

# DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



2ND QUARTER 2023  
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



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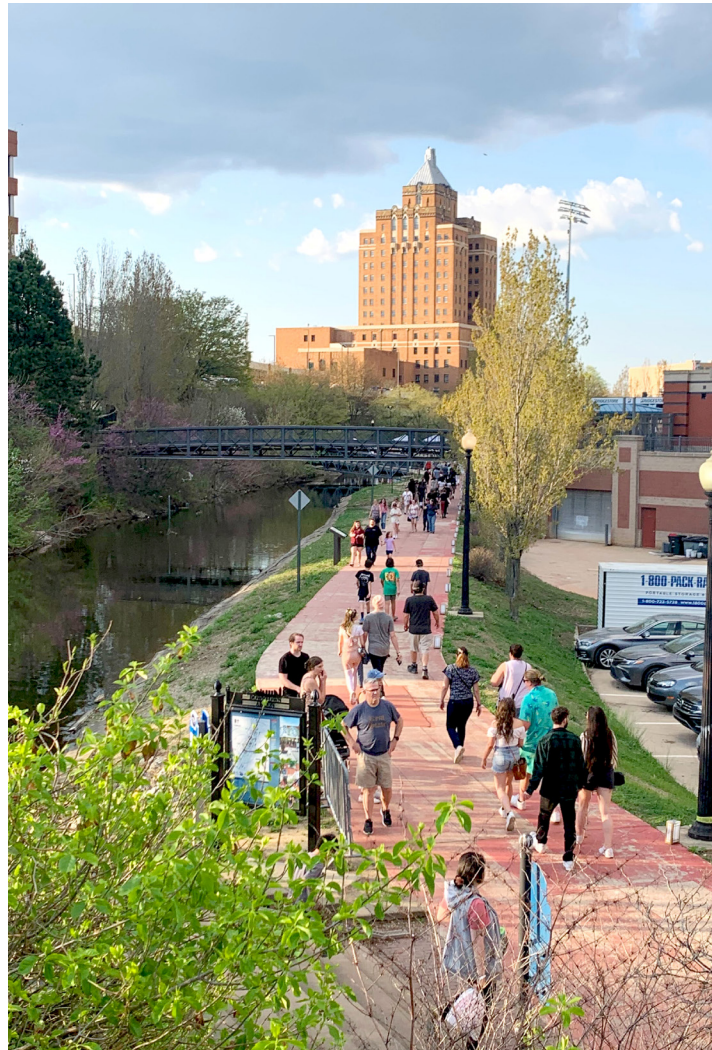


cover photo: Blaak Media



# DOWNTOWN AKRON, 2ND QUARTER 2023

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





# WORKING FOR DOWNTOWN

## Downtown Small Businesses and Storefronts in the News

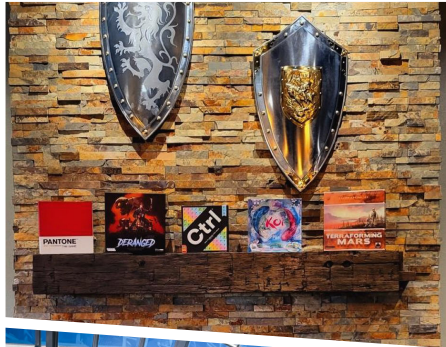
*Green Dragon Inn medieval-themed board game bar, cafe offers something for everyone in downtown Akron*, by Megan Becka, Cleveland.com: If you are looking for someplace unique to hang out in downtown Akron, consider the Green Dragon Inn.

The medieval-themed board game bar and cafe opened in March at 115 E. Market St. The establishment, created by longtime Akron resident and Ellet High School alumnus Jameson Reeves, offers a bit of something for everyone—including more than 750 board games, dice games and card games patrons can hang out and play.

*I want people to have an escape from reality. I want them to be able to go to a place that hasn't been done before.*

Named after one of the bars in “The Hobbit,” the Green Dragon Inn was initially created to be a space where customers of Reeves’ core business, Full Grip Games, could hang out and game. Founded seven years ago, Full Grip Games is a hobby and game shop that specializes in trading cards and board games and is located in the same building as the Green Dragon Inn. [READ MORE](#)

*7th Floor & Akron Art Museum Team Up for “Keith Haring Inspired” Capsule Tee*, 7th Floor Clothing News: Keith Haring (1958-1990) was an amazing pop graffiti artist whose work rose from the streets of New York City to become a cultural phenomenon. This week, some of his original works land in the Akron Art Museum for a limited time, along with an inspired capsule tee created by 7th Floor Clothing co-founder Preston Clark. The T-shirt will only be available at the museum gift shop, which has been transformed into a full Keith Haring Pop Shop experience. [READ MORE](#)



*Keith Haring did the album art for RUN DMC and clothing for Madonna, and it's on everything from Cole Haan shoes to Mac lipstick. I saw his work before I knew who he was.*

*I scream, you scream: Where to get the scoop on ice cream in the Akron area*, by Kerry Clawson and Tawney Beans, Akron Beacon Journal: When I think about gourmet ice cream, I think of Chill Ice Cream.

