

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



3RD QUARTER 2022
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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DOWNTOWN AKRON, 3RD QUARTER 2022



WORKING FOR DOWNTOWN

Downtown Small Businesses and Storefronts in the News

LeBron James and friends' designer clothing brand UNKNWN open downtown Akron shop, by Abbey Marshall, Akron Beacon Journal: Jaron Kanfer and Frankie Walker, childhood friends of LeBron James and co-founders of the designer clothing brand and sneaker retailer UNKNWN alongside the NBA superstar, are opening up the doors to a new store in downtown Akron.

"Akron was more than deserving to have a retail experience you find in bigger cities."

The founding trio grew up playing basketball together in Akron long before they launched the Miami-based retailer in 2011. It only made sense, they said, to bring the brand back to their hometown.

"I think the store here was a no-brainer for us. It was a vision Jaron and I had for a while," Walker said. "Akron was more than deserving to have a retail experience you find in bigger cities."

The founders don't want their influence to stop with just their store. They want a real stake in the community.

Philanthropy is a core tenet for the brand. In March, the group partnered with Nike to spruce up classrooms at the Summit Lake Community Center, donating new sports equipment, toiletries, coats and more for kids and other low-income residents in the area. [READ MORE](#)

The Tea Lady a delicious experience in luxury, elegance, by Kerry Clawson, Akron Beacon Journal: Entering the Tea Lady's domain in downtown Akron is stepping into a beautiful world of feminine decor, elegance and relaxation.

Going to afternoon tea at this charming haven gave me a special



chance to dress up, slow down and enjoy tea, finger foods and wine with a dear friend on a recent weekday afternoon. It was also just the kind of self care that my friend Lisa DeBenedictis, who has had some difficult weeks with medical issues in her family, needed.

"I've had afternoon tea at the Ritz in Cleveland and at the Drake in Chicago, among other tea outings over the years. But I'd never experienced all the fine touches and assortment of foods that I enjoyed at The Tea Lady."

For more than two hours, we drank soothing tea and indulged in delicious finger foods as well as a fruit parfait, green salad, delicate desserts and wine. As we enjoyed our food and conversation, soft jazz played in the background.

I've had afternoon tea at the Ritz in Cleveland and at the Drake in Chicago, among other tea outings over the years. But I'd never experienced all the fine touches and assortment of foods that I enjoyed at The Tea Lady. [READ MORE](#)

Best of The 330 Readers' Picks 2022, compiled by Akron Life Magazine, This year's Best of the 330 Readers' Picks includes many downtown businesses. Here's a sampling:

Best Thing to Happen in Akron (Last 12 months)

1. Downtown Akron upgrades
 2. Akron RubberDucks championship title
 3. Lock 3 renovation plans
- Honorable Mention:
Akron Civic Theatre renovations and new Knight Stage

Best Reason for Waiting in Line

1. Luigi's Restaurant
 2. Akron RubberDucks
 3. Mama's Hot Dogs
- Honorable Mention:
The Blue Door Cafe & Bakery
[READ MORE](#)

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



top left: [401 Lofts](#), 401 S. Main St., 855-777-5638
above: [159 Main](#), 159 S. Main St., 330-752-6797

Residential Development as of Q3 - 2022

90% Residential
Occupancy

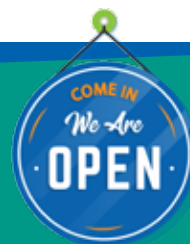
UNITS OPENED	UNITS IN CONSTRUCTION	UNITS RENOVATED	PLANNED UNITS
56	83	499	144

Business Development

Office Occupancy

	OCCUPANCY RATE	AVG ASKING RATE (PER SQ. FT.)
H1 - 2022	85.7%	\$17.26
H2 - 2021	81.2%	\$16.77
H1 - 2021	80.2%	\$16.54
H2 - 2020	80.7%	\$16.24

*Data from CBRE



Business Outreach

Q3 - 2022	CONTACTS MADE*
RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS	78
NON-RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS	30
RETAIL AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS**	14

