, classical guitar and jazz. The concerts have been held throughout downtown, in the Northside Green, Lock 4, beneath the marquee at the Akron Civic Theatre, in the AV Club studio on days when the weather was uncooperative and elsewhere.

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Knight Foundation Unveils \$8 Million in Akron Grants

By Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Sept. 22, 2020

The Knight Foundation is making some big investments in Akron's public spaces with four grants, which the foundation said are purposefully large so they have the greatest impact.

The Knight Foundation announced Tuesday, Sept. 22, that it's providing \$8 million in funding to Summit Lake Park, the Downtown Akron Partnership, Lock 3 park and the John S. Knight House.

Summit Lake Park is receiving the largest grant: \$4 million that the foundation is putting up to help redevelop the area around Akron's largest lake. Summit Lake is a neighborhood that advocates, including Knight Foundation Akron program director Kyle Kutuchief, say has been overlooked for too long but is now targeted for rebirth....

The Knight Foundation is also granting \$2 million to redesign and rebuild Lock 3, the prime gathering and events spot on South Main Street in the heart of downtown Akron. Kutuchief said the Ohio & Erie Canalway will receive the grant and has agreed to use it to partner with the city on Lock 3's development. The Canalway already is involved with the site because it's attached to the Towpath



Trail, he said. The city of Akron owns Lock 3, but Knight Foundation grants can only go to nonprofits like Canalway, Kutuchief explained....

To further bolster downtown, the foundation is giving \$1.35 million to support the Downtown Akron Partnership, a coalition of property owners, business leaders and public officials that oversees the downtown district. DAP will use the money toward its mission of building a clean, safe and vibrant downtown, the Knight Foundation said in the release. DAP also will use a portion of the money to pay for consulting work to help with its mission, the release said.

[Click here to read the whole article on *crainscleveland.com*](https://www.craincleveland.com/story/news/local/akron/2020/09/22/knight-foundation-akron-grants/3321117002/)

City of Akron Establishes a Public Art Program

By Sue Walton, Crain's Cleveland Business, Jun. 29, 2020



"Just like healthy public spaces, access to arts and culture is a fundamental right for those living in an equitable and free society," Horrigan said in a statement. "The task of the Akron Cultural Plan was to capture the current state of our arts and culture landscape and imagine its future, by engaging the community members who live, work, and create in Akron. Through this deeply collaborative process, we learned that many of our residents and artists feel disconnected from public art and that was something we knew had to change."

The city's policies would include the creation of the Public Arts Commission, which would act as an advisory group to the mayor and city and whose members would be reflective of the Akron community, the release said. According to the cultural plan, commission members would be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by city council. Members would serve two-year, staggered terms.

The proposed policies also include an equitable process to select artists for public art projects, and details about maintenance and deaccession of public art, the release said.

The policies also outline funding through a "Percent for Art TIF Share," which would steer 1% of the city's net incremental financing revenue to public art. The release said it would not be a new tax to residents.

[Click here to read the story on *crainscleveland.com*](https://www.craincleveland.com/story/news/local/akron/2020/06/29/akron-public-art-program/3241117002/)

[Click here to read about the Public Art Plan's passage by Akron City Council on July 8, 2020](https://www.craincleveland.com/story/news/local/akron/2020/07/08/akron-city-council-public-art-plan/3261117002/)

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



DAP Receives \$1.35M from Knight's Akron Grants

"This grant will help drive the next evolution of DAP, allowing us to move into an enhanced public space management role. Some of that evolution is going to come in the form of more self-sustainable, revenue-building programming, and developing stronger connections between storefronts and public spaces so that visitors come for one reason, but stay for a second or even a third reason," DAP President and CEO Suzie Graham said.

Since 2017, DAP has used funds from previous Knight Foundation grants to make strategic investments in public spaces across downtown Akron to drive private investment, develop a more walkable neighborhood, improve perceptions of safety, attract talent, maintain a high quality of life and build a sense of place.

[Click here to read the release on downtownakron.com](#)

Civic Theatre to Get Murals

By Kerry Clawson, ABJ, Sept. 17, 2020

The transformation at the Akron Civic Theatre downtown is about to boldly move outside as mural artists begin creating large-scale works on the huge north and south walls of the historic theater.