Over the years, my family and I have found it quite a treat to indulge in ice cream at Chill's downtown Akron location, especially after events across the street at Lock 3.

Brothers and co-owners Pat, Zack and Jeremy Jaworski focus on making new and unique artisan flavors each week, in addition to seven signature flavors. Pat said that means “really high quality, really unique ice cream.” [READ MORE](#)

*Downtown Akron welcomes return of Big Mamma's Burritos under new ownership*, by Alan Ashworth, Akron Beacon Journal: Grand opening is a wrap—with plenty more to come—at the rebooted Big Mamma's Burritos on South Main Street in Akron.

*What we really didn't expect is how this community is so, so supportive.*

A flurry of preparations began May 1 after operators Elizabeth Hernandez and Wil Brown took ownership of the newest location of the Ohio-based chain, which launched here a year ago but closed shop in November.

Brown and Hernandez were at the counter Friday, greeting new customers, not quite six weeks after taking over.

“What we really didn't expect is how this community is so, so supportive,” she said. “We had business owners and future customers come in and ask about what was going on.” [READ MORE](#)



# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## The Standard Building is for Sale

The Standard has been put up for sale by Alabama's Capstone Real Estate Investments. No price has been set for the building, which Capstone bought for \$12.5 million in 2020.

Since then, the investors have redeveloped the building, converting its interior from dormitory-style student housing to residential units that it has successfully marketed to professionals working in and around downtown Akron.—

*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Jun. 26, 2023*

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

## Akron's Mayflower Manor Emerges from \$25M Renovation

The city's Mayflower Manor, a famous hotel in the 1930s that in more recent decades has been a site of subsidized housing for seniors and others, has re-emerged from a nearly five-year renovation process that its owners say has transformed and renewed it.

"We've finished," said Sam Horowitz, a principal of New York's Capital Realty Group that owns the building and renovated it during the pandemic and its associated labor and material shortages.

"The project was pretty difficult because of the pandemic," Horowitz said. "But the quality of the work came out beautifully, and we were able to restore a nearly 100-year-old building." *Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Apr. 6, 2023*

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

## Residential Development as of Q2 - 2023

# 88%

## Residential Occupancy

## Business Development Office Occupancy

|           | OCCUPANCY RATE | AVG ASKING RATE (PER SQ. FT.) |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| H2 - 2022 | 85.5%          | \$18.32                       |
| H1 - 2022 | 85.7%          | \$17.26                       |
| H2 - 2021 | 81.2%          | \$16.77                       |
| H1 - 2021 | 80.2%          | \$16.54                       |

\*Data from CBRE



## Business Outreach

| Q2 - 2023                       | CONTACTS MADE* |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS        | 48             |
| NON-RETAIL BUSINESS CONTACTS    | 20             |
| RETAIL AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS** | 23             |

\* 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



# APRIL – JUNE EVENTS



## Downtown Akron Sakura Festival

*April 15, 2023, story by Sonia Jurkowski, DAP communications specialist*

In its third iteration, the Downtown Akron Sakura Festival—referred to in years past, more modestly, as a celebration—was successful beyond all hope and expectation. Amid boarded windows, blockades ready to be moved into roadways, and palpable tension in the community, people still came downtown from far and wide to take a breath, spend time with loved ones, and experience the beauty of the cherry blossom trees that were just past peak bloom.

Last year, at the 2022 celebration, we estimated there were roughly 1,000 people in attendance. This year, anticipating humble growth, we planned for 1,500. In reality, we saw closer to 6,000. Such a volume of visitors, combined with the 2,000 luminarias lining the Towpath Trail on a larger footprint than ever before, made for an event that was spectacular by every count.

Every hub of activity was delightfully packed for the duration of the event, which was heartwarming to say the least. It also supported the assertion we make every day, which is that downtown Akron is vibrant and valuable to our city and region; a place to come together and experience joy in community; and a place to exist in good company, experience culture, and perhaps even learn something new.

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



## Downtown Akron Juneteenth Celebrations

*June 9 and 10, 2023*

Juneteenth continues to grow as an observance, a holiday, and a celebration of Black joy in Akron. In recent years DAP has been honored to help add downtown spaces and events to the celebration of Juneteenth in our city.

The Downtown Akron Juneteenth Mix and Mingle at the Knight Stage drew 300 people for an evening of food, community and connection, and the Juneteenth Celebration Saturday welcomed upwards of 1,200 to Cascade Plaza for a family celebration of crafts, activities, dance, music, and more.

