



DOWNTOWN AKRON PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022



2022 LEADERSHIP

Inclusive of all 2022 participation

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Akron-Summit County Public Library
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The University of Akron
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Joel Testa
Testa Companies
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Keeven White
Metisentry

Founders

Charles Booth (1995 - 2010)
Frank Quirk (1995 - 2010)

Ambassador Team

Kyle Robison
Operations Manager
Brandon Averett
Mashona Cannon
Kaleb Dlugoleski
William Foster
Val Kramer
Brandon Parmer
Greg Smith
Mike Smith
Darrell Stamps

FROM:

Dear, _____

In 2022, Downtown Akron hosted thousands of visitors to these events (and more).

- ☐ Downtown Lunar New Year Celebration
- ☐ Cherry Blossom Festival
- ☐ Free Summer Fitness Programs
- ☐ Downtown Juneteenth Dinner & Community Conversation
- ☐ Downtown Akron Fall Fest & Trick or Treat
- ☐ Downtown Akron Diwali Celebration
- ☐ Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival

Let's make plans to go to one of these events, together!

Put a stamp
on it

TO:



Akron's history is marked by a series of "tipping points" that seem to occur about every 30 years. These are moments in time when dramatic changes breed uncertainty but have provided opportunities for innovation and growth.

One such moment 30 years ago prompted Akron's business and industrial leaders to declare that developing Downtown Akron had to be a priority for the whole community, and the seeds for Downtown Akron Partnership were planted.

In 2023 we are again at such a tipping point. The effects of the pandemic continue to impact the nation, the world and downtown. The impulse to return to normal is outweighed by the prospect of discovering a new vision of a vibrant and valuable downtown for the Greater Akron community.

Downtown Akron has incredible strength:

- Our economy is bolstered by the diversity of the sectors that reside in downtown. Health care, finance, information technology, engineering, energy, media and law form an ever-evolving downtown economy, which has been and will continue to be a major job hub for Summit County.
- Small business and startups have energized a renaissance in retail. With the most diverse storefront business ownership in the history of the Special Improvement District, downtown better represents our culture, character and economy. We invite Akron's entire community to participate in this rebuilding of community enterprise.
- Despite the impact of remote working arrangements, downtown remains the place where new ideas and innovation intersect to foster economic growth.
- Akron's nationally prominent polymer cluster presents a significant opportunity to foster an innovation district in conjunction with The University of Akron whose leaders have prioritized the downtown connection as an essential part of their success.
- Downtown Akron serves the region as the hub for arts, culture and entertainment.

With ever-increasing numbers of visitors and a newly invigorated hospitality market, downtown is positioned to grow as a visitor destination. We are the gateway city to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, ranked favorably among all national parks in the country, connected to downtown through the Ohio and Erie Towpath Trail and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Two new trails have been developed—the Rubber City Heritage Trail and Freedom Trail. Their intersection downtown will provide a unique Akron advantage for cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts.

In 2022 downtown showed one of its greatest strengths by pulling together to support one another. Sometimes the challenges felt insurmountable, but downtown property owners, business tenants and residents emerged ever stronger through listening, learning and growing.

We are proud to continue to serve this resilient district and facilitate coming together, finding consensus and healing, all while staying true to our mission. In this report we share with you a look back at highlights from our past year together, as we look forward to the year ahead.

Malcolm Costa
Chairman

Suzie Graham
President



KEEPING DOWNTOWN CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

Clean

DAP's Clean & Safe Ambassadors enhance downtown's quality of life with foot patrols throughout the 42-block district and adjacent business member properties. In 2022, DAP staff and Ambassadors responded firsthand to downtown property damage and prioritized communicating with businesses and residents, removing graffiti and disposing of trash, and carrying out regular safety checks.

Safe

DAP reviews crime reports provided by APD and works to enhance safety downtown through Ambassadors, traffic alerts, and safety communications. DAP also funds a night-time police patrol of the district Thursday through Saturday nights from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. This investment supports regular, city-supported patrols, as well as DORA officers and security teams hired by other downtown partners.