Internationally recognized artists commissioned by the Civic to create installations include El Mac (Miles MacGregor) and Aiseborn of Los Angeles, who arrived in Akron Wednesday night and will be using the exterior wall overlooking Lock 4 as their canvas for the next six weeks.

About 15 boxes of paint as well as lifts await the muralists, whose work will bring them high above Lock 4 to the exterior Civic wall facing West Bowery Street.

Their mural is part of a \$400,000 allocation for public art as part of the Civic's Staging the Future capital project, including a major gift from Rick and Alita Rogers. Other aspects of the public art project will be a mural by Louise "Ouizi" Jones on a huge exterior wall overlooking Lock 3 and a glass mosaic donor wall along Main Street by Rochester, New York, artist Nancy Gong. Finally, the Civic also will create an "art park" around the building that will feature as many as 10 works by local and regional artists.

These artists are so renowned, said associate director Val Renner, their murals are expected to become destinations that draw people to downtown Akron. El Mac's murals are all over the world, including in the Prada showroom in Milan, where his work was commissioned in 2013 for the 2014 spring/summer women's fashion show.

[Click here to read the full story on Ohio.com](#)

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Akronite App Has Launched

By DAP Staff, Sept. 2020

The Akronite App launched on August 10, 2020 to help boost economic recovery in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Akronite is a comprehensive city-centered software platform to increase civic and community engagement, raise up female and minority-owned businesses, and help residents connect with local retailers.

Mayor Dan Horrigan and his Office of Integrated Development worked with Colu to create a customized Akronite app designed to propel the resurgence of Akron's small business community. The app gives retailers marketing tools to connect them with residents while incentivizing Akronites to shop locally by rewarding them with specialized blimps that are redeemable at participating Akron businesses.

By September 2020, the app had been downloaded 2,500 times and 500 people linked their credit cards to it. The city distributed more than 8,000 bonus blimps to people who downloaded the app and more than 3,300 to users who linked their cards to the app.

Spin Dockless Scooters Are Downtown's Newest Way to Get Around

By DAP Staff, Sept. 2020

The City of Akron, through a partnership with dockless scooter-share company, Spin, has placed hundreds of the electric scooters in designated areas on the University of Akron campus and throughout downtown.

Scooter riders must follow the same traffic rules as bicycles. They should be ridden in the bike lanes or with the flow of traffic if there is no bike lane. Riders should not operate the scooters on sidewalks unless they are parking. Scooter riders are encouraged to wear a bike helmet and are required to follow all street signs, signals and traffic laws.

Scooters cost \$1 to unlock and 29 to 39 cents per minute to ride, using the Spin app. There are also options for riders without smart phones or credit cards.

The partnership with Spin does not cost the city or University anything. All fees are paid directly by users and Spin covers 100% of equipment and operational expenses. The scooters will be maintained by Spin, including nightly cleaning/disinfecting, charging, and all required maintenance. Downtown Akron Partnership ambassadors are available to assist with basic questions regarding the use of the scooters.



Residents can use the Akronite to discover exciting and sustainable ways to participate in civic life and COVID-safe community activities. They'll also have the opportunity to like and share City Stories that reveal the vibrant and engaging narratives happening every day in Akron.

To learn more about Akronite, [check out this video](#) produced by Pratt Entertainment Group.



DAP intern Payton Burkhammer has been working on a how-to video for scooter use. Look for it on DAP's social media in the coming days. Upcoming videos will include:

- How to use the DORA
- How to use the Main St. roundabout
- How to use the cycle track

[Find out more about Spin scooters in Akron](#)

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Akron Children's, Other Area Hospitals Get Creative to Help Employees Work Smart While Their Kids Take Classes Online

By Evan McDonald, Cleveland.com, Sept. 6, 2020

When Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered schools to close earlier this year because of the coronavirus, Akron Children's Hospital was among scores of workplaces scrambling to adjust to having employees with children taking classes from home.

The hospital navigated the stressful situation, but administrators knew they needed a plan when the new school year began and classes remained remote. In addition to offering flexible hours, they decided to raise money for a fund where employees could apply for money to help them work remotely as their children took classes from home.

