

# DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



4TH QUARTER 2022  
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



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# DOWNTOWN AKRON, 4TH QUARTER 2022

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





# WORKING FOR DOWNTOWN

## Downtown Small Businesses and Storefronts in the News

***Akron's TinyCircuits Kickstarter campaign for new TinyTVs fully-funded in minutes***, by Megan Becka, Cleveland.com: When Akron-based tiny open-source electronics manufacturer TinyCircuits launched the Kickstarter campaign for its TinyTV products last week, it was hoping to raise \$15,000 over the course of 30 days to fund the project. To company founder Ken Burns' surprise, the campaign was fully funded in 19 minutes.

"Our first day was pretty crazy, we did like \$60,000 in one day—it was wild to watch it crank up," Burns said.

Just a week later, the campaign has raised more than \$100K by some 1,100 backers.

***To company founder Ken Burns' surprise, the campaign was fully funded in 19 minutes.***

Once TinyCircuits receives the campaign funding, it will begin work creating 2 different miniature TVs in its downtown Akron office: the TinyTV 2 and the TinyTV Mini.

"TinyCircuits has been around for about 11 years now, and we have these little modular boards. One of the things we came out with years ago is a little screen. One of our customers put that into a TV set and made a little hobby project out of it," Burns said. [READ MORE](#)

***Looking for a new place to dine? Here are some Summit County restaurants that opened in 2022 (Crave, Akron)***, by Tawney Beans, Akron Beacon Journal: After a healthy dose of anticipation from local foodies, Crave opened within its new home in downtown Akron's Landmark Building. The two-story space formerly housed the Akron Savings and Loan and has the ornately plastered, restored ceiling tiles to prove it.



Couple and co-owners Dana and Aaron Hervey have been in the restaurant business for 21 years. The great location was a big factor for Aaron, who cited the 500,000 guests that the Akron Civic Theatre and Lock 3 draw downtown annually as well as a total of about 200 apartment dwellers in the building above the restaurant and across Main Street at The 159. [READ MORE](#)

***We sampled 11 Akron-area comfort foods. Here's what to check out as temps drop (The Lockview, by Kerry Clawson and Luigi's Restaurant, by Craig Webb):*** At The Lockview restaurant in downtown Akron, I went for a real gourmet twist on a grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup, the ultimate comfort food lunch. The landmark eatery, which opened in late 2007, is known for its 15 luxurious takes on the American sandwich favorite.

***The No. 11 grilled cheese was the most amazing comfort food combo I've ever had...***

The No. 11 grilled cheese was the most amazing comfort food combo I've ever had, featuring rich bits of butter-poached lobster with deliciously gooey melted mozzarella. This extravagantly gourmet sandwich comes with a nice element of green—arugula—and is served with creamy lemon-pepper aioli on perfectly buttery-crispy country butter-top bread.

### ***Luigi's Restaurant***

I have never had to specify if I want cheese on my salad... that was until I walked into Luigi's in Akron for the first time.

This restaurant on North Main Street has been around since 1949, and it has been serving up pizza and Italian dishes along with its famous salad with cheese to generations of hungry fans.

The food here is great, but truthfully I would be in my happy place simply sitting in a corner booth (facing the door, of course, as this is an Italian joint) simply eating my Italian tossed salad with cheese. [READ MORE](#)

# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



top left: [The Standard](#), 22 E. Exchange St., 330-375-1183  
above: [The Goodrich](#), 530 S. Main St., 330-607-9617

## Residential Development as of Q4 - 2022

**90%**

UNITS  
OPENED  
**56**

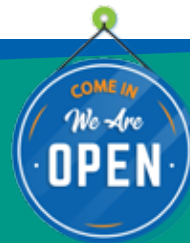
Residential  
Occupancy

## 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

Q4 - 2022	CONTACTS MADE*
RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS	<b>64</b>
NON-RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS	<b>20</b>
RETAIL AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS**	<b>12</b>