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



## Unknown 3v3 Courtyard Classic

*June 17, 2023, article by Akron Beacon Journal staff*

UNKNOWN, a clothing retailer cofounded by NBA star LeBron James, hosted a block party and Courtyard Classic basketball tournament with Nike on Saturday in downtown Akron. The event, celebrating a shoe collaboration between



# DOWNTOWN PROGRAMS

Nike and UNKNWN, featured a pop-up basketball court on South Main Street plus local food trucks and booths from local businesses. It was sponsored by the city, Knight Foundation, Lock 3 Park, Downtown Akron Partnership and Akron Civic Theatre.

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





# CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

## DAP Ambassador Stats Apr. 1 - Jun. 30, 2023

7,743

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

799

BUS STOPS  
CLEANED

259

SCOOTER  
SUPPORT

1,135

BUSINESS CONTACTS  
MADE

2,772

BUSINESS  
CHECKS

24

WEED  
ABATEMENT  
(BLOCK FACES)

241

GRAFFITI  
REMOVED

1519

SKYWALK  
PATROL

105

PARKING  
ASSISTANCE

3,642

SECURITY  
CHECKS

28

SAFETY  
ESCORTS

13

MOTORIST  
ASSISTANCE

6,222

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.](#)

“The downtown ambassador program is a key component to the service that DAP provides to the downtown neighborhood. This special group of people accomplishes so much to improve the holistic health of downtown. They are vital to the Downtown Akron Special Improvement District. It’s a safer, more vibrant neighborhood, thanks to our work with the ambassadors.”

—Suzie Graham,  
DAP President & CEO





# 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 | Q1 - 2023 | Q2 - 2023 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| FACEBOOK     | 12,313    | 12,757    |
| TWITTER      | 9,520     | 9,487     |
| INSTAGRAM    | 7,430     | 7,795     |
| LINKEDIN     | 2,241     | 2,392     |



| WEBSITE TRAFFIC | Q1 - 2023 | Q2 - 2023 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| USERS           | 72,109    | 86,162    |
| SESSIONS        | 88,512    | 111,011   |
| PAGE VIEWS      | 309,806   | 377,716   |

| EMAIL NEWSLETTER | Q2 - 2023 |
|------------------|-----------|
| NUMBER PUBLISHED | 55        |
| SENDS            | 212,770   |
| OPENS            | 69,448    |
| CLICKS           | 4,636     |
| SUBSCRIBERS      | 18,631    |

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 & Stories

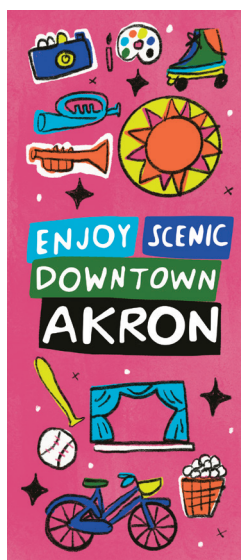
We'll do the planning, you make the memories. DAP's growing list of downtown Guides can help you make a day of it in downtown Akron. *(click each to read)*

### Guides

- [Your Guide to Experiencing the DORA](#)
- [11 Ways to Practice Self-Care in Downtown Akron](#)
- [13 Breakfast & Brunch Restaurants in Downtown Akron](#)
- [Get in the Mood for Spring with Downtown Akron's Cherry Blossoms](#)

### Stories

- [Good Mixture: How a Group of International Artists Transformed a Downtown Akron Plaza & Empowered Students in the Process](#)
- [2023 Downtown Akron Sakura Festival Welcomes 6,000 Visitors](#)



## 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.

### WINNER OF THE SPRING ENJOY SCENIC DOWNTOWN AKRON PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Winner of the Spring Scenic Downtown Passport was Matthew Stewart! Mr. Stewart received a downtown prize pack with \$300 worth of gift cards and experiences, and, perhaps best of all, Essential Dipped Delights eatery in the Northside Marketplace is planning to name a dessert after him!

Participate in the Summer Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport: it runs through October 1, 2023. There are now 2 ways to win: collect 5 stickers and enter to win a \$100 prize pack, or collect 10 stickers to 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!

Sunday brunch at El Patron Tequileria & Cuisine





# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Akron Officials Gather for Lock 3 Groundbreaking

Officials in Akron gathered for an official groundbreaking celebration at Lock 3 Park that marked the beginning of the Lock 3 Vision Plan.

The Lock 3 Vision Plan is part of the Akron Civic Commons 2.0 project led by residents. The vision aims to “build on the success of Lock 3 Park as a successful event, concert and festival public space and develop a year-round park that is a destination for residents, guests, hikers, and bicyclists along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail,” according to event officials. —*Anna Meyer, WKYC, Apr. 5, 2023*

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



## Akron Children's Museum Opens New Exhibits, Spaces

The new areas—made possible by grants and fundraising efforts totaling some \$650,000—include a new kid-friendly music studio, a rocket exhibit along with a party room and community meeting space along with a revamped maker's space and other amenities.

