

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE

UA STABILIZES ENROLLMENT,
ADDED \$3 BILLION TO REGION IN 2021-22



3RD QUARTER 2023

DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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3,000:
VISITORS TO THE
3RD ANNUAL AKRON
LATIN FESTIVAL, pg 6



DOWNTOWN AKRON, 3RD QUARTER 2023

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO? [CHECK OUT THE DAP EVENTS CALENDAR.](#)



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**NEW DOWNTOWN
GUIDES & STORIES,**
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**DAP BUSINESS
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**"NEW STUDENTS
ARE HERE
BECAUSE THEY
ARE AWARE OF
THE EXPERIENCES
AND
OPPORTUNITIES
THAT AWAIT
THEM IN THEIR
UNIVERSITY
CAREER."**

**—UNIVERSITY OF
AKRON PRESIDENT
GARY MILLER, pg 10**



YOUR DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORS

Downtown Small Businesses and Storefronts in the News

India Ink Tattoo Co. offers realistic tattoos, boutique vibes in Akron's Northside Marketplace, by Megan Becka, Cleveland.com: When people walk past India Ink, they don't realize the space is a tattoo shop and that's just the vibe [owner India] Rush wants, she said.

Our whole shop is nothing but light.

"My shop is more like a mid-century modern boutique. There's a cool barn door that hangs in the shop, and a mid-century modern credenza that I keep my supplies in. There are also windows lining a whole wall of the shop; our whole shop is nothing but light," Rush said.

The [Northside] marketplace also helps Rush give her clients the best experience. Coffee, juice and snacks are readily accessible just by stepping out of her shop. [READ MORE](#)

Is this downtown Akron's best-kept secret? Chameleon Café shows its colors, by Tawney Beans, Akron Beacon Journal: If pursuing a goal doesn't feel a little like chasing rainbows, it's likely not ambitious enough.

Mike and Adria Buzek not only caught one of those elusive rainbows, but weaved it into the very fabric of their chameleon-themed businesses in downtown Akron.

I've always wanted what I call a rainbow house, where every room or wall is a different color. Chameleon Café is like that dream house but in café form.

It's okay to ask, I was curious too. Why attach your culinary brand to a color-changing lizard?

The chameleon is known for its adaptability, a characteristic the



couple's restaurant, Chameleon Café, and catering company, The Culinary Chameleon, strive to embody.

Based on their recent uptick in business and my visit, I'd say their efforts haven't been wasted. [READ MORE](#)

DeJuan's makes history as Akron's first Black-owned fine-dining restaurant, by Alex Darus, Cleveland.com: Downtown Akron has a new corner hangout at DeJuan's, an upscale fine-dining bar and restaurant on the corner of Main Street and Exchange Street.

It's not just another restaurant opening in the city. It's owner DeJuan Kelker's first—and the first Black-owned fine-dining restaurant in Akron.

The menu at DeJuan's is truly fine dining with a comforting feel. The lunch and dinner menus offer a wide range of options, from steamed king crab legs to bone-in ribeye. There's also an all-turkey menu, featuring items like turkey burgers and flatbread pizzas topped with turkey pepperoni. [READ MORE](#)

Mexican immigrant shares culture through tequila, by Kristen Anzuini, Spectrum News 1: Luis Escudero is the owner of El Patron Tequileria & Cuisine, where he is able to showcase his passion for tequila in downtown Akron.

We've developed tasting notes and created different taco options of all the specific regions of gastronomy and the cultural influence of Mexico.

One way he teaches people about his culture is by offering a "tour of tequila," a taco and tequila pairing.

"We've developed tasting notes and created different taco options of all the specific regions of gastronomy and the cultural influence of Mexico," he said.

He said his recipes are authentic to what you may find in Mexico, and many are inspired by his family. [READ MORE](#)

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Q3 New Downtown Businesses

DeJuan's Downtown Akron • 1 W. Exchange St.
dejuansdining.com

Gertz & Rosen • 159 S. Main St., 4th Floor
gertzrosen.com

Eschweiler & Potashnik LLC • 195 S. Main St., Suite 400
epilaw.com

Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. • 121 S. Main St., Suite 575
shumaker.com



Business Development Office Occupancy

	OCCUPANCY RATE	AVG ASKING RATE (PER SQ. FT.)
H1 - 2023	84.7%	\$19.73
H2 - 2022	85.5%	\$18.32
H1 - 2022	85.7%	\$17.26
H2 - 2021	81.2%	\$16.77