\* 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



# OCTOBER – DECEMBER EVENTS



## Downtown Akron Fall Fest

*October 22, 2022*

The downtown Akron Fall Fest welcomed over 2,000 visitors to Main St. for a gorgeous October afternoon of Trick or Treat, followed by a free screening of the movie *Hocus Pocus* on Cascade Plaza. DAP partnered with 15 downtown businesses and organizations to offer 16 Trick or Treat stations from Cascade Plaza to Street Craftery on the corner of S. Main and E. Exchange St. Participating organizations included The University of Akron, Lock 3, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Akron METRO RTA, Akron Children's Hospital Police Department, Chill, Baxter's, Red Oak Behavioral Health, Akron RubberDucks, Street Craftery, Summer Ready Fitness, Velvet Vintage Boutique, Hope & Healing, The Great Escape Room, and Curated Storefront at the Polsky Building.

Fall Fest was a tremendous success, welcoming guests from across the community of all ages and backgrounds, and a testament to our community's trust in the downtown neighborhood. Save the date, Fall Fest returns on October 21, 2023.

[To view photographs from Fall Fest, click here.](#)



## Downtown Akron Diwali Festival

*October 23, 2022*

This year was the first time DAP hosted a Diwali celebration in downtown. The festival, planned with the help of Sonal Jain, owner of Chamak Dhamak, members of the Greater Akron Hindu Sewa Samittee, Nirali Schrader and other individuals, drew more than 500 people to Cascade Plaza to celebrate one of the major holidays of Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism. The festival included music, food, cultural dances, and a puja ceremony led by Priest Sreedhara Sree of Shiva Vishnu Temple in Parma, Ohio. We are already looking forward to the 2023 celebration in November.

[To view photos from the Downtown Akron Diwali Festival, click here.](#)



## Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival

*November 5, 2022*

DAP presented the second annual Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival on an unseasonably warm Saturday in November (with temperatures in the 70s), and more than 4,000 guests turned out for the event that is loosely themed from the TV show, *Gilmore Girls*. Attractions included vendors, food, live music, *Gilmore Girls* trivia coordinated by the Barley House, a button-making activity in the Akron-Summit County Public Library TechZone, and coffee, coffee, coffee. Smells Like Snow will be back on November 4, 2023.

[To view photos from the Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival, click here.](#)



# DOWNTOWN PROGRAMS

## Welcome Santa Light Up Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting

November 25, 2022

Thousands turned out for the first illuminated Welcome Santa Parade in downtown Akron. The Welcome Santa Parade, which has typically been held on Saturday morning, the day after the tree lighting, was moved to the same evening this year, with immense success. Not only was the event the perfect kick-off to the holiday season in downtown Akron, it was the perfect launch for the Winter-Blast activities hosted by Lock 3.

[To view photos from the Welcome Santa Light Up Parade, click here.](#)





# CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

## DAP Ambassador Stats Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022

13,604

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

989

BUS STOPS  
CLEANED

373

SCOOTER  
SUPPORT

882

BUSINESS CONTACTS  
MADE

1,204

BUSINESS CHECKS

84

GRAFFITI  
REMOVED

1690

SKYWALK  
PATROL

286

PARKING  
ASSISTANCE

5,695

SECURITY  
CHECKS

42

SAFETY  
ESCORTS

174

MOTORIST  
ASSISTANCE

5,445

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.\*](#)



Today a guest had a dead battery. I called the ambassadors and they got it started right away. The guest said that extra perk was what was the icing on the cake and made things even better with his stay here and will definitely be back.