The resulting fund offers employees up to \$1,000 for tutoring; babysitting; programs like one at the YMCA that offers supervision for children taking classes online; or technology upgrades to help them with online work and school. It's one of several initiatives that local hospitals are offering to help employees with children juggle the responsibilities of work, parenting and overseeing their children's education this fall.

"We're a pediatric hospital. We take care of kids. And that means we have to take care of our employees who have kids," said Rhonda Larimore, the hospital's chief human resources officer.

[Click here to read the full story on Cleveland.com](#)

Housing Construction Is Booming in Akron

By Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business Jul. 22, 2020

The year before Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan took office, there were about 14 homes built in the city. In the four years since, there have been more than 1,200 new residential units built or announced, the city reports....

[Jason] Segedy went through a laundry list of new housing projects in Akron. Some of the bigger ones are well known, such as the Bowery District and Law Building conversions downtown, which together represent more than \$70 million in investment and about 200 new apartments. The Bowery already has rented many of its units, and the Law Building expects to open at the end of the year.

[Click here to read the full story on crainscleveland.com](#)



VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Akron Nonprofit Organizations and Knight Arts Challenge Winners Receive Grants from GAR Foundation

By Dina Younis, GAR Foundation, Aug. 19, 2020

GAR Foundation awarded \$928,000 in grants to Akron nonprofit organizations at its August grant distribution meeting. This round of funding included matching grants for 10 Knight Arts Challenge projects.

Several community and place-based organizations received funding, including Downtown Akron Partnership, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance, and LINKS Community & Family Services. Downtown Akron Partnership received \$75,000, Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance received \$20,000, and LINKS Community & Family Services received \$25,000 for operating support.

“From economic development to basic needs, these organizations have gone above and beyond to provide holistic support and resources at the neighborhood level during a time of crisis,” said Christine Mayer, president of GAR Foundation. “We continue to be impressed and inspired

by the work they are doing to provide critical support to individuals, businesses, and families in Akron.”

[Click here to read the full story on garfoundation.com](#)



Mizz ShakeSum Puts the Fun in Functional Beverages in Akron, Ohio

By Tara Fitzpatrick, restaurant-hospitality.com, Aug. 28, 2020

Taylor McKinnie started her healthy beverage business Mizz ShakeSum in her hometown of Akron, Ohio while she was working as a freelance personal trainer. Helping people reach their fitness goals gradually morphed into recommending protein shakes, juices and nutrients from fresh fruits and veggies, plus lesser known functional ingredients.

“In between doing personal training, I worked at a juice bar and I just kind of fell in love with the process,” McKinnie said. “I was into health and supplements for drinks, but then I discovered all these ingredients like spirulina and bee pollen ... I discovered I can make them taste really good and make them more fun.”

Long before McKinnie became a personal trainer and advocate of healthy eating, she was a child growing up with some not-great eating habits. She recalls, “When I was a kid, I would have candy and cookies for breakfast ... I got really unhealthy and really unhappy, so in high school I started making changes.”

[Click here to read the full story on restaurant-hospitality.com](#)



VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Akron Student Housing Complex 22 Exchange Sells for \$12.5 Million, Gets New Mission and Maybe a Grocer

By Jim Mackinnon, Akron Beacon Journal, Sept. 24, 2020

The college student housing complex 22 Exchange in downtown Akron has a new owner and will soon be repurposed as a conventional apartment complex aimed largely at young professionals.

The owner, Alabama-based Capstone Real Estate Investments, also is aggressively pursuing a grocer to occupy street-level retail space, said the firm's principal, Christopher Mouron.

Capstone Real Estate Investments recently bought the 142-unit complex for \$12.5 million from Rialto Capital Management, according to a news release from real estate management company Colliers International, which brokered the deal.

Interior renovations to change floor plans will begin in the first quarter of 2021 and will be done in three phases spread over 14 to 16 months, Mouron said. He declined to say how much the renovations are expected to cost. The new rents will be at "an attractive price point," he said.