Welcoming

Thanks to support from The Corbin Foundation, DAP planted and maintained 235 beautification elements in 2022. This more than \$100,000 investment was designed in collaboration with downtown stakeholders, DAP staff and Keep Akron Beautiful, who DAP contracts to maintain additional in-ground displays downtown. The beautification elements were planted with assistance from 50+ volunteers from Goodyear.



HOW DOWNTOWN AMBASSADORS KEPT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING IN 2022

3,646

METRO
BUS STOPS
CLEANED



867

GRAFFITI
REMOVED

22,200

HOSPITALITY
ASSISTANCE

285

MOTORIST/
VEHICLE
ASSISTANCE



40,281

TRASH
COLLECTED
(LBS)

8,846

BUSINESS
CHECKS

993

PARKING
ASSIST-
ANCE

2,203

BUSINESS
CONTACTS
MADE

2,016

SCOOTER
SUPPORT



100

SAFETY
ESCORTS



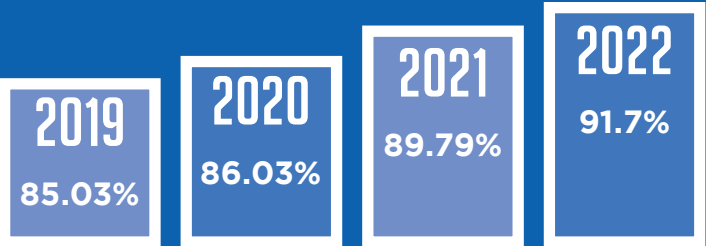
Partnership with Purpose

In November 2020, DAP began a partnership with Community Support Services and Peg’s Foundation to create a program aimed at connecting downtown’s unsheltered residents to permanent housing. This program, Partnership for Purpose, has expanded to include the City of Akron, County of Summit, Akron Police Department, University of Akron Police Department, ABM Parking Services, and Akron-Summit County Public Library.

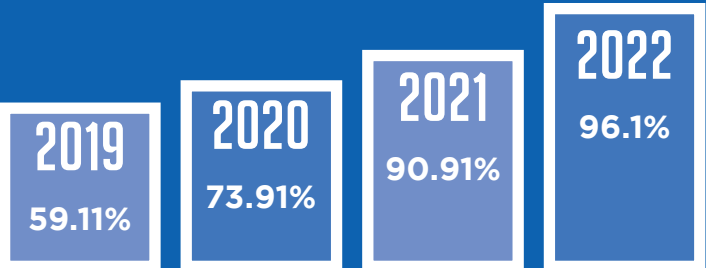
In 2022, the partnership began hosting quarterly trainings with community members and business owners to provide education on how best to engage people in crisis. By the end of 2022, 26 people had been permanently housed as a result of this effort.

2022 Downtown Survey Results

HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH DOWNTOWN SAFETY?
RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED
VERY SATISFIED OR SATISFIED



WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH
THE OVERALL APPEARANCE OF DOWNTOWN?
RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED
VERY SATISFIED OR SATISFIED



LOVE LETTERS TO OUR 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*

"A BIG thank you to the downtown Akron ambassadors for helping us safely across the streets this morning. We appreciate you!"

—*NIHF STEM School*

"The Ambassadors do an AMAZING job! Every time that I am around them, I thank them for all that they do. They are very courteous, respectful and ready-to-help. It is a fabulous program."

—*DAP General Survey comment*

"They are wonderful! Please keep them, they make a big difference in the downtown experience."

—*DAP General Survey comment*



DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Development

Downtown business development has evolved as a critical DAP service since 2007. DAP meets with businesses for Retention and Expansion visits as a proactive approach to growing the number of jobs downtown, as well as assisting businesses with direct services and connections to address any challenges they face. DAP strives to meet with retailers quarterly, and with professional services at least biannually.

To improve service delivery to downtown businesses, and assist in strengthening Akron's central business district, DAP joined the Elevate Greater Akron (EGA) Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) team, whose work reflects a similar goal of meeting with business ownership to strengthen and grow the greater Akron economy. By partnering with the city of Akron, county of Summit, Greater Akron Chamber, METRO RTA, ConxusNEO, Jobs Ohio and other community partners, DAP assists in ensuring downtown remains at the forefront of this collaboration. Within this effort, DAP manages visits with a portfolio of businesses. In 2022, DAP participated in all BRE committee meetings, and attended 61 EGA BRE outreach visits.