—*Courtyard by Marriott  
Downtown Akron*



# 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	Q3 - 2022	Q4 - 2022
FACEBOOK	11,229	11,811
TWITTER	9,618	9,529
INSTAGRAM	6,917	7,129
LINKEDIN	1,916	2,076



WEBSITE TRAFFIC	Q3 - 2022	Q4 - 2022
USERS	91,442	86,203
SESSIONS	115,474	108,180
PAGE VIEWS	384,741	369,847

EMAIL NEWSLETTER	Q4 - 2022
NUMBER PUBLISHED	24
SENDS	181,531
OPENS	53,330
CLICKS	3,669
SUBSCRIBERS	18,123

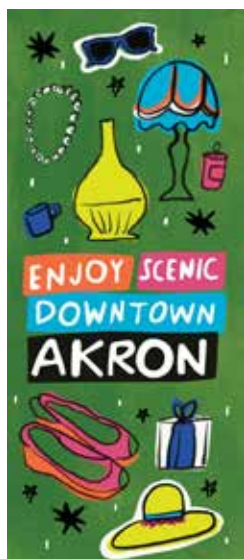
Stay connected to the latest information on downtown Akron, subscribe to Do Downtown, our weekly email newsletter at [downtownakron.com/news/subscribe](https://downtownakron.com/news/subscribe), and follow us on social media @DowntownAkronPartnership.

## 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*)

### Guides

- [24 Free & Low Cost Things to Do in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Things to Do This Fall in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Fall Drink Specials](#)
- [Downtown Akron Shopping Guide](#)
- [Photos to Get You Excited About This Year's Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival](#)



## Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron

Visit these Majestic Sights of downtown Akron (and buy them!): Cool vintage décor, contemporary fashion, footwear, and accessories, midcentury modern furniture, comics, flowers, Magic and Pokémon cards, artisanal soap, tiny TVs, and more!

Find out more about the Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport by clicking the graphic to the left.

## Fall in Love With Akron

Congratulations to David Swirsky, the winner of the Fall in Love with Akron Passport, which ran from September 9 - November 25, 2022, in partnership with the City of Akron.

As part of the \$300 prize pack that David won, Chill and Indulge also named a limited-edition ice cream in his honor! Stop by Chill at 209 Main St. and try a scoop of the Swirsky Swirl, a vegan chocolate-hazelnut made with coconut milk.

The Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport is ON right now. Pick up a passport at any of 70+ downtown Akron businesses, collect stickers each time you make a purchase downtown, and enter to win. Who knows, maybe they'll name an ice cream flavor after YOU!





# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Bounce fosters mentorship and community for minority entrepreneurs

Community members gathered [in October] at Bounce's Startup Showcase in Downtown Akron. The event provided an opportunity for entrepreneurs to show off their businesses. Many of them are participants of Bounce's GROW program, which stands for Generating Real Opportunity and Wealth. GROW primarily serves minority and women entrepreneurs.

68.8% of Bounce's clients were women or minorities in 2021, and 114 entrepreneurs participated in GROW programming last year.

"We always envisioned it as being three tracks for people with ideas, people who just started a small business and then people who had a small business who needed additional support," Chief Operating Officer Jessica Sublett said.  
—*Abigail Bottar, Ideastream Public Media, Oct. 6, 2022*

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

## Akron musicians seek to reinvigorate jazz at UA

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 Northeast Ohio, have been hired as full-time professors to revamp UA's jazz program.

The university is working to rejuvenate the music school's jazz program in a town once known as the "Jazz Corridor of the Midwest," where jazz clubs on North Howard Street were a popular stop in the 1930s and 40s for musicians including Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong to perform in while traveling between New York and Chicago. Black entertainers stayed at the Matthews Hotel, owned by influential Black hotel proprietor George Mathews.

The city's rich jazz history, which earned Howard Street the moniker "The Harlem of Akron," is a point of cultural importance to Akron's Black community.

"It's extremely important because any history gives us relevance for what we're doing" as jazz artists, said pianist Brown of Akron.—*Kerry Clawson, Akron Beacon Journal, Oct. 20, 2022*

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



## Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition breaks ground on Summit Lake Trail

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition held a groundbreaking celebration [in October] for the Ohio & Erie Canal Summit Lake Trail.



# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The nearly three-mile multipurpose trail will link the eastern and western neighborhoods surrounding Summit Lake and connect to the 101-mile Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. The Ohio & Erie Canal Summit Lake Trail will be accessible for hikers, walkers and bicyclists. —*Megan Becka, Cleveland.com, Oct. 25, 2022*

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

## UA honored again as one of top universities for patents

In September, the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO), issued its 10th annual report on top ranked U.S. and international universities receiving the highest issuance of U.S. utility patents by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in 2021.

The University of Akron (UA), one of the nine founding NAI charter members, has been ranked in the top 100 every year since 2017.

“To see UA recognized among the top 100 is again confirmation that UA’s faculty and students are not only inventive, but that together we can take that research and transform it into innovation,” said Dr. Suzanne Bausch, vice president for research and business engagement.—*The University of Akron News, Nov. 3, 2022*

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

## Northside Marketplace adds 30 new businesses since October

When [Justin] Lepley took over managing the space in Oct., there were about 35 vendors or about 30% occupancy.

The number of vendors has now doubled, Lepley said, with more being added weekly. It is now at about 70% occupancy.

“I say plants and flowers are my hobby, but entrepreneurship is my passion,” he said. “I like helping others grow their business and make their dreams into something more tangible.”

Preston Clark, co-owner of 7th Floor Clothing, said the business moved into the space about a year ago.

The makers of distinctively Akron clothing used to be tucked in out of the way spaces.

But the new digs inside the market space with a hotel nearby and a popular destination like Luigi’s practically right across the street, Clark said, is perfect.

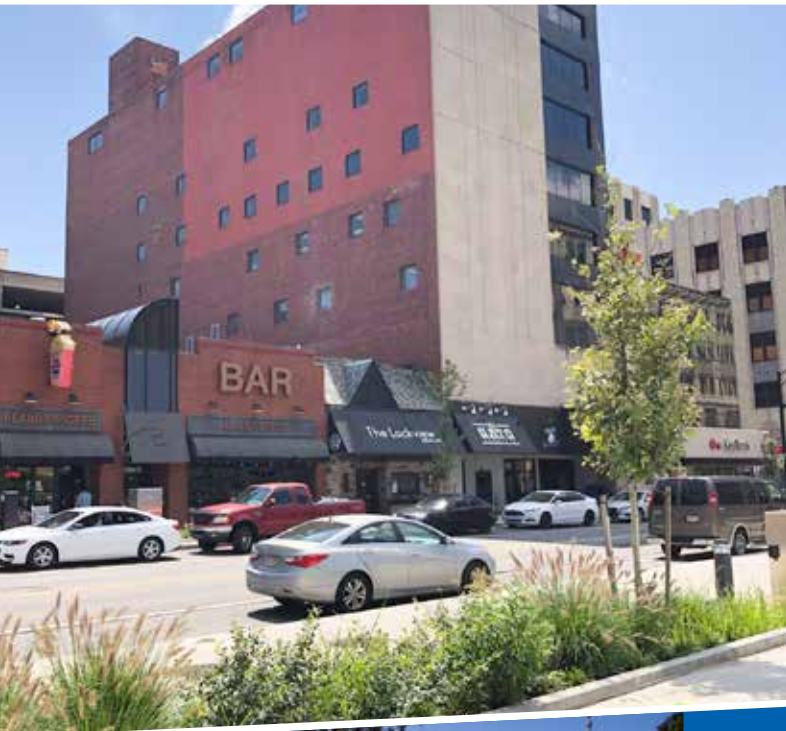
It also helps that the market space has a pretty cool vibe with a variety of shops and vendors.—*Craig Webb, Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 16, 2022*

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





# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Mayor Horrigan announces \$1M awarded to 100 Akron small businesses

Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan has announced the 100 Akron businesses who will each be receiving a one-time \$10,000 grant to help offset costs and negative impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding is coming from the City's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

"Akron's small businesses have endured so much over the past several years to keep their doors open and to continue serving this community," said Mayor Horrigan.