The museum opened its doors in 2016 and has welcomed some 200,000 visitors.—*Craig Webb, Akron Beacon Journal, Apr. 11, 2023*

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

## GOJO, Akron-based Maker of Purell, Is for Sale

GOJO Industries, the Akron-based maker of Purell, is up for sale, according to a *Wall Street Journal* story.

Family-owned GOJO has hired JP Morgan Chase to run an auction, the newspaper reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

The *Wall Street Journal* said the company could be valued at around \$3 billion with about \$1 billion of annual sales, citing anonymous sources saying the process is at an early stage.—*Betty Lin-Fisher, Akron Beacon Journal, Apr. 13, 2023*

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



## Akron's Steam Age Is Just Getting Started

Akron's steam plant—now a steam and chilled-water operation known to most as Akron Energy Systems (AES), the contractor that runs the city-owned plant—is no longer the explosive embarrassment and foggy threat to hospitals and downtown buildings it once was.

It has become a real and vital asset, according to city officials, its operators and users, and a point of pride and example of collaboration held out by them all.—*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, May. 17, 2023*

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



# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## DeJuan's Restaurant to Open Downtown in Former Bricco Space

The downtown property at the corner of West Exchange and South Main Street, which hasn't functioned as a restaurant since November 2020, will reopen as DeJuan's in [September], new restaurant owner DeJuan Kelker II said.

DeJuan's will offer casual dining with a fine dining feel, said Kelker, who is a first-time restaurant owner.—*Kerry Clawson, May. 22, 2023*

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

## Art Meets Real Estate in Akron with Curated Storefront

Art, it moves people. In Akron, it might also be moving real estate.

Curated Storefront is a significant Akron nonprofit with an annual budget of \$650,000 and scores of projects under its belt, not to mention landlords who credit it with helping them find tenants or buyers for their properties and to keep them looking good during development and renovation work.—*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, May. 17, 2023*

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

## GAR Foundation awards more than \$1.4M to Akron nonprofits

The GAR Foundation announced it has awarded \$1.44 million in grants to Akron nonprofit organizations, with a particular focus on arts initiatives.

The largest grants, for \$125,000, went to ArtsNow, which connects the arts, culture and community in Akron, and to ConxusNEO, which links employers to education and workforce development programs in Summit County.—*Scott Suttell, Crain's Cleveland Business, May. 26, 2023.*

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

## International Institute of Akron Opens Downtown

For over 100 years, the heart of the International Institute of Akron's mission has been to foster a sense of home for immigrants in our community.

The International Institute of Akron offers a variety of integration services for those in the immigrant and refugee community.

530 S. Main St., Suite 1762 | 330-376-5106  
Akron, OH 44311

[Click here for more information.](#)





# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## National Center for Choreography-Akron Secures \$125K Knight Foundation Grant

The National Center for Choreography-Akron (NCCAkron) has received a Knight Foundation Arts grant that will allow the center to work with artists to expand dance programming in the city.

The \$125,000 Akron Community Fund at The Miami Foundation grant will allow two artists to work with local theaters, expand their programming, enhance their knowledge about dance presentations and their capacity to present dance in future seasons, according to a news release.—*Megan Becka, Cleveland.com, May 22, 2023.*

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

## BLU-Tique Micro-Wedding Venue, Offers Same-Day Weddings

If you're looking to have a small yet stylish wedding ceremony, consider the newly opened BLU-Tique Micro-Wedding Venue, located on the first floor of the BLU-Tique Hotel, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel at 1 S. Main St. in downtown Akron.

Akron resident Stephanie D. Singleton opened the venue, which can accommodate 15 guests, in May. The space features a Victorian vibe with royal blue seating and gold accents. The space is the only elopement venue in Akron, according to Singleton, who is a licensed officiant.—*Megan Becka, Cleveland.com, May 26, 2023*

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



## Akron Community Foundation Distributes \$3.4M in Quarterly Grants

Akron Community Foundation's board of directors recently announced grants totaling \$3.4 million and approved \$664,650 in arts and culture grants chosen by the foundation's Community Investment Committee.

Akron Community Foundation's board approved 60 arts and culture grants in total, including \$12,500 to Ground-Works DanceTheater, which will support its 25th anniversary activities, like performances at the Akron Civic Theatre's Knight Stage, workshops, and artist residencies.—*Akron Community Foundation press release, Jun. 7, 2023*

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



## Bounce Innovation Hub Celebrates 5 Years with More Growth

Akron's Bounce Innovation Hub wrapped up its first five years of existence in January and has announced its annual results and its total impact in key areas since it opened at the start of 2018.



# NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The business incubator's five-year results show it has had a significant positive effect on what Bounce refers to as Akron's "entrepreneurial ecosystem."