* 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

August 27, 2022

The second year of the Akron Pride Festival in downtown Akron featured an expanded festival footprint, from Main St. at Lock 3, beyond the Mill St. roundabout, to Akron-Summit County Public Library, where a new entertainment stage was showcased. The Equity Stage hosted local entertainment including Summit Choral Drumsing, Timi Funk, and the Super Babes. The Main Stage at Lock 3 presented the Millennial Theatre Project, a drag show hosted by Coco Montrese, a regular star of RuPaul's Drag Race, and headlining act Vincint. Fireworks at 10 p.m. were sponsored by DAP with support from the Knight Foundation.

Akron Pride Festival was kicked off with the Pride Equity March at 10 a.m., which stretched from S. Main St. at the Spaghetti Warehouse to Lock 3.

[To view photographs from Akron Pride Festival, click here..](#)

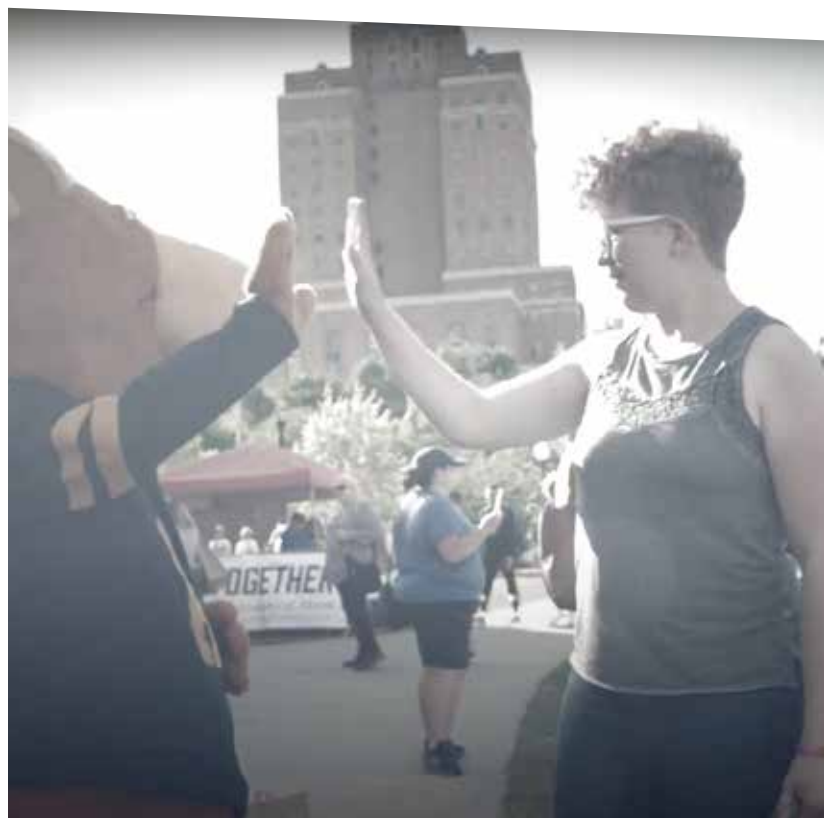


University of Akron Fall Kick-Off

August 30, 2022

The University of Akron Fall Kick-Off was celebrated in Lock 3 with free food and drinks, music from "Ohio's Proud" the University of Akron marching band, Open Tone Music's Amistad Caribbean Arts Ensemble, and the renowned New Orleans-based jazz band, the Dirty Dozen Brass Band.