"I'm proud to be able to invest into these businesses with our ARPA dollars and help them bounce back from the impacts of the pandemic."

"We hear stories every day of how our small businesses stepped up through the height of the pandemic to take care of their customers, their employees, and their communities," said Director of Strategic Development, Catey Breck. "These grants are our way of mitigating the fallout they experienced from COVID-19 and putting these once in a generation funds back into the community. We're excited to support our small businesses in this way."

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

## GAR Foundation distributes over \$2.5M in grants

The GAR Foundation has awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants to nonprofit groups in Greater Akron.

The foundation focused its support this quarter on education, economic, workforce and community development, basic needs, and arts and culture. Selections were made at the November distribution meeting.

"We are continually grateful for the opportunity to advance GAR's strategic priorities through key partnerships built on shared learning and collaborative action," GAR Foundation President Christine Mayer said in a prepared statement. "We're excited to sharpen our focus as we move into another year of helping Akron to become smarter, stronger, and more vibrant.—Akron Beacon Journal, Dec. 12, 2022

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

## Nightlight Cinema gains momentum in second-screen capital campaign

Jenn Kidd, executive director of The Nightlight, is happy to report that the downtown Akron cinema has raised





# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

\$130,000 to expand the nonprofit art house with a second screen.

The project, announced in September, will likely have a price tag of about \$500,000 rather than the original \$400,000 estimate. The \$130,000 was raised through grants and donations to the capital campaign.

Act I involves all the planning requirements to build out an adjacent space to The Nightlight at 30 N. High St. in the Dickson Transfer Building in Akron's historic arts district.

—Kerry Clawson, *Akron Beacon Journal*, Dec. 21, 2022

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

## Head of Summit County's ArtsNow says region's arts and culture sector has bounced back

The arts and culture sector in greater Akron has bounced back from the coronavirus pandemic, according to the head of Summit County's arts advocacy group. Nicole Mullet, executive director of ArtsNow, will delivered her second State of the Arts address on [December 15].

Looking back over the past year, and ahead to 2023, Mullet said the sector continues its recovery with increased activity along Front Street in Cuyahoga Falls, Locks 3 and 4 in Downtown Akron and new spaces at the Akron Civic Theatre, which is hosting the State of the Arts event. During this year's speech, she plans to share news about work that's happening in the area of accessibility. —Kabir Bhatia, *Ideastream Public Media*, Dec. 12, 2022

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

## In 2023, Akron will work toward redeveloping Innerbelt property

While you won't likely see construction equipment or buildings going up next year, 2023 is looking like the year that will determine the fate and future of the site, with a new study and hopefully a federal grant on the way.

Akron's roughly 30-acre Innerbelt property has been vacant for more than five years now, leaving an empty chasm of presumably valuable real estate in the middle of downtown.

So, what's to become of it in the year ahead?

The city is waiting for a study it's commissioned from Liz Ogbu, an Oakland architect, urbanist and consultant who focuses on "spatial justice," including what to do with land that in the past used to house Black neighborhoods before such sites were used for projects like Akron's Innerbelt.





# 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](https://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](mailto:info@downtownakron.com).

Ogbu is set to deliver her work to the city sometime in June or July, and it will then be discussed by the city, residents and others interested in the site.

Akron hopes to couple Ogbu's work with a \$1 million grant from the federal Reconnecting Communities program. That's been funded with \$1 billion to spend over the next five years and is dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. —*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Dec. 27, 2022*

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

## Akron Community Foundation awards \$5M in quarterly grants

Akron Community Foundation's board recently announced quarterly grants totaling \$5 million and approved \$722,609 in competitive health and human services grants chosen by the foundation's Community Investment Committee, the largest distribution for this grant process in the foundation's history.