[Click here to read the full story on ohio.com](#)

3rd Quarter Residential Outreach

772

**DAP WELCOME BAGS
DISTRIBUTED TO RESIDENTS IN
THE BOWERY, 22 EXCHANGE,
401 LOFTS, THE DEPOT, CANAL
SQUARE AND NORTHSIDE LOFTS**



New Businesses

Evelyn's Coffee and Banh Mi
11 E. Exchange St. | evelynscoffee.com

Goods Studio
388 S. Main St. | goods-here.co

PigOut Pizza
20 E. Exchange St. | pigoutpizza.com

Business Outreach

DAP's Business Outreach Activity includes initiating regular contact with existing downtown businesses and reaching out to and serving the needs of prospective downtown businesses. Business Outreach is an important component of DAP's mission allowing DAP to remain attuned to the needs of downtown businesses by supporting them with resources, site selection assistance, promotion and information and advocacy services in the district.

Q3 - 2020	CONTACTS MADE*	CONTACT GOAL
RETAIL OUTREACH	126	75
BUSINESS OUTREACH	92	28
RETAIL AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS**	26	25
SITE SELECTION	10 SEARCHES	4 SHOWINGS

* refers to the number of unique visits/contacts initiated by DAP per quarter

** Refers to the number of requests for DAP's assistance in locating space for business

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

DAP promotes news about downtown progress, businesses, institutions and organizations, downtown life and the downtown community in numerous ways. The most readily measurable outlets for promotion and advocacy are digital, through the DAP website, social media and email newsletter. Below are selected metrics related to these communications.

SOCIAL MEDIA	Q1 - 2020	Q2 - 2020	Q3 - 2020	WEBSITE TRAFFIC	Q3 - 2020	YTD	EMAIL NEWSLETTER	Q3 - 2019	Q3 - 2020
FACEBOOK	7,459	7,580	7,740	USERS	35,999	110,349	NUMBER PUBLISHED	21	18
TWITTER	9,069	9,092	9,218	SESSIONS	42,826	135,210	SENDS	85,628	78,757
INSTAGRAM	4,338	4,448	4,844	PAGE VIEWS	84,011	268,807	OPENS	16,450	16,146
LINKEDIN	1,236	1,287	1,312				CLICKS	2,282	1,503
							SUBSCRIBERS	—	16,508

Stay connected to the latest information on downtown Akron, subscribe to Do Downtown, our biweekly email newsletter at downtownakron.com/news/subscribe, and follow us on social media @DowntownAkronPartnership

CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

DAP Ambassador Stats Jul. 1 - Sept. 30, 2020

14,415
TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

29
MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

55
GRAFFITI REMOVED

97
PARKING ASSISTANCE

597
BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

793
BUS STOPS CLEANED

727
SAFETY ESCORTS

5,303
HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

DOWNTOWN AKRON COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Looking for office or storefront commercial space? Downtown Akron Partnership can help you search for available locations within our 42-block Special Improvement District and arrange for tours. This is a free and confidential Site Selection service provided by our organization.

Downtown Akron is the heart of business and government in Summit County. Whether you are looking to locate a new business, relocate an existing business or open a satellite office, downtown Akron is the place to be. With a wide-range of retail and office space, downtown offers beautifully renovated historic buildings as well as newer, state-of-the-art space.

Visit downtownakron.com/do-business to view the ways in which DAP can help you relocate or start your business in downtown.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The DAP website also highlights available job opportunities within the Special Improvement District. Whether it's an office job or service position, full or part time, we want this page to become a go-to source for those interested in working downtown.

TO UPDATE YOUR COMPANY PROFILE, PROVIDE A PHOTO OR TO LIST A JOB OPENING, PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@DOWNTOWNAKRON.COM](mailto:info@downtownakron.com).

QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETINGS

Quarterly meetings for downtown stakeholders are held the second Thursday of the month. RSVP at www.downtownakron.com/district

Canal District: Nov. 12, 2020 & Feb. 11, 2021 2 p.m. | This meeting will be digital. Contact DAP for meeting information.

Northside District: Dec. 10, 2020 1 p.m. | This meeting will be digital. Contact DAP for meeting information.

Historic Arts District: Jan. 14, 2021 10 a.m. | This meeting will be digital. Contact DAP for meeting information.