Since its inception, Bounce has raised more than \$59 million in investments, generated \$220 million in revenue, created 575 jobs and paid \$102 million in payroll, it reported Friday, June 9. —*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Jun. 9, 2023*

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

## Akron's Indoor Vigeo Gardens on Track for Bumper Year

Vincent Peterson is the founder and owner of Vigeo Gardens, an indoor farm inside Akron's Bounce Innovation Hub business incubator that grows about 250,000 pounds of microgreens, lettuces, herbs and wheatgrass per year. As soon as it's harvested, the produce gets packed into 4-ounce portions, or units, and shipped to area grocers and restaurants.

It all takes place on the third floor of Bounce, where Peterson and his team nurture the plants propagated in soil formulated for their short lives... —*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Jun. 19, 2023*

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

## Heera Offers Delicious Blend of Indian Flavors

The restaurant owned by Shailendra Sahu, which opened three months ago, serves a large variety of classic dishes from both north and south India, including 13 appetizers, 17 chaat (savory snacks) and 28 entrees.

Heera is located on East Market Street in the same building with the new Green Dragon Inn upstairs and the neighboring Full Grip Games hobby shop downstairs. That provides a nice synergy with folks playing board games who order food from downstairs to take upstairs to the medieval-style bar. —*Kerry Clawson, Akron Beacon Journal, Jun. 28, 2023*

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

## Downtown Akron is Getting a New Music Institute

Alexandre Marr is about to bring classical music instruction to the Chemstress Courtyard Building at 39 S. Main Street, just south of Market Street. He's opening the Akron Music Institute there this fall, he said, and already has students and instructors lined up. —*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Jun. 22, 2023*

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





# 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. [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).

## Courtyard Classic Basketball Tournament Celebrates LeBron Shoe Launch in Downtown Akron

UNKNOWN, a clothing retailer co-founded by NBA star LeBron James, hosted a block party and Courtyard Classic basketball tournament with Nike on Saturday [June 17, 2023] in downtown Akron. The event, celebrating a shoe collaboration between Nike and UNKNOWN, featured a pop-up basketball court on South Main Street plus local food trucks and booths from local businesses. It was sponsored by the city, Knight Foundation, Lock 3 Park, Downtown Akron Partnership and Akron Civic Theatre.— *Akron Beacon Journal, Jun 18, 2023*

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

## Work of Iconic Artist Keith Haring Makes Splash at Akron Art Museum

Northeast Ohio fans of the artist, who died at age 31 in 1990, can get an intimate look into Haring's style, ideas, personality and legacy at the Akron Art Museum with "Keith Haring: Against All Odds."

The show opened last month [April 2023] and continues through late September.

At first glance, some of Haring's pieces—including an untitled 1984 work featuring a huge yellow caterpillar with a computer head and two headless people riding it—look like pure whimsy. But look more closely, and you'll see the dollar sign on the computer screen, indicating an analogy between a hungry caterpillar as an eating machine and an early personal computer devouring its surroundings.— *Kerry Clawson, Akron Beacon Journal, May 23, 2023*

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

## Akron Symphony Releases World Premiere Recording of Julia Perry's Fragments

The Akron Symphony is proud to announce the release of two live recordings of music by Akron composer Julia Perry, including the world premiere of Frammenti dalle lettere di Santa Caterina (Fragments from the Letters of Saint Catherine).

The Akron Symphony's performance of Perry's Pastoral, a septet for flute and strings, is also now available.

These recordings are part of the Akron Symphony's Julia Perry Project, which, together with the African Diaspora Music Project, seeks to promote the publishing, performance, research, and recording of Julia Perry's music.— *Akron Symphony Orchestra news release, May 16, 2023*

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



## AKRON BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION UNVEILS LOGO FOR AKRON'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

A Request for Qualifications was published by the City in October 2022, which attracted twenty-one submissions in January. The applications were reviewed by the Marketing Workgroup, and two finalists were asked to submit designs. The Commission selected the logo created by Eric Hancsak with About350 Creative, which is described as “a vibrant, colorful design representing Akron’s variety and progress.” It will be used on a wide array of marketing material for the 200th anniversary celebration. [Find out more.](#)

## AKRON ZOO IS FIRST TO LAND ‘AGE-FRIENDLY SEAL OF APPROVAL’ FROM BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Summit County is looking to be the most age-friendly county in Ohio.

And the Akron Zoo is the first recipient of the so-called Akron-Summit Age-Friendly Seal of Approval by the Better Business Bureau as apart of the effort.

The designation was announced along with plans to invite other Summit County businesses and institutions to seek the seal. [Find out more.](#)

## AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD SELECTS C. MICHAEL ROBINSON JR. AS NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

The Akron Public Schools board has voted to offer the superintendent job to an external candidate, C. Michael Robinson Jr.