*Data from CBRE



Residential Development as of Q3 - 2023

90% Residential Occupancy



Hospitality | Summit County

HOTEL PERFORMANCE JANUARY - AUGUST 2023

	OCCUPANCY	AVERAGE DAILY RATE	RevPAR†
SUMMIT COUNTY	57.8%	\$104.20	\$60.19
OHIO	59.0%	\$118.03	\$69.60

HOTEL PERFORMANCE 2022

SUMMIT COUNTY	59.7%	\$96.66	\$57.74
OHIO	57.7%	\$112.02	\$64.60

HOTEL PERFORMANCE 2021

SUMMIT COUNTY	55.4%	\$85.04	\$47.10
OHIO	52.7%	\$98.74	\$52.07

*Data from Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau

†RevPAR (revenue available per room) calculated by multiplying hotel average daily room rate by occupancy rate



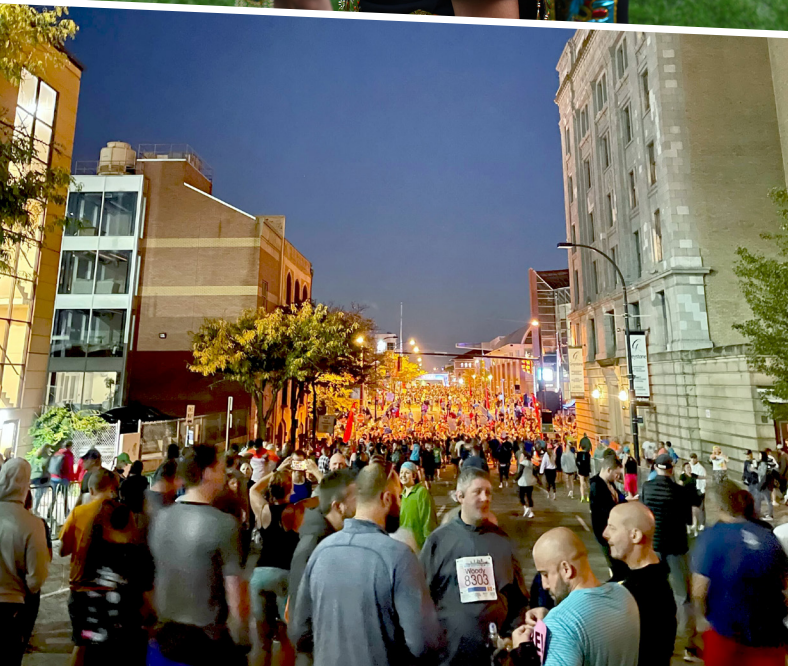
DAP Business Outreach

	Q3 - 2023	CONTACTS MADE*
RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS		72
NON-RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS		43
RETAIL AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS**		10

* 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

JULY – SEPTEMBER EVENTS



Akron Pride Festival

Watch this Recap of the 2023 Akron Pride Festival Reported by WAOH Akron, Internet TV



Akron City Festival

Sept. 3, 2023, by DAP Staff

The City of Akron launched the first Akron City Festival in downtown Akron on September 3, 2023. The festival was created to celebrate the city's future leaders and to "uplift and empower" Akron students as they head into the new school year.

The festival featured a parade of learners from hundreds of school clubs and teams, local youth-enrichment organizations, and city departments. Festivities continued on Cascade Plaza through the day with food, music, games, a talent show, a magic show with Chicago-based Gregory "T-Magic" Turner, inflatables, and a school supply giveaway.

Downtown Akron Latin Festival

Sept. 21, 2023, by DAP Staff

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, which happened to coincide with Mexican Independence Day, we were honored to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month by welcoming roughly 3,000 people to Cascade Plaza for an exuberant celebration of Latin cultures. Although this was the third annual iteration of the festival presented by Proyecto RAICES, this was the first year it took place downtown, and the first year DAP was a partner in presenting the event, along with North Hill Community Development Corporation and the City of Akron.

[Click here to READ MORE and view additional photos.](#)

Akron Marathon

Sept. 30, 2023, by Tawney Beans, Akron Beacon Journal

Dylan Garritano won the men's division of the full marathon, crossing the finish line with a time of 2:25:06.

"I watched the first one from Highland Square when I was 10

DOWNTOWN PROGRAMS

years old. I said, 'That would be really cool to do one day.' And here I am, 21 years later, and I win the thing," he said.

An Akron man through and through, Garritano still lives in Highland Square, not too far from mile 24 of the marathon, and works in the city of Akron's Office of Integrated Development. This was his sixth time running the marathon.