DAP also meets with prospective businesses to assist them on their path to establishing a business. Businesses ready to locate downtown can take advantage of free, confidential site selection services that help prospective tenants identify potential downtown space and connect them to property managers and owners.

A key partner in the downtown Akron business neighborhood is The University of Akron. The University and DAP have worked to identify new opportunities to cross-pollinate educational projects with downtown business enrichment, providing students with real-world experiences and businesses with best-practice approaches to marketing. In 2022, DAP worked with The University of Akron College of Business to host three digital marketing workshops for downtown business owners. A total of 14 business owners were engaged in the different workshops. DAP and UA plan to continue this partnership in 2023.



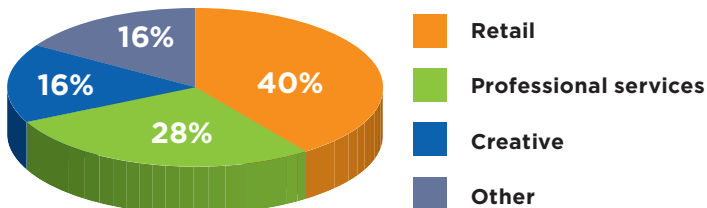
Photos in this publication were created by Blaak Media, Tim Fitzwater, Robert B. Forbes, Talia Hodge, Jen Kidd, Joe Levack, LoveWhatIDo Photography, Mull Media, Heidi Rolf, Chris Rutan, Shane Wynn, Canal Park cover photo: Jack Haines.



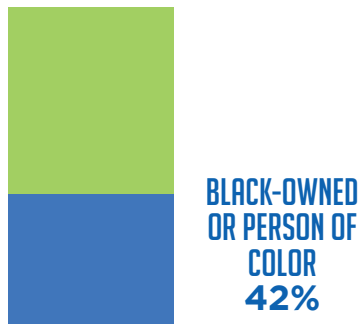
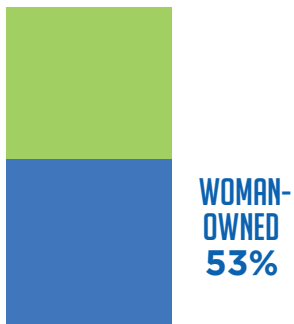
Attracting New Business

Chart: PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS CONTACTS. **50**
SITE SELECTION ASSISTANCE **41**

PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS CONTACTS
breakdown by sector

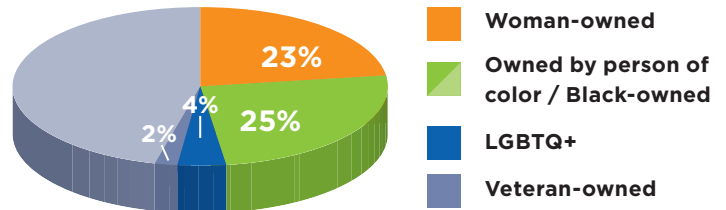


PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS CONTACTS
demographic breakdown



DAP Business Outreach

BUSINESS RETENTION OUTREACH. **170**
Chart: QUARTERLY RETAIL OUTREACH . . **248**



DIGITAL SITE SEARCH

2022 LOIS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY LISTINGS PLATFORM

SITE VISITORS. **480**
SESSIONS **726**
PAGE VIEWS. **8,427**
AVE. SESSION LENGTH. **4:06 min**

DAP provides access to digital site search tools through LOIS, a national online location analysis platform designed to promote available site and building inventory. The LOIS platform is made possible through a partnership with FirstEnergy.

DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Start Downtown

In 2022, five new businesses were selected for Phase 6 of DAP's Burton D. Morgan Foundation—funded Start Downtown Program, formerly known as the Pop-Up Retail Program. The program matches entrepreneurs with property owners to bring new businesses downtown and encourage economic growth in the district. It prioritizes supporting businesses owned by women and people of color.