“I am extremely pleased and humbly honored to be joining the Akron Public Schools family,” he said. “Together, with the students, staff, parents and community, we will take APS to new heights, and I’m very excited to be a part of this journey.” [Find out more.](#)

## UNIVERSITY OF AKRON PRESIDENT GARY MILLER NAMED TO CRAIN’S 2023 LIST OF NOTABLES IN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Gary Miller brings his forward-looking emphasis to the University of Akron as its 18th president.

Under Miller’s leadership, Akron has reversed enrollment declines, reorganized the university’s college structure and used initiatives like AkronArts to strengthen the bond between the school and the city.

Miller launched AkronArts in 2021, an initiative to enhance art on the campus and in the city. As part of the effort, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has committed \$20 million to transform the Polsky Building into a downtown Akron arts and academic destination. [Find out more.](#)



BICENTENNIAL | 1825-2025





# BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS



## LEADERSHIP AKRON ANNOUNCES SIGNATURE CLASS 40

Justin Hilton, President of Leadership Akron, shared, "Each year, the caliber of individuals who become part of our Signature Program is both humbling and inspiring. Signature Class 40 is no exception. They represent the richness of talent and dedication that defines Akron. I am excited to see their leadership journey unfold as they collaborate and contribute to the continual growth and development of our beloved community." [Find out more.](#)

## THE TEA LADY REOPENS IN A NEW SPACE ON MAIN ST.

In May, the Ohio Tea Lady reopened in a fabulous new storefront at 35. S. Main St. and added stylish patio furniture to the sidewalk as well as elegant decor within. Owner Renea Woods-Baylor will host a Summer Breeze Tea on Saturday, August 5 at 1 pm to showcase the space and a new menu. [Find out more and make reservations.](#)

## PEG WINS FIRST NATIONAL ADDY AWARD

Pritt Entertainment Group (PEG) took home its first ever national ADDY Award at the American Advertising Federation's (AAF) Annual American Advertising Awards.

The 2022 Open, created in partnership with the NHL's Seattle Kraken, was recognized with a Silver ADDY Award in the category of Animation, Motion Graphics and Special Effects. [Find out more.](#)

## UNIVERSITY OF AKRON PROFESSOR'S WORK COULD HELP NASA FIND LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS

A University of Akron professor and researcher is using a nearly \$3 million grant from NASA to build robots that could one day help humans find life on other planets.

But first, she'll be using them to further study rare and exotic earthly microorganisms, which survive in deep underground aquifers with no sunlight in a strange ecosystem powered by manganese.

"Some of the patches of aquifer are 50,000 years old," said Hazel Barton, associate dean at University of Akron's biology department. [Find out more.](#)



## DA'SHIKA STREET, JENN KIDD, AND OTHERS RECEIVE SUMMIT ARTSPACE ARTS ALIVE AWARDS

On June 22, 2023, Summit Artspace hosted the Arts Alive Awards and presented awards to 15 recipients, including Da'Shika Street, owner of downtown Akron DIY workshop studio and gathering place, Street Craftery for the Collaborative Project: Engage Akron Windows Art Project (a collaboration with DAP), and Akron Nightlight Theater Executive Director Jenn Kidd, for Rising Arts Leader. Other awardees included Peg's Foundation for Summit Artspace Champion and artist Eva Kwong, for Lifetime Achievement. [Find out more, and view video testimonials from each of the award recipients.](#)





## WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES TO DOWNTOWN AKRON

**Gertz & Rosen, LTD** | 330-376-8336  
159 S. Main St., 4th Floor | Akron, 44308  
[gertzrosen.com](http://gertzrosen.com)

**Tracy D. Lanier: Primerica Financial Services** | 330-805-4806  
354 S. Main St., Suite 300 | Akron, 44311  
[primerica.com/tdlanier](http://primerica.com/tdlanier)

**Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP.** | 330-572-7320  
121 S. Main St., Suite 575 | Akron, 44308  
[shumaker.com/offices/akron-oh](http://shumaker.com/offices/akron-oh)

## RIBBON CUTTING & RESOURCE FAIR

**Summit County Continuum of Care**  
23 S. Main St., Suite 302 | Akron, 44308  
Friday, August 11, 12 - 4 pm | Ribbon Cutting at 2 pm  
[summitcoc.org](http://summitcoc.org)

Tour the new office & enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

## Abundant Akron: By Focusing on Quality of Life for All Residents, We See a Bright Future

From an editorial by Akron Civic Commons, published in the July 2, 2023 Akron Beacon Journal

We believe that Akron's future is full of potential and possibility and that the residents of this community already possess the tools and talents to build a better future together.

By focusing on quality of life for all residents, we see a future of abundance for Akron. A future where the city works for everyone, inclusive of all races, genders, sexual orientations, ages, education and incomes. An abundant Akron can move beyond symptoms caused by systemic issues and begin to build conditions that are physically, economically and emotionally embracing of all. We have seen proof of this through the work of Akron Civic Commons. Through 6.5 years of public planning and citizen engagement coupled with constant action funded by public/private partnerships, we've learned together that we, the citizens of Akron, can realize change.