[Click here to READ MORE.](#)

[Click here to view additional photos.](#)

UA Fall Kick-Off

Sept. 7, 2023, by Philip Patanode, The Buchtelite

On Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, The University of Akron held a fall kick off event for University of Akron Alumni and campus in downtown Akron, featuring live music, food, and entertainment. The event included DJ'ing by UA's student-led radio station, WZIP, and performances by "Ohio's Pride," The University of Akron marching band and OpenTone Music's Amistad Caribbean Arts Ensemble. Attendees learned more about the Polsky Building and Lock 3 renovations, which will change the face of downtown in the coming years.

Buchtelite photographer Philip Patnode documented The University of Akron family enjoying the city on a clear, comfortable evening.

[Click here to READ MORE and view additional photos.](#)

Zips Ride the Train

Sept. 24, 2023, by DAP Staff

Working with The University of Akron Ambassadors and The University of Akron office of Alumni Relations, DAP facilitated an Explorer Hike/Bike aboard Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad trip for 28 UA students on Sunday, September 24. Students boarded the train at the Northside Train Station and rode to the Indigo Lake Station in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, where they enjoyed a short hike and picnic snacks. Afterward, they took the train back to downtown Akron, returning to the Northside Station. The fall trip was made possible with support from the Knight Foundation, and is part of a larger engagement initiative between the university and downtown that includes events, planned visits to downtown businesses for students to create "Roo-views" (or reviews), DAP-led walking tours, and additional opportunities for students to access and enjoy what the neighborhood has to offer.

[Click here to view Instagram video of the trip.](#)

Watch UA Ambassador Roo-views:

[DeJuan's Downtown Akron](#)

[R. Shea Brewing - Canal Place](#)

[Jilly's Music Room](#)



CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

DAP Ambassador Stats Jul. 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

11,769

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

918

BUS STOPS
CLEANED

235

SCOOTER
SUPPORT

831

BUSINESS CONTACTS
MADE

1,309

BUSINESS
CHECKS

131

WEED
ABATEMENT
(BLOCK FACES)

101

GRAFFITI
REMOVED

685

SKYWALK
PATROL

192

PARKING
ASSISTANCE

1,966

SECURITY
CHECKS

19

SAFETY
ESCORTS

22

MOTORIST
ASSISTANCE

6,720

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE



Downtown Ambassadors maintain hours of operation seven days a week through support from Akron Civic Commons.

For ambassador services or to report a problem, call the on-duty ambassador during hours of operation at 330-706-7383.

Monday - Saturday: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. | Sunday: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

For non-emergency issues outside of ambassador operating hours, use the Akron Police Department's non-emergency numbers, 330-375-2181 or 330-375-2101. For any emergency at any time, call 911.

[Find out more about downtown Ambassadors.](#)

"I wanted to express my sincerest gratitude for the ambassador Darrell Stamps, who helped me and my young family when we locked our keys in the car after a trip to the Akron Children's Museum.

I'm so grateful to your organization, and to Darrell, for saving the day. We had driven an hour to Akron for a day of adventuring and were preparing to pay ~\$70 for a new windshield if we had to go to extremes to get the keys out.

So, thank you, and we can't wait to come back to Akron again soon!."

—Mark and Laura Barkett



MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

DAP shares 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	Q2 - 2023	Q3 - 2023
FACEBOOK	12,757	13,067
TWITTER	9,487	9,439
INSTAGRAM	7,795	8,028
LINKEDIN	2,392	2,538

WEBSITE TRAFFIC	Q2 - 2023	Q3 - 2023
USERS	86,162	88,236
SESSIONS	111,011	118,022
UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS	155,451	182,795

EMAIL NEWSLETTER	Q3 - 2023
NUMBER PUBLISHED	34
SENDS	215,604
OPENS	69,651
CLICKS	4,739
SUBSCRIBERS	18,860

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



NEW Downtown Guides & Stories

We'll do the planning, you make the memories. DAP's growing list of downtown Guides can help you make a day of it in downtown Akron. *(click each to read)*

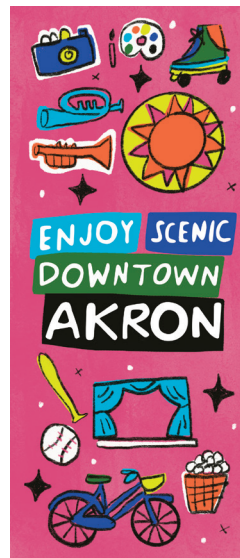
Guides

- [8 Kid-Friendly Outings in Downtown Akron](#)
- [12 Things You Need to Do in Downtown Akron This Summer](#)
- [7 Vegetarian- and Vegan-Friendly Restaurants in Downtown Akron](#)
- [10 Live Music Venues in Downtown Akron](#)

- [It's All Fun and Games in Downtown Akron](#)
- [24 Free and Low-Cost Things to Do in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Things to Do This Fall in Downtown Akron](#)

Stories

- [Mixing and Mingling: Downtown Welcomes 1,300 Visitors to 2023 Juneteenth Celebrations](#)
- [Cascade Plaza Welcomes 3,000 Visitors for 3rd Annual Akron Latin Festival](#)



Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron

Visit these Majestic Sights of downtown Akron (and eat them!): Burgers, pizza, the classic cheesesteak, sushi, Thai cuisine, Mexican cuisine, filet mignon, banana pudding, craft beer, big cookies, hearty scones, peanuts, ice cream, English tea, grilled cheese, and more!