[Click here to watch the brief video recap of the event.](#)



DOWNTOWN PROGRAMS



CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

DAP Ambassador Stats July 1 - Sept. 30, 2022

12,346

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

1,173

BUS STOPS
CLEANED

862

SCOOTER
SUPPORT

468

BUSINESS CONTACTS
MADE

2,476

BUSINESS CHECKS

415

GRAFFITI
REMOVED

58

SKYWALK
PATROL

276

PARKING
ASSISTANCE

2,790

SECURITY
CHECKS

297

WEED
ABATEMENT
(block faces)

174

MOTORIST
ASSISTANCE

7,758

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE



Downtown Ambassador 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.*](#)



“A BIG thank you to the @downtownakron ambassadors for helping us safely across the streets this morning! We appreciate you! @BlockByBlock”
—NIHF STEM School Twitter account

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 - 2022	Q3 - 2022
FACEBOOK	10,407	11,229
TWITTER	9,528	9,618
INSTAGRAM	6,646	6,917
LINKEDIN	1,772	1,916

WEBSITE TRAFFIC	Q2 - 2022	Q3 - 2022
USERS	87,045	91,442
SESSIONS	114,005	115,474
PAGE VIEWS	387,067	384,741

EMAIL NEWSLETTER	Q3 - 2022
NUMBER PUBLISHED	44
SENDS	230,290
OPENS	72,772
CLICKS	4,621
SUBSCRIBERS	17,735

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

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*)

- [11 Ways to Support Downtown Akron Businesses](#)
- [How to Navigate Downtown Akron as a University of Akron Student](#)
- [5 Ways Downtown Akron Businesses can Show Up for Akron Pride Festival](#)
- [Autism Friendly Places to Visit in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Your Guide to Fall 2022 Drink Specials in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Things to Do This Fall in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Photos from Last Year's Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival to Get You Excited About This Year's Event](#)

SHARE YOUR OPINION

Every year, DAP asks for input from the community to help us improve our efforts to build a vibrant, valuable downtown Akron that is welcoming to all. Responses to our Downtown Survey help guide us in everything we do, from downtown beautification efforts, to ambassador services, programming, events, and in our work to determine what the community's expectations for downtown are.

It takes between 10 and 15 minutes to complete.

[CLICK TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Share the 2022 Downtown Survey with this link:
downtownakron.com/news/downtown-survey

Line Dancing & the Civic Commons

In case you missed it, Roger Riddle interviewed JustUs Line Dance Crew founder Carmen Payne for Akron Civic Commons story in early September. DAP contracted JustUs to hold twice-weekly line dancing classes on Cascade Plaza, one of the most well-attended of DAP's summer fitness classes.

"We try to make sure we stress to our class, if you can't get the move, just keep moving. When people keep their heart rate up, get their heart pumping, your blood moving, it keeps you healthy because it's real easy to get stiff.... our oldest member is 74 and she dances every dance just like we do. And there's a cheat for every move. So we always make sure that we show the way the dance was choreographed and a modified version in case a person is having a hard time, so that they can keep moving." [Read the full interview.](#)



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Knight Foundation gives UA \$20M to renovate Polsky Building

“The Knight Foundation is giving the University of Akron \$20 million to renovate and rename classroom and learning space at the downtown Polsky Building into a ‘hub of civic engagement.’

The foundation announced the award, along with \$11 million in other grants, at its annual philanthropic event in support of the arts in Akron on Sunday evening. The foundation said the newly renovated Polsky Building will bear the names of its founding brothers: John S. and James L. Knight.

The Polsky Building, designed by New York City architects and finished in 1930, was a premier downtown shopping center on Main Street across from the old O’Neil’s Building. Polsky’s department store closed in the late 1970s. The building sat vacant for nine years until 1987, when The Prudential Insurance Co. gifted the art deco-style building to the University of Akron.” —*Doug Livingston, Akron Beacon Journal, September 11, 2022*

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



DORA expands to 40 businesses across downtown

“Akron has expanded its designated outdoor refreshment area (DORA), which will now cover nearly 145 acres and 40 businesses in the downtown area, city officials announced Tuesday.

The DORA will stretch from R. Shea Brewing south of downtown to Lock 15 Brewing on the north side.

“We’re very excited to now offer an expanded DORA to our residents and guests in downtown Akron,” Mayor Dan Horrigan said in a press release. “The DORA has been a huge success for our participating businesses so far and we’ve heard from bars, restaurants, and breweries up and down Main St. and beyond about wanting to be included.”