Among the nonprofits funded this quarter is the Autism Society of Greater Akron, which was awarded \$5,000 to help expand inclusive social and recreational opportunities for individuals with autism. The nonprofit started a variety of social clubs for children and adults due to increased social isolation stemming from the pandemic. The clubs include a mix of virtual and in-person activities, from online games and talent shows to tennis and yoga. —*Akron Community Foundation News, Dec. 6, 2022*

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

## Akron, Hudson, Barberton test refreshment districts, see DORA dividends now and in future

Summit County's largest city took its first stab at a DORA district in June 2020 in an area around Lock 3 in downtown.

By May 2022, the city was ready to expand the district along a 1.6-mile stretch from downtown to businesses in the Canal Place development. The addition covered about 145 acres.

Alcoholic beverages purchased in the zone are served in special biodegradable cups, with customers paying an additional fee for the DORA-branded containers.

An early test of the expanded DORA took place in late August during the Akron Pride Festival, attended by



# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

about 30,000 people, said Gert Wilms, Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan's chief of staff.

"When we originally did the first round of legislation, it was a pretty small imprint," Wilms said. "... We (were) hearing from the business community, 'It's such a small footprint. Can we get included?'"

Suzie Graham, president and CEO of the Downtown Akron Partnership, said that because big summer events like the Italian-American Festival, the Rib, White & Blue Festival and July 4th fireworks were cancelled, measuring the bigger DORA's effects are premature.

Still, Graham said 46,732 DORA cups were sold this year in the district through early December. In addition to big events, smaller affairs like Fall Fest demonstrate that the DORA is popular.—*Alan Ashworth, Akron Beacon Journal, Jan. 1, 2023*

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

## Akron Zoo and Akron-Canton Airport launch new partnership

The Akron Zoo and Akron-Canton Airport are launching a new partnership, which includes two zoo-themed installations inside the airport.

The first wall is a two-story, 18-foot-high wall located next to the escalators leading to the airport gates. The wall features three different biomes—the ocean, savannah and rainforest—and the Akron Zoo animals native to those regions. The artwork includes three-dimensional plants and animals and video of Akron Zoo animals.

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

## Happy Retirement Chuck Magilavy, Diamond Deli Owner

As we all know, Diamond Deli is a downtown Akron staple and one of our neighborhood's treasures. That's in no small part due to our friend Chuck Magilavy's hard work, commitment, and talent.

In case you missed it, Chuck retired in December 2022, and the day-to-day awesomeness of Diamond Deli is now in the capable hands of his sons, Chad and Brett. News of Chuck's retirement prompted an outpouring of well wishes, on social media, as people thanked him for all the sandwiches, soup, famous carrot cake, and friendship.

If you'd like to read some of those comments, or add one of your own, [check out this link.](#)





# BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS



## AKRON/SUMMIT CVB CAPTURES FIVE OHIO TRAVEL ASSOCIATION RUBY AWARDS

The Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau captured two (2) 1st place RUBY Awards (Recognizing Uncommon Brilliance Yearly) and three (3) 2nd place Citations of Excellence presented by the Ohio Travel Association during their annual conference, October 12-14, 2022. [Find out more.](#)

## RAISING THE BAR PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Akron Municipal Court Judge David Hamilton has introduced a court-sponsored pilot program for area high school students entitled "Raising the Bar."

Raising the Bar has a mission to introduce more minorities to a career in law and give exposure to various career opportunities in the legal profession.

Selected juniors and seniors at Akron Public Schools' Buchtel CLC will be part of the pilot program. This program is funded through My Brother's Keeper. A major partner in this program is Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Office. [Find out more.](#)



## AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT WELCOMES MAGISTRATE BRETT HAMMOND TO STAFF ROSTER

The Akron Municipal Court has appointed Brett Hammond to serve as a full-time Magistrate. Administrative/Presiding Judge Ron Cable administered Magistrate Hammond's oath of office on Monday, October 3, 2022. [Find out more.](#)

## UNIVERSITY OF AKRON'S ESPORTS PROGRAM AMONG TOP IN U.S., ACCORDING TO DAILYGAME RANKING

The University of Akron has the second best Esports program in the country, according to recent rankings by *DailyGame*, an international online magazine covering video game sports and news.