Find out more about the [Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport](#) by clicking the graphic to the left.

Participate in the Summer Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport: it runs through November 10, 2023.

There is ONE easy way to participate: collect 5 stickers and enter to win a \$300 prize pack.

Who knows, maybe we'll get a downtown dessert, ice cream flavor, or sandwich named after you, too!

Don't wait, the deadline is November 10, 2023 to mail your completed passports to Downtown Akron Partnership (or email a photo to info@downtownakron.com):

Downtown Akron Partnership
103 S. High St. 4th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44038

NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Enrollment up at University of Akron for first time in years

Kent State University and the University of Akron received some good news this fall. Overall enrollment increased slightly at Akron for the first time in years, and Kent State saw an increase of several hundred students.

The University of Akron saw an increase of just four students total, to 14,495 students, but that was still exciting news for President Gary Miller, who told Akron's Board of Trustees that things are looking up after more than a decade of year-to-year declines. Miller said student retention, undergraduate enrollment and international enrollment are all up significantly.

"New students are here because they are aware of the experiences and opportunities that await them in their university career," he said. —*Conor Morris, Ideastream, Sept. 25, 2023*

[Click here for the full story.](#)

New study finds University of Akron added \$3B in income to the region in 2021-22

The University of Akron contributed \$3 billion in income to the region in 2021-2022, generating a positive return on investment for students, taxpayers and the community, according to an economic impact study UA recently commissioned.

Conducted by Lightcast, an international labor market analytics organization... the study concluded the university supports 36,324 regional jobs, or one in every 48 jobs in the school's service area—Cuyahoga, Portage, Medina, Stark, Summit and Wayne counties.

"We are extremely committed to educating our students and connecting them to world-class employers to help foster continued growth in career earnings," UA President Gary Miller said in a release. "We also view our role as an economic generator very seriously, rigorously supporting workforce development in the region and championing innovation and entrepreneurship that makes a difference in northeast Ohio and the city of Akron." —*Jennifer Conn, Spectrum News 1, Jun. 02, 2023*

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

Downtown Akron is working on its next comeback

Like nearly every city center in the nation that once relied on office workers for its economy, downtown Akron is having a moment that even its staunchest backers concede is a challenge to overcome.

NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

But backers say new plans already are being developed to keep downtown moving forward and to take advantage of the people, assets and resources that Akron has relied on in the recent past to refine and execute those plans.

Downtown needs to leverage its arts and cultural assets, redouble its efforts to develop more residential units and build up its hospitality sector downtown, said Suzie Graham, president and CEO of the Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP).

DAP is updating its strategy for redeveloping downtown and growing the economy of the city's central business district. It unveiled its last strategy in 2018, before the pandemic and when downtown still had plenty of office workers supporting restaurants and other businesses every day.—*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Sept. 1, 2023*

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

More downtown apartments planned

Welty Building Co. CEO Don Taylor recently told Crain's, "I like being the voice of optimism for downtown Akron."

True to his word as well as to his recent history, Taylor's backing that up with investment dollars. This time, he plans to spend more than \$25 million turning the city's historic YWCA building, known in recent years as the Citi-Center building, at 146 S. High St., into at least 114 luxury apartments.

"I would say it's on par with the Bowery," Taylor said when asked where these new apartments will fit in the market.—*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Aug. 25, 2023*

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

Purell maker GOJO lays off staff as it announces it will stay in Akron, no longer for sale

Akron-based GOJO Industries is eliminating some salaried positions as the company also announced to its employees that it is staying in Akron and no longer for sale.

A company spokeswoman confirmed GOJO, the maker of Purell, was eliminating roles for "less than 10%" of its workforce. The spokeswoman did not provide an exact number but said the positions were mostly salaried positions. The layoffs were not limited to Akron, she said. Effects to the company's manufacturing and distribution would be limited, she said.