DFA WELCOMES NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OFFICER

Development Finance Authority of Summit County Press Release, Jul. 30, 2020

Development Finance Authority of Summit County is pleased to announce and welcome Kyle Julien to the new position of Community Development Program Officer. Kyle was selected from a number of very strong candidates based on his extensive experience in real estate, project management, finance, community development, and neighborhood engagement. [Read the entire release here.](#)

AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR NAMED TO OSBA BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Akron Bar News and Events, Aug. 3, 2020

Akron Municipal Court Administrator Montrella S. Jackson was recently named to the Ohio State Bar Association (OSBA) Board of Governors as an at-large representative. Her term began July 1, 2020 and runs through June 30, 2023. Jackson was appointed by incoming OSBA President and local Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio. [Read the full story on akronbar.org](#)

AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE RON CABLE TO RECEIVE AWARD FROM THE FINAL FAREWELL PROJECT



Akron Municipal Court, Aug. 13, 2020

It was announced earlier this week that Akron Municipal Court Judge Ron Cable has been named a 2020 Kitty Burgett Celebration of Life Honoree, an award presented by The Final Farewell Project.

Judge Cable was chosen for this award specifically because of his work to combat human trafficking and his support of the LGBTQ community. [Read the full story on akronmunicipalcourt.org](#)

CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD POLAR EXPRESS RIDE NAMED 1 OF O MAGAZINE'S 13 BEST

By Judy Koutsky, O: The Oprah Magazine, Aug. 17, 2020

You've put up your twinkle lights, made your list, and checked it twice, and streamed just about every Christmas movie Netflix has to offer. Ready for even more seasonal cheer? A scenic train ride on a Polar Express (inspired by the classic children's book) is the perfect way to revel in the holiday magic with your family. [Read the full story on oprahmag.com](#)

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA 2021 RECOGNIZES 28 BROUSE McDOWELL ATTORNEYS IN 33 PRACTICE AREAS AND 4 ATTORNEYS AS "ONES TO WATCH"

Brouse McDowell, Aug. 20, 2020

Twenty-eight Brouse McDowell attorneys were selected for inclusion in the 27th Edition of The Best Lawyers in America. These attorneys were recognized in 33 distinct practice areas a total of 49 times.

Additionally, four Brouse McDowell attorneys were listed in the inaugural edition of The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch list for 2021. [Read the full story on brouse.com](#)

2 PERANTINIDES & NOLAN CO., L.P.A. LAWYERS NAMED TO 2021 BEST LAWYERS LIST

Perantinides & Nolan Press Release, Aug. 20, 2020

Perantinides & Nolan Co., L.P.A. is pleased to announce that 2 lawyers have been included in the 2021 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Since it was first published in 1983, Best Lawyers has become universally regarded as the definitive guide to legal excellence. [Read the full story on perantinides.com](#)

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2020 30 FOR THE FUTURE RECIPIENTS