The work of Akron Civic Commons is a set of lessons learned from work being done here in Akron and in other cities across the nation and around the world. We want to offer what we have learned so this approach can be applied by anyone looking to draw others in and, together, make the changes that will provide a thriving quality of life.

### A place for all people to thrive

The Abundant Akron approach starts with the power of public planning processes that are led by resident input.

[Read the entire editorial.](#)



PROGRAM | GAME PATIO FARMERS MARKET





# TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

## FEATURED PROPERTY

### 159 S. Main St.

This 210,000 SF Building includes 17,000 SF of street-level retail, 40,000 SF of professional office space, and 107 market-rate residential apartments at 85% occupancy.



**RESIDENTIAL:**  
159 MAIN APARTMENTS  
Onsite Leasing Office  
330.752.6797  
359main.com

**OFFICE:**  
CPP  
Commercial Property Partners  
Geriya Gleason, CCIM, CEO  
216.210.5914  
realstatetecpp.com

**RETAIL:**  
ANCHOR CLEVELAND  
Chris McFarland  
216.342.2578  
anchorcleveland.com

- \$30M historic redevelopment
- Iconic 11-story building
- Ground floor retail
- Skywalk to amenities, parking, courthouse, city and county buildings
- All new HVAC throughout
- Functional New European style windows
- Fabulous views of downtown
- AT&T fiber throughout
- Potential rooftop garden/bar

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

## FEATURED BUSINESS

### AKRON METRO RTA

Metro Regional Transit Authority transports millions of passengers annually to work, school, medical appointments, and “hot spots” in and around the city of Akron and Summit County. It has a long history of service to the community, from its founding in 1882 with a few mule-drawn carts to a fleet of roughly 200 passenger vehicles today, largely buses.

In the century-plus in between, METRO used street cars and provided transportation using Goodyear Tire and Rubber

Company’s bus fleet, which should come as no surprise since Akron has been known as the “rubber capital of the world.” In the 1970s, METRO became a forward-thinking leader in the regional transportation sector by providing service specifically for seniors and becoming the first transit group in the northern region of the U.S. to offer service designed to meet the needs of residents with disabilities, several years before the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).  
*Read the entire Business View Magazine article.*



### METRO RTA AWARDED NEARLY \$38M FOR NEW MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FACILITY

Two Northeast Ohio transit authorities have been awarded a combined \$42 million in federal funding, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and U.S. Representative Emilia Sykes (D-OH-13) announced on Friday [June 23].

The funding comes via a pair of Buses and Bus Facilities Grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The grants are a part of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.



Dawn Distler, chief executive officer, Akron Metropolitan Regional Transit Authority said, “The Maintenance and Operations Facility will be a key component to ensuring we can further our mission and continue to offer fair and equitable transportation solutions to the community we serve 365 days a year. Our current facility was built in the ‘80s before we were a countywide system and had fewer than 100 buses. We now have over 230 buses, and as we continue to grow, this facility will enable us to serve the region for years to come. This funding represents a landmark investment in keeping our community thriving, and that is a legacy we can all be proud of.” [Find Out More.](#)

### STAY COOL, RIDE METRO ALL SUMMER!

METRO is celebrating again this summer with fare-free weekends every Saturday and Sunday in June, July, and August on METRO Direct. Free rides apply on all METRO fixed-routes and ADA services.

METRO Direct is the traditional bus service where you follow a printed schedule and follow the designated route. [Find Out More.](#)

### AKRON METRO RTA’S REIMAGINED NETWORK ROLLED OUT ON JUNE 4

Akron METRO RTA’s Reimagined Network is the agency’s first overhaul of public transit routes in 20 years, CEO Dawn Distler said.

The main goals of the redesign are to cut down wait times for regular riders and expand service to surrounding counties, she said. [Find Out More.](#)