In a DORA region, patrons can take their opened alcoholic beverages purchased at a DORA establishment outside, and consume them within the approved boundary. Drinks must be purchased from a DORA-approved business and in a designated DORA cup, according to the state.

Akron’s initial DORA was approved in May 2020 and included just 4 businesses around the Lock 3 Park area, the mayor’s chief of staff Gert Wilms said. —*Anna Huntsman, WKSU, Aug. 23, 2022*

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



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Akron Children's Hospital donates \$2.5M to Akron Civic Commons Play Loop

"Akron Children's Hospital on Thursday announced it will donate \$2.5 million to the Akron Civic Commons Locks 2, 3 & 4 Play Loop downtown.

The play loop will provide naturally designed park and public spaces for families and visitors that promote healing, reflection and relaxation while connecting the Akron Children's Hospital campus to downtown Akron via the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. The \$10 million play loop is a main component of the Akron Civic Commons project to create accessible, equitable and welcoming parks, trails and open spaces along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail from downtown Akron to Summit Lake. Akron Children's Hospital will make the donation over three years, with the first installment made last year." — *Megan Becka, Cleveland.com, Sept. 9, 2022*

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

Akron Community Foundation distributes nearly \$2.5M in quarterly grants

"Akron Community Foundation's board recently announced grants totaling \$2,461,000 and approved \$563,000 in competitive civic affairs grants chosen by the foundation's Community Investment Committee.

Included in this round of civic affairs grants is the Akron Marathon, which was awarded \$12,500 for enhancements like course modifications, digital improvements, and the ability to livestream the event. This grant comes as the marathon celebrates its 20th anniversary and its marquee event that took place this past weekend, taking runners through 13 scenic Akron neighborhoods.

"It is a day where everyone comes out of their houses and cheers thousands of runners across the Blue Line, and it really is a celebration and a holiday for Akron," said Anne Bitong, president and CEO of the Akron Marathon. "We're just thrilled to be able to celebrate our 20th-year milestone with the community and continue to promote health and wellness through the Akron Marathon."

Nearly 50 organizations received funding during the civic affairs cycle, including \$30,000 for the Akron Urban League to help support workforce development, entrepreneurship and education, and \$12,500 for the Summit Metro Parks to help college students gain skills for future archaeological careers.

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



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Akron's Nightlight Cinema announces capital campaign, plans for expansion

"The Nightlight Cinema, Akron's nonprofit art house theater, announced a capital campaign that will allow it to add a second screening room, a lounge and additional restrooms.

The campaign, which seeks to raise \$400,000 for the improvements, will kick off this fall.

"Since we opened in 2014 with one screen, it has always been in our hopes and plans to grow, but the pieces needed to line up," Nightlight Executive Director Jenn Kidd said. "As the only nonprofit art house theater in downtown Akron, we have been grateful for our community support. But we have been limited with film choices—there are so many great films, but only so much room." —*Megan Becka, Cleveland.com, Sept. 15, 2022*

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



Looking to rent? Northeast Ohio is among the best places to do it

"For cash-strapped renters, "the situation is getting more dire in many U.S. metro areas," CityLab.com reports, but Akron and Cleveland are significant exceptions.

The website reports that the Zumper National Rent Index "shows the median national one-bedroom rent for a newly listed one-bedroom now at \$1,486, up 11.8% over August 2021—beating last month's record high. More than half of U.S. cities are showing double-digit rent hikes, with some over 30%."

There are 18 cities where average one-bedroom rents still come in under \$1,000, with Akron as the most affordable place on that list, at \$650 for a one-bedroom apartment." —*Scott Suttell, Crain's Cleveland Business, August 30, 2022*

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



Akron History Center receives grant from Akron Community Foundation

"A recent Akron Community Foundation grant will help support the Akron History Center, a long-lasting, free, museum-quality exhibit that is being created to highlight the 200-year history of Akron and serve as the lead project of Akron's 2025 Bicentennial celebration.