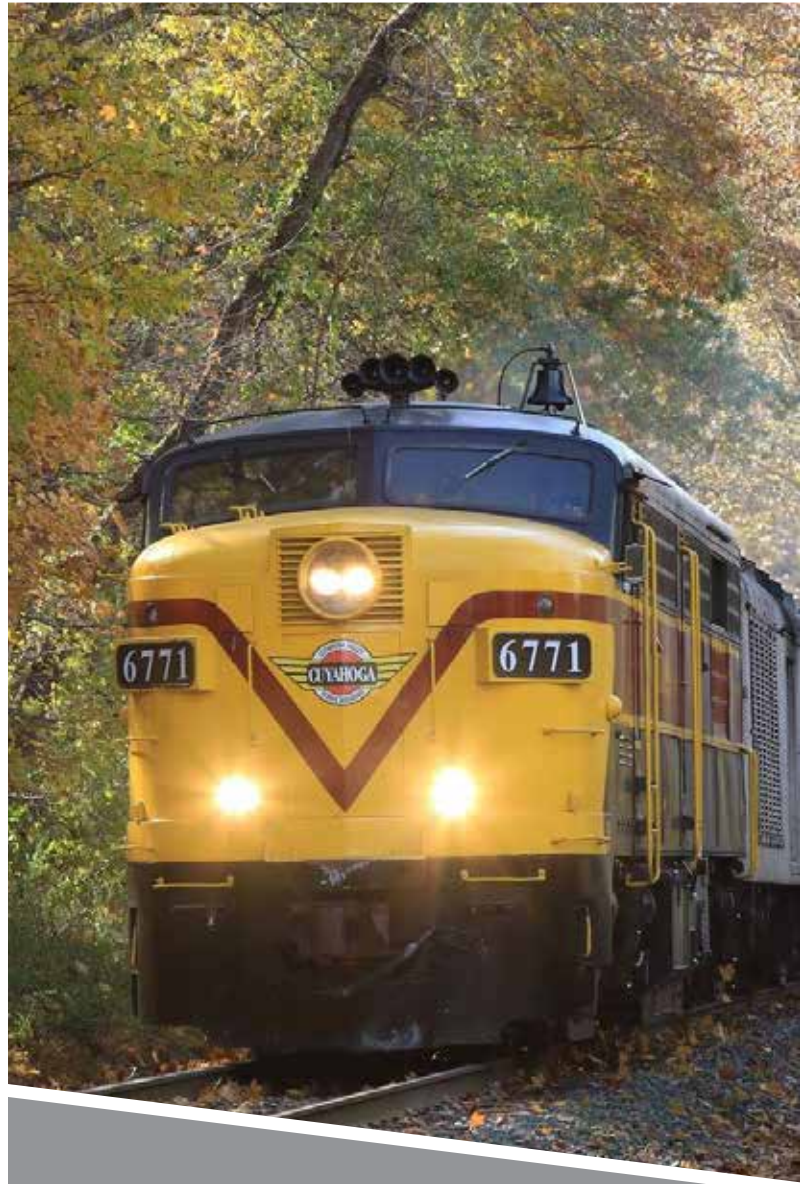
Greater Akron Chamber, Aug. 20, 2020

Thirty Greater Akron Region young professionals have been named the recipients of the thirteenth annual "30 for the Future" award. Part of the Greater Akron Chamber's strategy to attract and retain talent in the region, the "30 for the Future" award honors young professionals (ages 25-39) whose stellar contributions impact their industries and the Greater Akron Region. [Read the full story on greaterakronchamber.org](#)

LEADERSHIP AKRON CELEBRATES READ FAMILY DIFFERENCE MAKER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Leadership Akron, Sept. 10, 2020

Leadership Akron is thrilled to announce the recipients of its 2020 Read Family Difference Maker Award, the visionaries of the Diversity on Board program, Dr. Steve Ash, Roxia Boykin, Dr. Cynthia Capers, Robert DeJournett, Jim Mullen, Ethel Vinson, Bennett Williams, and John Williams. The individuals honored this year were involved in the design of Diversity on Board, now in its fifth year. The objective of Diversity on Board is to provide leadership development, education, and board placement services to advance minority representation on nonprofit and public boards. [Read the full story on leadershipakron.org](#)



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS



PIN OAK MIDSTREAM OF AKRON BUYS ASSETS IN PENNSYLVANIA FROM LAUREL MOUNTAIN MIDSTREAM

Crain's Cleveland Business, Sept. 10, 2020

Pin Oak Midstream LLC of Akron said it has acquired assets in northwest Pennsylvania, including more than 1,050 miles of natural gas gathering pipelines, from Laurel Mountain Midstream LLC. [Read the full story on crains-cleveland.com](https://www.crain.com/story/news/business/2020/09/10/pin-oak-midstream-acquires-assets-pennsylvania/7011170002/)

RIBBON CUTTING FOR AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

By Stephanie Warsmith, Akron Beacon Journal, Sept. 14, 2020

When you visit the Akron police and court building, you can pay a parking ticket, file a police report or get a free book.