GOJO has about 2,300 team members worldwide, including 1,800 in Ohio.—*Betty Lin-Fisher, Akron Beacon Journal, Aug. 31, 2023*

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



DOWNTOWN AKRON COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SITE SEARCH

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. [Click here to try it!](#)

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 highlights available job opportunities within the Special Improvement District. [Click here to visit the page.](#)

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

NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Akron Community Foundation awards \$3.8 million in grants

Akron Community Foundation has awarded \$3.8 million in quarterly grants to benefit local nonprofit groups.

Nearly 50 groups will receive funds for civic affairs programs, including, Akron Marathon, Akron Urban League, ConxusNEO, Downtown Akron Partnership, and the Economic and Community Development Institute, among others.—*Akron Beacon Journal*, Oct. 2, 2023.

[Click here to view the list of grant recipients.](#)

GAR Foundation awards nearly \$2 million in grants

The GAR Foundation has awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to Akron nonprofit organizations.

Grant recipients include, Akron Soul Train, Curated Storefront, Downtown Akron Partnership, Heart to Heart Leadership, and United Way of Summit among others.—*Akron Beacon Journal*, Aug. 23, 2023

[Click here to view the list of grant recipients.](#)

Choreographers make their own kind of administrative dance

“Spreadsheets? That’s just the choreography of numbers,” says a participant in a program that envisions an array of approaches to administrative needs.

Today’s dance makers are far more likely to operate on a project-to-project basis because of limited resources, the desire for creative flexibility, or both. That means they’re often their own administrators—spreadsheets are very much a part of their everyday life. But the dance field’s business “best practices” are decades old. And though there are a variety of grants and residencies to bolster choreographers’ creative endeavors, for a long time, there was little support for the less-glamorous work of dance administration.

In 2020, the National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron in Ohio began the Creative Administration Research program to address that gap. The initiative challenges the perception of arts administration as a duty to be endured or delegated. Instead, said Christy Bolingbroke, the National Center for Choreography’s founding executive and artistic director, it proposes that choreographers use their considerable creative powers to help imagine structures better suited to their needs. “It’s expanding artists’ creative practice beyond, just, ‘I make dances,’” Bolingbroke said.—*Margaret Fuller, The New York Times*, Aug. 26, 2023

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

NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Personal View: Arts lead to transformation in Akron as well as Cleveland

Cleveland's transformation from mistake to magnificence was driven, to a significant degree, by arts, entertainment and culture.

While the measured and projected economic impact of Playhouse Square, CMA, Cleveland Orchestra, the Rock Hall is massive, it pales in comparison to the impact, economic and sociographic, those institutions make through their communications infrastructure on people who never step foot in their facilities.

The perception of Cleveland is improved dramatically just by seeing all the positive messages these institutions continually pump out. The desire to live, work, and play in our region is increased and that is where the real (unmeasured and unattributed) economic impact lies.

While it is a matter of scale, the same is true in Akron and Summit County.—*Howard Parr, executive director of the Akron Civic Theatre and special adviser for arts and culture to University of Akron president Gary Miller, in Crain's Cleveland Business, Sept. 20, 2023*

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

COVID threatened to strike Ohio teams out; now the state's helping their recovery

Baseball season is in full swing, but some of Ohio's minor league teams are celebrating a win off the field—in the statehouse.

The Ohio General Assembly allocated \$30 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID-19 relief funds in this year's state budget to help six minor league baseball teams and two hockey teams recover from a major financial slump caused by the pandemic.

"It was like Christmas in June when we found out that we were going to be getting these funds," said Jim Pfander, president and general manager of the Akron RubberDucks, the Double-A affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians.

The RubberDucks will receive \$3.8 million, which they'll use to stabilize operating costs that took a hit over the past three years, Pfander said. —*Anna Huntsman, Ohio Statehouse News Bureau, Aug. 9, 2023*

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

Akron aims to get new downtown hotel near convention center

There's a push on to get a major hotel built in downtown Akron, and the efforts are apparently gaining traction.



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Suzie Graham, president and CEO of the Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP), said getting the hotel has become a major goal of her organization. Such a hotel would boost the use of the John S. Knight Convention Center, she said, and DAP hopes to get it built next to or very near the convention center, which is on East Mill Street downtown.

"Our visitor economy is coming back strong. It's stronger than it was, and we have a great opportunity to secure a mid- to upscale hotel near our convention center," said Graham, noting that the number of visitors (though not workers) who come downtown is set to eclipse pre-pandemic levels this year. —*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Aug. 31, 2023*

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

For One Akron Company, Getting Workers Back in the Office Was a Snap

At Akron's Pritt Entertainment Group, the entire staff is in every day, said Ryan Pritt, co-founder and president of the video and media production company.

What did he do to get them back?