Akron Community Foundation's board of directors approved a two-year, \$100,000 grant to help complete development of the History Center, located in the Bowery,

NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a multi-use development project on South Main Street in the heart of downtown Akron. The History Center is expected to be completed in late 2023.

“We’re excited to be a part of this effort that has been decades in the making,” said John T. Petures Jr., president and CEO of Akron Community Foundation. “The foundation at its core is dedicated to making a lasting impact on our community, and I can think of no better way to do that than by helping to preserve the history of our community.”

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

University of Akron gets nearly \$6M for Cummings Center

“The estate of a psychologist and researcher is gifting the University of Akron \$5.9 million.

The money comes from R. Allen Gardner’s estate. The award is earmarked for the Drs. Nicholas and Dorothy Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, a museum dedicated to the field and related sciences.

Gardner passed away last year at the age of 91. The longtime faculty member at the University of Nevada, Reno was known for “his hands-on approach to teaching American Sign Language (ASL) to a female chimpanzee named Washoe” in partnership with his wife, zoologist Beatrix Tugendhut Gardner. UA officials wrote in a recent news release.

The monetary gift will go toward creating the Cummings Center Endowed Fund, which will in turn help care for the museum’s collection. It focuses on “unique, iconic and breakthrough research in psychology,” per the release. The Gardners’ intellectual property, like papers and books, will go to UA, too.” —Amy Morona, *Crain’s Cleveland Business*, Sept. 30, 2022

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

Thousands celebrate downtown at 2022 Akron Pride Festival, Equity March

“The 2022 Akron Pride Festival kicked off with the Akron Equity March, starting near Spaghetti Warehouse in downtown Akron and proceeding to Lock 3, the center of the festival.

The march is held in support of the LGBTQ+ community and to demonstrate Akron and Summit County’s pursuit of equality and equity for all.

Multiple events took place at the festival, including perfor-



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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. 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. [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.

mances by Natasshja Norielle, 2022 Drag Artist of the Year winner. Music played on three stages, with activities at Lock 3, Cascade Plaza and the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

A fireworks show sponsored by the Downtown Akron Partnership and the Knight Foundation was scheduled to conclude Saturday's festival." —*Alan Ashworth, Akron Beacon Journal, August 27, 2022*

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

'A dream come true': Akron Marathon celebrates 20th anniversary

"More than 7,000 people participated in the FirstEnergy Akron Marathon, Half Marathon, & Team Relay on Saturday, which marked the race's 20th anniversary.

Anne Bitong, president and CEO of the Akron Marathon, said the energy for this year's race was something she could not describe.

"This is incredible," she said. "It is the best day in Akron. It's a holiday. It's a day where the community supports each other and celebrates personal achievements." —*Molly Walsh, Akron Beacon Journal, Sept. 25, 2022*

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

Curated Storefront creates dynamic gallery experience in old Quaker Square mall

"Launched in 2018, "Front International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art" is a free, public contemporary art exhibition comprised of artist commissions, performances, films and public programs across Northeast Ohio every three years.

This year's edition of Front has the title "Oh, Gods of Dust and Rainbows," taken from a Langston Hughes poem and has the overarching curatorial vision of embracing art as "an agent of transformation, a mode of healing, and a therapeutic process."

Over 30 venues are participating throughout Northeast Ohio, five of which are in Akron.

Certainly, the theme of art as an agent of transformation can be felt in one of Front's featured locations in Akron at the former Quaker Square Inn, Restaurants and Shops. In partnership with Front and the University of Akron, the Akron arts organization Curated Storefront, which is best

NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

known for bringing art to underutilized buildings all over downtown, has taken over part of the building and turned it into four galleries with work by regional and international artists.” —*Anderson Turner, Akron Beacon Journal, August 4, 2022*

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

Art pops up in downtown Akron

“Akron has some new outdoor art downtown and, for a bit at least, it will have a new art gallery downtown, too, in the form of a pop-up gallery opening at Quaker Square

The outdoor art is a new mural on the south side of the Gothic Building at 102 S. High St.