Esports are multiplayer video games played competitively or recreationally, according to the university.

UA ranked well because of its access to early classes, a practice arena, tutoring, assignment assistance, group study, a \$1,000 Esports scholarship and competitions, according to the rankings. [Find out more.](#)



## RUBBERDUCKS SHAD GROSS NAMED EASTERN LEAGUE CLUBHOUSE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Minor League Baseball named RubberDucks Director of Player Facilities Shad Gross the Eastern League Home Clubhouse Manager of the Year.

This award was voted on by coaches and general managers throughout the Eastern League.

# BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

"I am very excited for Shad to receive this honor," Rubber-Ducks General Manager and COO Jim Pfander said. "Everyone that comes through during the season from players and coaches to members of the Guardians player development staff have nothing but amazing things to say about Shad. He truly is one of the best in baseball."

[Find out more.](#)

## UNIVERSITY OF AKRON'S POST CARD CLUB DITCHES TECHNOLOGY, BONDS OVER MASSIVE COLLECTION WITH COMMUNITY

If you're looking for a new hobby or just need a break from your devices, The University of Akron (UA) may have something for you. Its UA Post Card Club is making way for community members, students, staff, and faculty to come together by taking a step back in time through postcards. [Find out more.](#)

## A GROUP OF UNIVERSITY OF AKRON STUDENTS IS TRYING TO REACH SPACE.

College students at the University of Akron are focused. Not on the next exam, but launching a rocket. The Akronauts engineering design team is a volunteer group, made up of hundreds of members, working on high altitude rocketry.

"We try to make it run more like a small space company," said Riley Myers, the President of the Akronauts Rocket Design Team. "That is kind of our aim to mimic industry. Because the goal at the end of the day is to prepare engineers for industry." [Find out more.](#)

## DOMINIC MOORE-DUNSON NAMED ONE OF DANCE MAGAZINE'S 25 TO WATCH

"Urban Midwest storytelling" is how dancer and choreographer Dominic Moore-Dunson describes his approach to his works. The 33-year-old's visceral, cross-disciplinary dance projects, themed around Blackness and social justice, pull from his personal experiences living and working in Akron, Ohio. [Find out more.](#)

## AKRON NATIVE KOFI BOAKYE PLAYS PIANO IN PIVOTAL WHITNEY HOUSTON MOVIE SCENE

Think the piano player in a scene with characters Whitney Houston and Rickey Minor looks familiar in the recently released biopic "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody"?

Well, you're right. The musician playing the grand piano live in the film is Akron native Kofi Boakye, 23. He filmed the scene in October 2021 in Boston with star Naomi Ackie (portraying Houston) singing live along with Dave Heard playing Houston's music director, Rickey Minor.

[Find out more.](#)





# TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

## FEATURED PROPERTY

### Main Place | 121 S. Main St.

Main Place offers Class A office space in the heart of Akron's CBD with direct access to best-in-class amenities, including premier dining and entertainment.



- Climate-controlled underground parking
- Hamad's on Main serves breakfast, lunch, and coffee on-site
- Easy access to Fifth Third Bank branch on-site, plus nearby restaurants and public parks

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

## FEATURED BUSINESS

### D.P. Dough 20 E. Exchange St.

D.P. Dough is The Original Calzone Company! D.P. Dough provides Calzones, wings, fast delivery and more. Named for founders, Dan and Penny, D.P. Dough offers more than 20 different calzones made with your choice of 30+ ingredients. They are open 7 days a week, and "Crazy Late" (until 4 a.m.)



### INPUT NEEDED ON METRO'S REIMAGINED NETWORK

Since 2021, METRO has been working on a plan to improve its bus network. The Draft Reimagined Network is a service plan for METRO's fixed-route bus network that seeks to make transit more useful to more people, by expanding access to more destinations and opportunities.