Well, for one thing, Pritt's employees were coming back to brand new offices that they'd been eager to start using. Pritt bought his building on Main Street in 2018 and after planning and designing his new offices in 2019, he spent the next year building them out before opening the new office in June 2021.—*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Sept. 26, 2023*

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

Burgess & Niple Relocates to Bowery District

The Bowery District is now home to Burgess & Niple (B&N), a civil engineering firm whose infrastructure projects have improved water quality, enhanced transportation safety, and reduced traffic congestion in the Akron area for more than 50 years. The firm's 17 employees moved into their new space at 164 S. Main Street over the summer and are enjoying the office's updated amenities and beautiful view of Lock 4.

"Staff and visitors have all exclaimed that our office has a 'cool' vibe, from the tall tin ceilings on the main floor to the combination of historic and modern features on our lower level," according to Dan Johnson, who leads B&N's Akron office. "This is not typical office space! Everyone loves our patio and deck that overlook the Ohio and Erie Canalway and the Lock 4 park." —*Press Release from Burgess & Niple, Oct. 3, 2023*

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

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

RICK ROGERS WINS CLEVELAND ARTS PRIZE

Rick Rogers, who founded Curated Storefront in Akron in 2017 and is a longtime supporter of the Akron Art Museum, has won the Cleveland Art Prize's Martha Joseph Prize for Distinguished Service to the Arts. He is one of eight 2023 Cleveland Arts Prize winners from various artistic disciplines selected in six categories who have demonstrated dedication, creative brilliance and a profound impact on the arts community and society as a whole. [Find out more.](#)

AS E.J. THOMAS TURNS 50, HERE'S A LOOK AT HOW THE PERFORMING ARTS HALL CAME TO BE

A front-page Beacon Journal article the day after the hall's opening called it an "impossible dream" with "cathedral-like grandeur" that had become UA's "monumental new pride and joy."

"Thomas Hall is one of the most striking, imaginative, clean-lined, daring and dramatic facilities ever built in the U.S.," the newspaper's music critic, John von Rhein, wrote.

It even earned a nod by famed architecture critic Ada Louise Huxtable in *The New York Times*, where she praised E.J. Thomas Hall as a "superb structure." [Find out more.](#)

AKRON RUBBERDUCKS ANNOUNCER REACHES 3,500TH GAME

Akron native Jim Clark grew up shouting out a play-by-play of a baseball board game as a child, flicking the spinner and waiting to see what the next call would be, never ceasing to annoy his parents.

Now about 60 or so years later, Clark, of Massillon, celebrated his 3,500th game as a play-by-play broadcaster for the Akron RubberDucks minor league baseball team last Friday night.

For more than three decades, he's been the voice of the RubberDucks (or Aeros) on the airwaves. The games currently are broadcast on WHLO-AM. [Find out more.](#)

AAF-AKRON NAMES CARLA DAVIS THE 2023 RECIPIENT OF A SILVER MEDAL AWARD

AAF-Akron is pleased to announce that Carla Davis, Marketing Communications Director at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, is the 2023 recipient of its distinguished Silver Medal award.

As the first person of color to serve in her position at the Library, Davis has made significant and innovative changes, including transitioning the formerly paper and binder creative department into a fully automated project management workflow system. [Find out more.](#)



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS



EDDIE'S FAMOUS CHEESESTEAKS AND GRILL CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

"This bleacher wood is the bleachers from the old Ellet High School gymnasium. So we created our tables out of bleacher wood. It's Akron, so we wanted it to have a little bit of an industrial look... I'm in love with the town, and the history and nothing could take the Akron out of me." Eddie's owner, Ed Sutter, was recently featured on *Around Town with Blue Green*. [View the episode here.](#)

Sutter will be celebrating 30 years of the Eddie's brand on November 18, 2023 with a downtown event. Follow Eddie's on Facebook for details.

SUMMIT ARTSPACE RESIDENT ARTISTS WIN AWARDS

During the 3-day juried Cain Park Arts Festival, artists Jessica Skinner received the Third Prize award and April Nicholson-Couch received the Judges' Selection award. Both artists maintain studio space in Summit Artspace and have exhibited their works widely. [Find out more.](#)

THERESA CARTER IS 2023 BERT A. POLSKY HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENT

Carter will be the 54th recipient of the award, which Akron Community Foundation presents each year to an individual or couple who has shown selfless dedication to humanitarian causes in Akron.