The mural, a bit dark and foreboding perhaps, seems apt for a building with the name “Gothic.” It’s the work of Spanish-Haitian artist Axel Void, who finished it in early July and was commissioned by Akron art collector and Curated Storefronts executive director Rick Rogers.

Rogers said he has long been a fan of Void and asked developer Tony Troppe for permission to install the mural. (Troppe said yes.)” —*Dan Shingler, Crain’s Cleveland Business, Sept. 25, 2022*

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

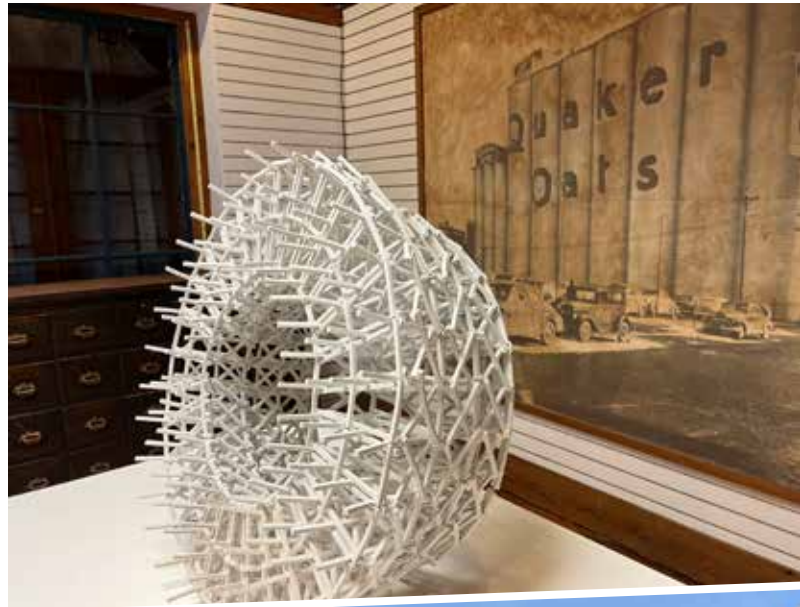
International Institute of Akron to move to downtown

“After decades of serving the city’s refugees and immigrants from offices in North Hill, “Akron’s International Community,” the International Institute of Akron announced it will move to a downtown location in early 2023.

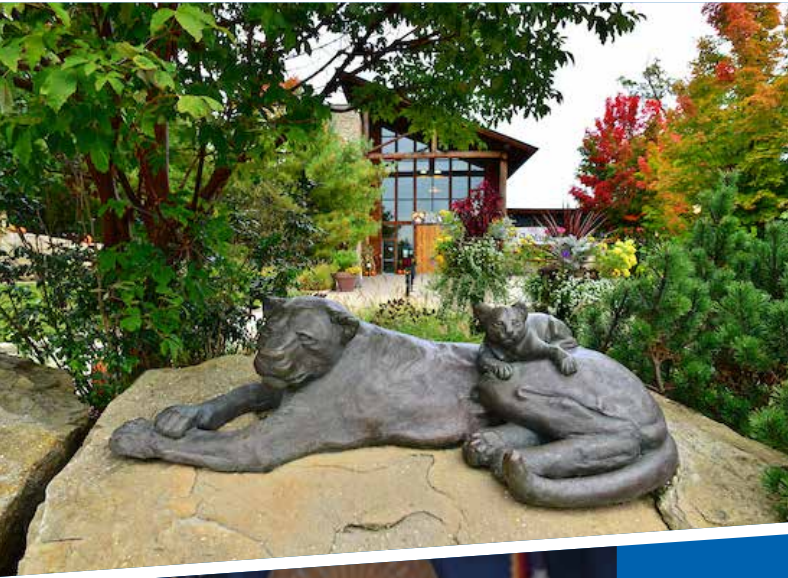
IIA Executive Director Madhu Sharma said in a statement the agency will keep two classrooms at the International House of San Tomasso, a North Hill residential development designed specifically for immigrants and refugees, where English classes and programming will continue.