The sixth cohort of Start Downtown businesses includes: Capital Talent Development Group, whose core mission is to advance the talent development of historically underserved and underrepresented talent in the labor market; Ernie's Catering, which boasts masterfully bold barbeque; Perfect Pour, a burger and bourbon restaurant; Street Craftery, which produces handcrafted home goods and offers DIY workshops and classes; and Velvet Vintage, a curated shop selling vintage clothing and furniture. Four of these businesses are owned by women, and four are owned by people of color. All are currently open and operating downtown.



LIVING WELL DOWNTOWN



Residential Development

Since the Downtown Vision and Redevelopment Plan of 2018, downtown’s primary development focus has been on bringing mixed-use, residential projects to fruition. Residential development is critical to downtown’s economic recovery, as well as an important part of keeping the district socially connected, vibrant and strong.

On May 14, DAP hosted a Downtown Residential Open House, where those curious about downtown living could tour any of six residential buildings—including the newly opened Goodrich—meet property management, learn the benefits of downtown living and experience the neighborhood. DAP also facilitated meet and greets throughout the year at downtown residential buildings to encourage community and networking among those living downtown.

\$176M

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT
SINCE 2018

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY VISITS	12
RESIDENTIAL WELCOME PACKETS DISTRIBUTED	200
UNITS OPENED IN 2022	215
2022 RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY	90%



CREATING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN



PROGRAMMING FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

FITNESS INSTRUCTORS: POC.... 43%

TOTAL CONTRACTORS: POC 60%

TOTAL CONTRACTS 216

TOTAL CONTRACTS: POC 64%



Programming Downtown

Placemaking through programming plays a vital role in DAP's portfolio of economic development efforts. DAP adds programming to public spaces and assists others in bringing excellent programming to downtown to create a vibrant and valuable downtown for all.

Part of DAP's commitment to programming for diversity, equity and inclusion is illustrated by its work with local contractors, with a focus on working with businesses owned by people of color. For people of all backgrounds to feel truly invited to participate in what downtown has to offer, they need to see themselves reflected in the vendors, artists, instructors, committee members and performers DAP works with to create programming.

Lunar New Year Celebration

An estimated 1,100 people gathered on February 12 to celebrate Lunar New Year in the Lock 3 Commons. Traditional cultural performances included the Lion Dance, Dragon Dance, Face-Changing performance, Waist Drum Dance, performances by NIHF STEM middle schoolers and martial arts performances. Fireworks followed.

Sakura / Japanese Cherry Blossom Celebration

Over 1,000 people attended this April 9 event spanning the Towpath from downtown to Ohio & Erie Canal Park, lined with 2,000 luminaries, to witness the beginning blooms of

472 Sakura trees planted by the Japanese Association of Northeast Ohio (JANO) and the City of Akron. In the Lock 3 commons, guests tasted sake and sushi and listened to traditional Japanese music.

Summer Programs

Approximately 3,000 participants attended 72 summer events on Cascade Plaza. Free classes included yoga, Pilates, line dancing, bootcamp, kickboxing, Zumba and DrumHIIT. Other summer events were Lunch on Main, Happy Hour on Main, Chess on the Plaza, Playdate on the Plaza and Skate Nights on the Plaza.

Juneteenth Dinner & Community Conversation

Families and friends gathered for a ticketed community dinner and conversation in Lock 3 on June 18. Food and beverages served were from downtown businesses Ernie's Catering, Sweet and Savvy Cake Shop and Perfect Pour. After dinner and a guided conversation, the Unit Band gave a performance on the Lock 3 stage. Each guest took home a commemorative tile by artist Diane Johnson.

Akron Pride Festival

DAP supported Akron Pride Festival by programming Cascade Plaza with a roller skate night and operating the Shed to serve beverages to welcome over 30,000 people to downtown.

CREATING A VIBRANT DOWNTOWN

Fall Fest

More than 2,000 visitors attended this October 22 celebration spanning Main Street that featured 16 trick-or-treat stations; food, retail vendors and free activities on Cascade Plaza; and a free showing of Hocus Pocus.

Diwali Festival

More than 500 people celebrated our inaugural Diwali celebration on Cascade Plaza with food trucks, cultural performances, dancing and light displays.

Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival

DAP welcomed 4,000+ people to Cascade Plaza on November 5 for the Gilmore Girls—inspired Smells Like Snow Coffee Festival. Five local musicians performed; 22 local vendors sold food, wares and coffee; and show-themed photo opportunities and references made for an authentic Stars Hollow experience.

Dance Church on Cascade Plaza

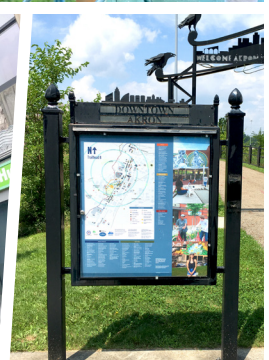
DAP partnered with NCCAkron to provide pop-up community dance classes on Cascade Plaza, including Dance Church led by Seattle-based choreographer and dancer Kate Wallich.



INVESTING IN PUBLIC SPACE

Parklets, Wayfinding and Great Spaces

DAP coordinated several public space improvements throughout downtown in 2022. In June, the Lock 2 steps received a fresh coat of paint thanks to DAP staff and volunteers from Goodyear. In July, with support from Knight Foundation, large bench swings and color-coordinated planters and chess tables were installed at Cascade Plaza by Philadelphia-based design group Groundswell. Additionally, pedestrian wayfinding created with the help of Guide Studio was installed downtown to help visitors find their way around. The wayfinding is designed cohesively with additional paper map tearsheets and collateral distributed by DAP.



STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

DAP represents and advocates for downtown across a number of local and regional partnerships designed to drive equity, economic growth and placemaking.

Elevate Greater Akron

Elevate Greater Akron (EGA) is an economic development plan for the Greater Akron area is designed to create a transformative, high functioning and collaborative economic development system for Greater Akron. DAP serves the partnership as a member of Refocus on Downtown, SPARK! Akron, Opportunity Akron, New BRE teams of Elevate 2.0, and the Economic Development Working Group.

EGA's work is based on a collaborative approach that is both necessary and fundamental to building long-term, sustainable economic development in Akron. For more on Elevate Greater Akron, visit elevategreaterakron.org.

Reimagining the Civic Commons

Reimagining the Civic Commons demonstrates that transformative public spaces can connect people of all backgrounds, cultivate trust, and create more resilient communities. DAP continues to participate in this national, multi-year initiative funded by the Rockefeller, Kresge, Knight and JPB foundations. Notable downtown projects include planning for the renovation of Lock 3, the Sakura/Cherry Blossom Festival in April, the expansion of the DORA, and roller skating on Cascade Plaza.

Phase I of the Lock 3 Olin Plan rehabilitation is scheduled to break ground in spring of 2023 and be completed by fall of 2024. Visit ohioeriecanal.org/akron-civic-commons for more on the coming transformation of Lock 3.

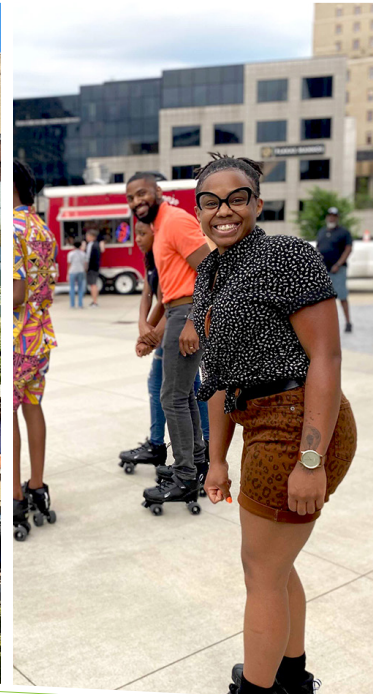
Board Engagement

Consensus and strategy are imperative to successful community building. DAP routinely engages board members and stakeholders in the design, planning and implementation of our work. Established and ad hoc committees met in 2022 to guide business development, marketing, board nominations, residential services, beautification, finance, programming and governance.

Downtown Operations Group

DAP is honored to attend the monthly Downtown Operations Group meetings convened by the city of Akron's Office of

Integrated Development. During these meetings, representatives from city departments work together to address issues and determine downtown's best and most efficient path forward through shared information and collaboration.