A Little Free Library was installed outside the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center, 217 S. High St., last week. People can take and donate books from the blue box free of charge. [Read the full story on ohio.com](https://www.ohio.com/story/news/2020/09/14/little-free-library-akron/7011170002/)

HEART TO HEART INTRODUCES NEW LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

By Akron Beacon Journal, Sept. 14, 2020

Akron nonprofit Heart to Heart Communications is launching the Purposeful Leadership Program this month to help local professionals find ways to better serve in their organizations and in the wider community. [Read the entire article on ohio.com](https://www.ohio.com/story/news/2020/09/14/heart-to-heart-leadership-program/7011170002/)

AKRON ZOO ELECTS FIRST WOMAN AS CHAIR OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Akron Zoo Press Release, Aug. 24, 2020

AKRON, Ohio – On Monday, Aug. 24, the Akron Zoo Board of Directors voted Michele Santana to its top position. It's the first time in the 40-year history of the zoo's board for a woman to hold the chair position.

Santana is the Chief Financial Officer of Majestic Steel USA, Inc. She joined the Akron Zoo's Board of Directors in 2015, where she served on the executive and capital campaign committees. Santana is an accomplished business leader in the Akron community who has worked diligently to help the Akron Zoo achieve its mission to connect the community to wildlife while inspiring lifelong learning and conservation action.

"The Akron Zoo is a community gem that not only provides memorable experiences for families and friends but also serves to educate, enrich and provide economic returns to the greater Akron area," said Santana. "I am truly privileged to serve in this role for the Akron Zoo alongside my other Board colleagues."



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

METRO RTA UNVEILS 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

By combining your feedback with a thorough review of agency data, METRO RTA has developed a Strategic Plan to provide a strong and valuable path for the next 10 years at METRO. Throughout this process, the public transit provider focused on answering three key questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- How do we get there?

Throughout September, METRO reengaged with partners and shared the framework of the plan. METRO hosted live webinars with interactive questions, posting the recorded sessions on their website (see below) to allow those who missed the webinars to participate as well. METRO seeks feedback from the community after listening to the presentations and will present a summary of this feedback to their Board of Trustees at the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on October 27.

Ways in which you can still participate in this phase of the planning process: Watch a [recorded presentation](#) or review a [digital copy](#) of the presentation. Following the presentation, please take a few minutes to complete a brief survey.

[Read the full story on akronmetro.org](#)

METRO RTA OFFERS FREE RIDES TO AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

By METRO RTA Staff, Sept. 2020

METRO Regional Transit Authority and the Akron-Summit County Public Library have partnered together to offer free rides to library cardholders on the first Thursday of every month.

Beginning Thursday, September 3, passengers on line-service routes can ride free when they show their Akron-Summit County Public Library card to the bus operator upon boarding.

[Read the full story on downtownakron.com](#)

METRO RTA SELECTED FOR \$450,000 GRANT

By Akron Beacon Journal Staff, Oct. 4, 2020

The Akron Metro Regional Transit Authority is receiving \$450,000 to improve transit service in areas of persistent poverty, the office of U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Niles, announced Friday.

[Read the full story on ohio.com](#)

METRO RTA RECOGNIZED WITH CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR ITS SECURITY EFFORTS BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

[Read the full story on downtownakron.com](#)

FEATURED PROPERTY

Carlton Building 199 S. Main Street

4,226 square feet available for office and retail

One of the premier first floor retail spaces in downtown

- Large storefront windows facing Main St.
- Located in the heart of downtown Akron directly across from Lock 3 and near the Civic Theatre, The Bowery and Canal Park
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Facade renovated in 2008
- Upper floors renovated in 2019

On-site Amenities include

- Pre-installed, dedicated fiber internet connectivity with speeds up to 10Gbps upload and download simultaneously
- Basement level available for tenant usage

For more information, visit pritttproperties.com



FEATURED BUSINESS

Echogen 365 Water Street

Echogen Power Systems, a private company based in Akron, Ohio is commercializing waste heat to power with a proprietary system. Since its founding in 2007, Echogen has developed a breakthrough power generation cycle called the Thermefficient® Waste Heat Recovery Engine. It uses a modified Rankine Cycle with supercritical carbon dioxide (ScCO2) as the working fluid. ScCO2 is environmentally benign, non-toxic, and has favorable heat and mass transport properties which allow for an energy dense, compact thermodynamic system.



PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



Newly-Created Contract Compliance and Supplier Diversity Officer Position

City of Akron, Mayor's Office Press Release, Sept. 2020

In June of this year, Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan released the City of Akron Procurement and Inclusion Report to Akron City Council and the Akron community. The report was the result of 18 months of research and comparative analysis aimed at developing strategies to increase access to opportunity for minority-owned, women-owned, disadvantaged, and local businesses looking to do business with the City of Akron. One recommendation that came from the report was to recruit and hire a Contract Compliance and Supplier Diversity Officer to develop a business program which reflects municipal best practices. After months of additional research, a job description has been developed, and qualified applicants can now apply.

[Click here to read the release on *downtownakron.com*](#)

Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan Announces Final Pavement Work is Complete for Main Street Phase I

City of Akron, Mayor's Office Press Release, Sept. 2020

Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan is pleased to announce that Main Street Phase I, a full improvement project from Cedar Street to Mill Street, is now open to two-way traffic throughout the entire project. Final pavement and striping work on Main St. was completed this week. Residents and visitors traveling downtown may now drive through all of Main Street from E. Cedar St. to W. Market St.

"Completing primary road work and reopening two-way traffic throughout Main St. is an incredibly important milestone in this project," said Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan. "Thanks to the investments we've made, the heart of downtown is now safer, more accessible, more beautiful, and more livable. In the coming weeks, I'm thrilled to invite visitors, workers, and residents alike to come and see the transformation for themselves. Hop on a Spin scooter, purchase an adult beverage in the DORA, take part in entertainment or programming at Lock 3, and earn extra rewards by supporting a local business while you're here. It's an exciting time to come back downtown, and we can't wait to see you on Main Street!"

[Click here to read the release on *downtownakron.com*](#)

PICTURE YOURSELF ON MAIN

Picture Yourself on Main is your invitation to celebrate and be a part of the reopening of Main Street in Downtown Akron. Look for Picture Yourself on Main programs for everyone coming soon, with opportunities to enjoy new, iconic sights and experiences you can only have downtown. Share your experiences in downtown with #PictureYourselfOnMain or #PictureYourselfAkron.



BONUS from the Akronite app! Support local businesses and get up to 10% EXTRA* back in Blimps on the #Akronite app. That means you get to double up on reward offers to earn up to 40% back in Blimps when you shop on Main Street. Download the app, link your card, and start earning blimps today! Make every action count on Main Street.

OCTOBER PROGRAMS ON MAIN

Oct. 1 - 31	Social Distanced, Social Drinking 5k
Tuesday, Oct. 27 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Drinks with Dogs in the DORA
Tuesday, Oct. 27 6 - 7 p.m.	Downtown Line Dancing (special Halloween Clownified Edition)
Tuesday, Oct. 27 6 - 7 p.m.	Rediscover Downtown Biking Tour
Wednesday, Oct. 28 noon - 1 p.m.	Rediscover Downtown Walking Tour
Wednesday, Oct. 28 7 - 8:30 p.m.	Lock 4 Reboot Concert @ Lock 3: The Swizzle Stick Band
Thursday, Oct. 29 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Discover the DORA Walking Tour
Thursday, Oct. 29 6 - 7 p.m.	Downtown Line Dancing (special Halloween Zombified Edition)
Thursday, Oct. 29 7 - 10 p.m.	Game Night in Lock 3
Friday, Oct. 30 8 p.m.	Dirty Deeds AC/DC Tribute at Akron Civic Theatre
Saturday, Oct. 31 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Rediscover Downtown Scooter Tour
Saturday, Oct. 31 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Monster Rocktober (Akron Children's Museum)
Saturday, Oct. 31 5 - 7 p.m.	Main Street SCAREvenger Hunt
Saturday, Oct. 31 5 - 7 p.m.	Free Family Photo at Lock 3
Saturday, Oct. 31 8 p.m.	The Rocky Horror Picture Show at Akron Civic Theatre

To keep up with Picture Yourself on Main programs throughout the fall, visit downtownakron.com/explore/picture-yourself-on-main

For a comprehensive, regularly-updated listing of events throughout downtown, visit www.downtownakron.com/calendar



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