“With this move, we are intentionally creating a space that encourages personal connection and where we can host more community functions,” Sharma said. “We can keep growing our staff, volunteer and client base, and expanding our impact.” —*Jennifer Conn, Spectrum News 1, October 3, 2022*

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



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS



AKRON ZOO RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FROM ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS

"The Akron Zoo was recognized on a national level during the 2022 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conference in late August. The zoo received top honors in marketing, plus zoo president and CEO, Doug Piekarz, was sworn in to serve on the AZA Board of Directors.

As a member of the Board of Directors, Piekarz will help guide the largest accrediting organization for professional zoological parks and aquariums, with accredited facilities across 14 countries. Through the accreditation program, AZA advances the care and wellbeing of animals, along with the conservation of species." [Find out more.](#)

JUDGE ANNALISA S. WILLIAMS RECEIVES OHIO STATE BAR ASSOCIATION'S RITTER AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

"With a lifetime of service within the Akron community, the larger public, and the legal profession, Judge Williams exemplifies every aspect of the Ritter Award, the highest honor awarded by the Foundation. The OSBF's Ritter Award recognizes the accomplishments of the honoree in attaining and promoting the highest level of professionalism, integrity, and ethics in the practice of law." [Find out more.](#)

PRITT PROPERTIES, S3 TECHNOLOGIES, CONSOLIDUS, COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES, AMONG CASCADE CAPITAL CORPORATION 2022 BUSINESS GROWTH AWARD WINNERS

"The criteria to earn a Business Growth Award is based upon companies, over the last five years, either increasing their sales levels by at least 100 percent or \$5 million, and/or increasing their employee bases by at least 50 percent or 25 employees. These are both high standards." [Find out more.](#)

OHIO TEA LADY NAMED A 2022 OPENTABLE DINERS' CHOICE AWARD WINNER

"Diners' Choice lists are unique in that they are powered by people like you and are based only on diners who we've confirmed have dined at a restaurant. OpenTable diners globally have provided more than 30 million ratings and reviews, with more than 450,000 submitted monthly." [Find out more.](#)

THERON BROWN, CHRIS COLES JOIN THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON MUSIC FACULTY TO REVAMP JAZZ PROGRAM

"In a city steeped in jazz history, local jazz musicians Theron Brown and Chris Coles, both University of Akron alumni and active performing and teaching artists throughout



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

Northeast Ohio, have been hired as full-time professors to revamp UA's jazz program." [Find out more.](#)

JUDGE ELINOR MARSH STORMER RECEIVES 2022 THOMAS J. MOYER AWARD FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

"Summit County Probate Court Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer has been recognized with the 2022 Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence. The Ohio Bar Association declared Stormer as the clear choice for this year's award due to her innovations that have reshaped judicial practices and created groundbreaking firsts in Ohio and Summit County throughout her career." [Find out more.](#)

AKRON CIVIC THEATRE'S HOWARD PARR TO RECEIVE VISITORS BUREAU CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

"Howard Parr, Executive Director of the Akron Civic Theatre, will be receiving the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau 2022 Chairman's Award; the award is bestowed upon deserving industry leaders by David Lieberth, Chairman of the Bureau's Board of Directors." [Find out more.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FEATURED IN SEASON 6 OF THE COLLEGE TOUR

"The College Tour is an Emmy-nominated TV series that provides an inside look at college campuses across the country. The show will be available to stream on many platforms, including Amazon Prime Video, in November.

This is an exciting opportunity that presents UA to a national audience and, most importantly, future Zips.

You can watch the full episode and learn more about the featured students." [Find out more.](#)

TWISTED TOMATO PIZZERIA NAME 2022 AKRON PIZZA FEST PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

FEATURED PROPERTY

368 S. Main St.

This property is located in the Historic Main-Exchange District, Downtown Akron and directly across from The Standard (236 new market rate apartments) and 401 Lofts (189 units/323 student housing beds). This 2-story gem is a great Mixed-Use Re-development Project consisting of ground level retail and 2nd floor apartments eligible for the city's 15-year tax abatement.