It is designed to provide frequent and convenient service in busy places where many people need to travel to,



while continuing to offer lifeline services in places where and for people for whom transit is essential.

In 2021 and 2022, METRO conducted two rounds of outreach with the public and stakeholders on the Reimagined Network, refining the design after each round. Now, we are preparing to implement the first changes later this year, on June 4th.

Before we can start running any new services, we need to hear from you to finalize the details of the upcoming service change.

You can provide a comment on the entire plan, or on the details of specific changes to routes until March 1, 2023.

[Click here to take our survey](#) or [visit our website](#) for more information on the new network.

### HIRING OPEN HOUSE, COME DRIVE WITH (B)US: THE SEQUEL

METRO RTA is hosting a 12-hour open house hiring event where potential applicants are invited to test-drive a bus on Wednesday, February 22 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event's objective, in conjunction with a similar hiring strategy used in August 2022, is to showcase bus operator positions and the benefits of working at METRO by providing applicants the opportunity to test-drive one of the buses used daily on METRO routes. Applicants should expect the process to take approximately one hour. [Find Out More.](#)

# DOWNTOWN AKRON VISION & REDEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022+

## About the Plan Update

The Downtown Akron Vision and Redevelopment Plan Update will recalibrate the plan for Downtown Akron based on completed projects, current initiatives, and new community ambitions. Plan 2022+ kicked off in fall 2022 and is expected to be completed in 2023.

The plan update is intended to uncover and highlight market opportunities, new or revised policy recommendations, and new or revised catalytic projects. The plan update will be an addendum to the existing plan but will include a new strategic implementation section to reflect changes and updates.

[Click here to read the Executive Summary](#) of the 2018 Downtown Akron Vision and Redevelopment Plan.

[Click here to read the 2018 Downtown Akron Vision and Redevelopment Plan](#) in its entirety.

## Get Involved

### ONLINE SURVEY

We want to hear from you! Take a brief survey to tell us about your Downtown Akron experience and your thoughts about downtown's future.

TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY

### INTERACTIVE MAP

Drop a pin on our interactive map of Downtown Akron. Share your thoughts about places you enjoy, places that need improvement, and other ideas or suggestions.

DROP A PIN ON THE MAP

### IDEAS WALL

Post an idea or comment on our ideas wall to tell us about Downtown Akron's strengths, challenges, and your vision for the future of downtown.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

## Focus Groups

There are more ways to share your ideas, concerns, and thoughts about the future of downtown Akron. DAP is available to lead focus groups if your organization or group would like to participate. Sessions work best with groups of up to 12, and last about an hour.

If you'd like to schedule a focus group, contact us:

330-374-7676

[info@downtownakron.com](mailto:info@downtownakron.com)

The image displays three vertical panels, each with a blue background and a green header. Each panel features the 'DOWNTOWN AKRON VISION + REDEVELOPMENT PLAN' logo at the top left. The panels are designed to promote community engagement through different methods:

- Top Panel (Survey):** The text reads 'Tell us about your Downtown Akron experience and your ideas for downtown's future by taking a brief survey!'. It includes a green button that says 'TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY'. To the right, there are four circular images showing various downtown scenes: a street with a mural, a group of people walking, a street view with a building, and a person walking a dog.
- Middle Panel (Interactive Map):** The text reads 'Drop a pin on the Downtown Akron Interactive Map to show us the places you enjoy, places that need improvement, and other suggestions for downtown.' It includes a green button that says 'DROP A PIN ON THE MAP'. To the right, there are three circular images: a night view of a park, a street view with a building, and a street view with a building.
- Bottom Panel (Ideas Wall):** The text reads 'Post an idea or comment on our Downtown Akron Ideas Wall to tell us about your vision and priorities for downtown's future.' It includes a green button that says 'SHARE YOUR IDEAS'. To the right, there are three circular images: a group of people walking, a street view with a building, and a street view with a building.





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#Downtownakron