PROGRAM | GAME PATIO FARMERS MARKET



STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT AND MEMBER SERVICES & SUPPORT



Metro RTA Transit Oriented Development and Rapid Bus Transit Feasibility Study

Successful public transit is a critical part of an excellent, attractive, equitable downtown. As part of their efforts to draw opportunity to Akron, METRO is partnering with community stakeholders to study the potential for development around robust transit service in Akron. In 2022, DAP served on the committees to study the feasibility of both Transit Oriented Development and Bus Rapid Transit.

Downtown Programming

As the hub for arts, culture and entertainment in Summit County, downtown serves as a placemaker for the region. Coordination and promotion of the more than 25 arts, culture and entertainment venues and events downtown is

facilitated by DAP through bimonthly calls among programming partners. Though started as an initiative during the pandemic, the value of this communication continues as the district vitality returns with growing numbers of programs and events. In 2022, 2.3 million people visited downtown for events, programming and more.

The University of Akron

The relationship between The University of Akron and downtown grew stronger in 2022 through the leadership of President Miller and numerous partnerships across campus and downtown. 2022 highlights include the announcement of the Polsky Building transformation, UA Fall Kick Off, Zips Fall in Love with Downtown, a Lunar New Year partnership, downtown fall football flag days, downtown business workshops with the College of Business, DAP's participation in The University's Carnegie Reclassification effort and projects with UA interns at DAP.

Reconnecting our Community

The Reconnecting Our Community Initiative is a multiyear, inclusive and equitable engagement process to identify community preferences for the future of a portion of the Innerbelt. DAP serves on the Advisory Group for this process to uplift the reconnection of Akron's neighborhoods with downtown, and the shared work with Akron's communities to imagine a healed future of opportunity and solidarity.

For more information visit: akroninnerbelt.com.

Building a Resilient Downtown

In the wake of tragedy at the end of June, while the community was reeling with the pain of Jayland Walker's killing and the trauma that followed, DAP shifted to focusing on responsive services and creating opportunities for community healing by programming public space.

In 2022, several demonstrations were centralized downtown. To have the community peacefully demonstrating and publicly grieving and healing in our collective neighborhood was powerful. So, too, was the way the neighborhood came together when tensions and damages escalated.

In the immediate aftermath, DAP assisted the community with cleanup, repairs and information sharing. We sent daily email updates to downtown residents, business owners and

MEMBER SERVICES & SUPPORT



property owners, and we created our first emergency text service with the Akron Police Department. When storefront windows were broken and boarded, DAP facilitated the Downtown Akron Glass Replacement program with the City of Akron, and worked with a committee of downtown artists to fill them with beautiful artwork, with support from GAR and Knight Foundations. Artists included Nick Lee, Randi Mull, April Couch, Micah Kraus, Lizzi Aronhalt, Da'Shika Street, Andre Street, Kimmy Henderson, Derin Fletcher, Stephen Vazsonyi, Willie Jones, Squid Moe (Sidney Rigby) and Gabe Goode.

We also maintained focus on our free wellness programming on Cascade Plaza—line dancing, yoga, Pilates, bootcamp, kickboxing, DrumHIIT and skate nights. These events and classes offered Akronites a place to come together, connect with their minds, bodies and each other, and experience joy and healing.

There is still healing to be done, and as we do so, we hope people will spend time downtown, where there are so many opportunities to find community.

District Business Owner Meetings

In August of 2022, DAP hosted the first of what have become quarterly in-person meetings with downtown business owners to share information about downtown projects and events, facilitate solutions to challenges, provide networking opportunities, and generate shared ideas about how to bring

positive change downtown. Over the five month period, 30 business owners were convened over two meetings. We look forward to continuing these meetings in 2023 and beyond.

Do Business Downtown

DAP produces the Do Business Downtown newsletter each month to provide downtown business owners up to date



information including opportunities, support programs and workshops, and neighborhood events. This one stop publication helps streamline need to know content to help business owners maximize their time.