For more information, contact Kimberly Beckett 330-374-7676
kbeckett@downtownakron.com

FEATURED BUSINESS

Hopson Communications & Coaching, LLC
195 S. Main St.

Hopson Communications & Coaching, LLC is a business coaching, consulting, and public speaking firm offering small business management training programs focused on the development of entrepreneurs, business owners, and professionals. Hopson Communications specializes in developing firms through the acquisition and expansion of human and financial capital.



METRO RTA TRAINING BUSES ARE ON THE ROAD

We recently hired our largest Operator training class in METRO history! Because of this, you will be seeing more training buses out on the roadways. Please be advised that buses with signs reading "training bus" are not on specific routes and cannot stop to pick you up.

If a training bus passes you, don't worry—you didn't miss your ride! Be sure to utilize our text service available on all bus stop signs for real-time data on routes & times."



METRO TO PROVIDE BUS SERVICE ON THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS DAY, AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

"Extending our added holiday service through the end of the year gives our passengers the ability to take essential trips, such as attending work or receiving medical care," said METRO CEO Dawn Distler. "Providing holiday service will continue to benefit those who rely on METRO for daily travel and we are proud to provide fair and equitable transportation by wrapping up the year with 365-days of service."

METRO recommends calling Customer Care at 330-762-0341 for service-related information, including scheduling for Demand Response services. [Find out more.](#)

NOW HIRING

METRO RTA is hiring for the following positions:

Apprentice Mechanic

Accountant

Bus Operator

View job requirements & apply online today. [Find out more.](#)

FALL IN LOVE WITH AKRON

The Fall in Love with Downtown Akron Passport is Your Ticket to Fun

Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan, Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP), and the City's Lock 3 announced the Fall in Love with Downtown Akron Campaign to promote the newly expanded DORA, downtown businesses, and engagement with the Main St. thoroughfare. The campaign kicks off this Friday, Sept. 9 and runs through Friday, November 25 when the City will host the Welcome Santa Parade and Tree Lighting, officially launching the winter season in Akron.

"Downtown Akron really offers something for everyone," said Mayor Horrigan. "There's arts and culture, music and event spaces, retail venues, amazing bars and restaurants, and so much more. With a newly expanded DORA, we want to welcome our residents and guests to enjoy all that downtown has to offer, and this Fall we have a full slate of fun events and activities for everyone to enjoy."

President and CEO of Downtown Akron Partnership Suzie Graham said, "The Fall season is a wonderful time to experience downtown. Whether it is your first time visiting, or you frequent the district regularly, you are sure to find a host of great experiences through the Fall in Love with Downtown campaign."

The Passport

Pick up a Fall in Love with Akron passport at any of more than 80 downtown businesses, or download one. Visit 10 businesses during the Passport time period—from September 9 through November 25 (the day of the downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony)—and get a sticker from each of the businesses to fill your Passport.

The Businesses

[Click here for list of participating Fall in Love with Akron downtown businesses.](#)

The Rewards

The first 100 people to finish their Passport and turn it in will earn a custom downtown t-shirt designed by Micah Kraus. Everyone who completes the passport by the end of the campaign will be entered into a drawing for a grand prize package of downtown businesses worth \$300.

DAP will also award a \$25 gift card to one lucky passport finalist each week of the campaign.

Deadline to Enter & How to Turn In Your Fall in Love with Downtown Akron Passport

Turn in your completed Passport (with 10 stickers on it) on or by Friday, November 25, 2022 or postmarked no later than Friday, December 2, 2022. Drop them off, or mail them, to: Downtown Akron Partnership, 103 S. High St., 4th Floor, Akron, Ohio 44308





103 S. High St., 4th Floor
Akron, OH 44308
Phone: 330-374-7676
Ambassadors: 330-706-7383
Email: Info@Downtownakron.com
www.downtownakron.com



#Downtownakron