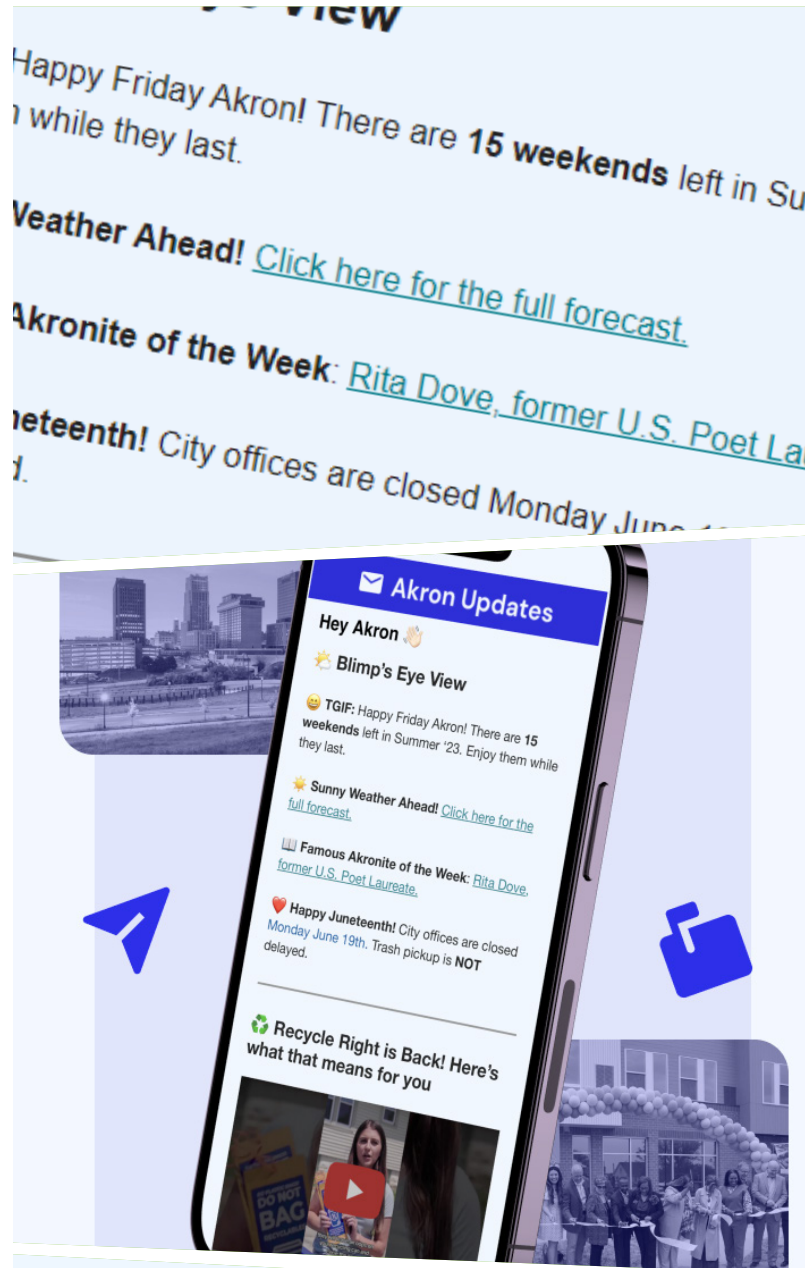
# CITY OF AKRON LAUNCHES WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

## The Top 5 Items Akron Residents Need to Know Each Week

The City of Akron announced that residents can subscribe to receive a weekly e-newsletter 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 of Akron each week. The e-newsletter will be sent weekly on Fridays.

"We've heard from residents that they want the ability to receive news directly from the city through more than just social media or the city website," said Chief Communications Officer, Stephanie Marsh. "This e-newsletter will keep residents informed with a weekly rundown of important press releases and news as well as upcoming weekend events. For residents who don't often use social media, this offers another way to receive information from the city in an easy to digest format."

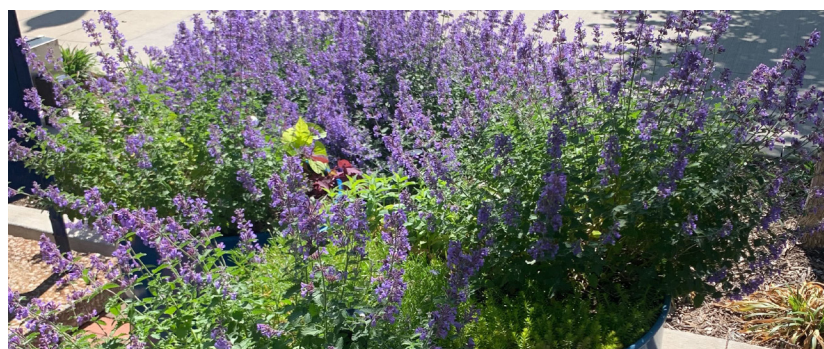
Sign up to receive the emails at [akronupdates.com](http://akronupdates.com).



## Recycle Right is Back! Here's what that means for you







## CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF DOWNTOWN AKRON ONE PLANT AT A TIME: GOODYEAR VOLUNTEERS

DAP President and CEO Suzie Graham says, "The volunteer partnership with Goodyear continues to enrich the downtown neighborhood, often in ways beyond the planting of flower beds or repainting murals. Each year, we have several volunteers who return, and who tell us what they love about downtown, as well as several new volunteers—some of whom are interns, recent graduates, and even recently moved to the city. We love connecting with all of them to show off downtown and to learn what they need from the neighborhood." [FIND OUT MORE.](#)



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#Downtownakron