Carter is a dedicated community volunteer and mentor, currently serving on the boards of Akron Community Foundation, Akron NAACP, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, Cleveland State University Foundation and the Summit Metro Parks Board of Park Commissioners. She has served dozens of organizations over the past several decades, including the Akron Urban League (emeritus), American Red Cross of Summit and Medina, Greater Akron Chamber, Project GRAD Akron, and the United Way of Summit & Medina. She is also well known for her personal and professional mentorship of young women and men in the community. [Find out more.](#)

UNITED BUILDING, HOME TO BLU-TIQUE HOTEL, TURNED 100 IN SEPTEMBER

In 1923, the building was constructed to support the growing cigar industry. Founded in Syracuse, New York by two brothers, the United Cigar Store Company would go on to have nearly 3,000 retail stores where cigars, Mickey Mouse watches, and shoe trees, among many other items, were sold. [Find out more.](#)

NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION TO PRESENT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO RITA DOVE

The National Book Foundation, presenter of the National Book Awards, announced that it will award Rita Dove with the 2023 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

American Letters (DCAL). Born in Akron, Dove is the only poet to date to have received both the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of Arts. [Find out more.](#)

STATE AND FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS, AND MOVING TO NEW DOWNTOWN LOCATION

State and Federal Communications is celebrating 30 years of providing solutions for compliance laws and regulations regarding lobbying, campaign finance, and procurement lobbying to Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, law firms, and government affairs firms.

After 21 years at Courtyard Square in downtown Akron, the company is moving to the 3rd floor of the historic O'Neil's building at 222 South Main Street.

The company relayed through social media: "We're excited to be in the heart of downtown Akron and in a beautiful space overlooking Canal Park, Lock 3, and so many other special features of our city.

[Find out more about State and Federal Communications.](#)

[View video messages](#) about the 30th anniversary from CEO Elizabeth Bartz, as well as friends and colleagues like Gov. Mike DeWine, Akron RubberDucks Owner Ken Babby, and Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro

AKRON SOUL TRAIN WELCOMES PITA BROOKS AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Akron Soul Train (AST) named Pita Brooks as its new Executive Director. With a diverse background as a multimedia artist and extensive experience in arts administration, Brooks brings lively perspective and knowledge to the position at AST. [Find out more.](#)

METRO RTA AWARDED THREE OHIO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Ohio Public Transportation Association (OPTA) honored individuals and organizations who exemplify leadership for public transit at its annual conference September 18-20.

The Community Impact Award, awarded to a transit employee who has had a significant impact within their community, was received by Operations Supervisor Shawn Craig after a heroic act while in the line of duty. The Lifetime Achievement Award was received by Operations Administrative Assistant Ricky McDaniel, after 44 years of dedicated service to METRO.

METRO accepted the Milestone Award, an award which recognizes individuals or transit agencies reaching significant milestones in the transit industry, for its innovative Come Drive with (B)us hands-on hiring initiative.



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

FEATURED PROPERTY

The Bowery | 156 S. Main St.

The Bowery District consists of six buildings redeveloped for retail, residential and mixed-use space, and were adapted for modern usage, keeping historic details to preserve and celebrate downtown Akron's past. The project helps to complete Akron's South Main Street by solidifying it as one of Akron's most valuable districts for culture, entertainment and residences.

- Floor to ceiling windows
- Spacious bedroom closets
- Pet friendly
- Private balconies
- In-suite washer & dryer
- Year-round entertainment
- Fitness center
- Open floor plans
- Amazing city views

For more information, contact
Kimberly Beckett

330-374-7676 | kbeckett@downtownakron.com



FEATURED BUSINESS

CTI Engineers

CTI Engineers, Inc. is an employee-owned consulting engineering firm specializing in water and earth sciences. CTI offers a wide range of engineering and consulting services for both public and private sectors. CTI provides complete planning, design, and management services from the initial conceptual stages of a project, through design and financing, to construction management and start-up assistance.



METRO RTA INVITES YOU TO BREWS, BITES, & BUS RAPID TRANSIT

METRO RTA, along with local city and county partners, is working to identify a designated corridor for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service. Once a corridor is identified and funding is secured, Greater Akron could see a BRT investment that improves the transit experience, spurs economic development, and enhances quality of life.

BRT is an advanced, high-quality transit system that delivers safe, fast, and comfortable service. Improve-

BRT Features:

- 1 Enhanced station lighting for improved safety
- 2 Raised platforms for easier access
- 3 Improved bike accommodations
- 4 Offboard fare collection
- 5 Installation of new and improved sidewalks



Photo credit: GRTC Pulse, Richmond, VA

ments may include enhanced stations including lighting, raised platforms, off board fare collections and real-time information, transit signal priority, and high-frequency service. BRT will improve access to jobs and services, and address regional growth and opportunity barriers in our community. The convenience of BRT will drive sustainable economic growth patterns close to transit and avoid the common causes of bus delay, such as being stuck in traffic and passengers waiting to pay on board.

METRO invites its stakeholders to attend a "Brews, Bites, and Bus Rapid Transit" meeting to learn more about BRT on Wednesday, November 1. The event will take place at Akronym Brewing, 58 E. Market St., Akron, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Additional meetings will be held at the Robert K. Pfaff Transit Center on Monday, November 6 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, November 9 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. [Find Out More.](#)

Fast

- Pay before you board so the bus leaves the station faster
- Raised, level platforms to roll on and off easily
- Fewer stops than typical routes
- Priority at key traffic signals to "ask for" or extend green lights

Frequent

- Seven days a week
- Every 10-15 minutes on weekdays
- Every 20 minutes on weekends and nights
- Extended operating hours every day

Comfortable

- Rider-focused amenities
- Covered stations
- Access for riders of all abilities
- Real-time information displays
- Pedestrian-friendly station areas

ICYMI: IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Top 5 Items Akron Residents Need to Know Each Week

Residents can subscribe to receive a weekly e-newsletter from the City of Akron emailed directly to their inboxes. The newsletter will include a summary of the top 5 items residents need to know about what's going on in the city each week. The e-newsletter will be sent weekly on Fridays.

Sign up to receive the emails at akronupdates.com.

City of Akron receives \$1M from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

The City of Akron and its nonprofit partners, Truly Reaching You, Akron Urban League, the Akron Zoo, and Com-mEN Strategies, are receiving \$1 Million in funding from the United States Department of Agriculture U.S. Forest Service.

The funding will be used for Project ACORN: Akron Community-Owned Reforestation Network. Project ACORN will develop an Urban Forestry workforce training pipeline by establishing an Urban Forestry Academy site on city-owned land at Theiss Rd. [Find Out More.](#)

BREAKING (October 24, 2023): Greater Akron Chamber Announces EDA Tech Hub Award for Sustainable Polymers

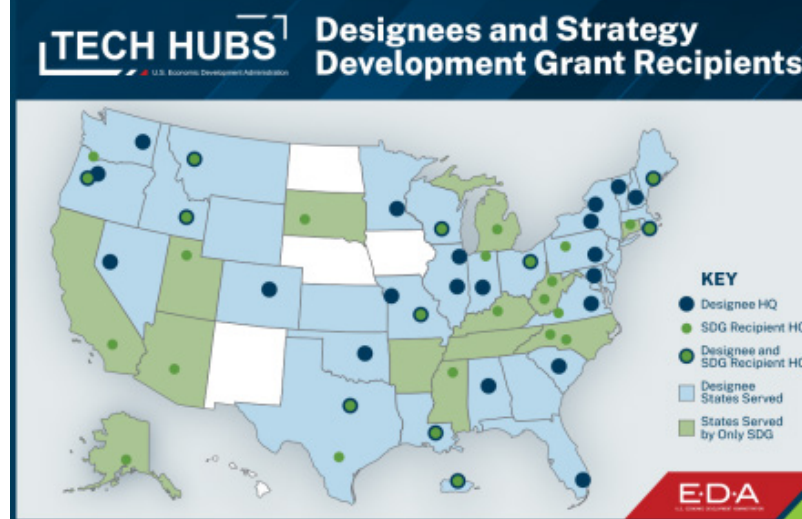
On behalf of the Polymer Industry Cluster, the Greater Akron Chamber is excited to announce the designation of Greater Akron as a Tech Hub for Sustainable Polymers and as a recipient of a Strategy Development Grant by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)—the only awardee of a hub designation or strategy development award in the State of Ohio. This designation is a strong endorsement of the region's plan to supercharge a critical technology ecosystem and become a global leader over the next decade.

Out of nearly 400 total applicants nationwide, 31 received a Tech Hub Designation, and 29 received a strategy development grant. The Greater Akron Chamber's (GAC) application was one of only 11 to receive both, which advantageously positions GAC's Polymer Industry Cluster for a potential Phase 2 grant award of between \$40 - \$75 million. [Find Out More.](#)

[Find out more about the EDA's Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs.](#)



City of Akron
+ Partners Receive
\$1 Million
in Community Forestry Funding



EVENTS

President Biden Highlights
how his Bidenomics Agenda
is Growing the Economy





Roller skating on the plaza photo by DAP staff



Lock 3 construction banners. Photo: Dan Rice



Ribbon cutting for Summit County Continuum of Care. Photo: DAP Staff



UA Fall Kick-Off on Main St. Photo: Willy Kolman



Summer Ready Fitness Hip Hop Step on the plaza. Photo: DAP Staff



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#Downtownakron



Diamond Deli Staff vs Akron RubberDucks Staff at Firestone Stadium.