Downtown DORA

The DORA expanded in August 2022 to include Main St. from the Southside breweries to Lock 15 Brewing in the North. The expanded footprint grew from 4 to 21 establishments where visitors can purchase DORA beverages. A total of 46,732 DORA cups were sold in 2022, with Akron Pride and Lock 3 concerts grossing the most sales. The DORA expansion supports neighborhood businesses by creating an addi-



tional way to capture revenue while activating public space. DAP continues to coordinate the DORA cup program, with proceeds providing for APD safety services in the district.

Promoting Downtown

DAP works with members to celebrate downtown as a valuable place. Through strategic marketing and management of downtown resources, DAP promotes the district as the premier place to live, work and play in the center of our city.



In spring of 2022, DAP wrapped up a contract with Evolve Marketing that created an overarching campaign to promote downtown, consisting of digital ads, downtown guides and a winter passport program—the Holiday Hop. After finishing the contract with Evolve, DAP continued to write and publish downtown

guides in-house, resulting in a total of 18 guides that garnered a total of 34,395 pageviews in 2022.

DAP also worked with Baker Media Group to create the 2022 downtown Look Book, which, like the 2021 edition, is a primarily pictorial 10-page book. DAP worked with several local photographers to demonstrate in a vibrant, engaging way that downtown Akron is a place where all people are welcome. The guide supplemented the September 2022 edition of Akron Life Magazine, and 7,500 additional copies are being distributed throughout the district and in select hotels and rest areas in Northeast Ohio.

In fall 2022, DAP partnered with the City of Akron to promote downtown businesses through the Fall in Love with Akron Passport. After the Fall in Love with Akron Passport wrapped, DAP launched the first of three Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron passports in December. Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron will promote downtown businesses throughout 2023, focusing on shopping, restaurants and experiences.

Additional advertising and promotion throughout the year included 13 print ads reaching thousands of readers.



DOWNTOWNAKRON.COM

UNIQUE USERS 342,000 ↑42%

EVENT CALENDAR

PAGE VIEWS. 138,568 ↑166%

DOWNTOWN GUIDES 18

DOWNTOWN STORIES 11

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK LIKES. 11,811 ↑49%

TWITTER FOLLOWERS. 9,529 ↑2%

INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS 7,129 ↑15%

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS 2,076 ↑29%

CONSTANT CONTACT

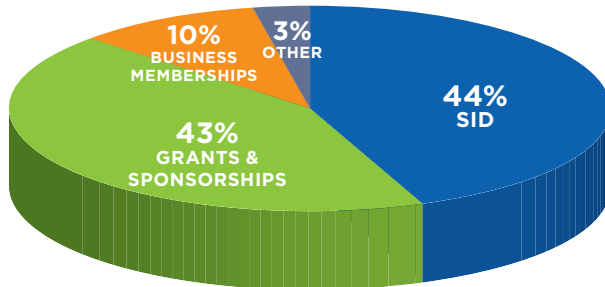
EMAIL NEWS SUBSCRIBERS. . . 17,929 ↑6%

AKRONSTOCK.COM PHOTOS 3,300+

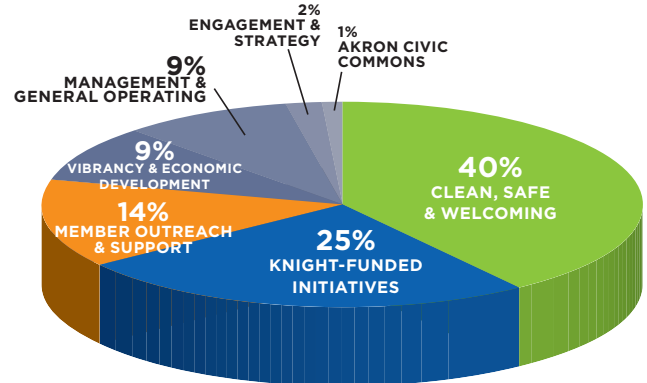
FINANCIALS

Downtown Akron Partnership, Inc. Fiscal Year 2021-2022

INCOME



EXPENSES



DAP operates with 9% of revenue dedicated to management compared with 91% in programming expenses, demonstrating a lean and nimble operating structure that focuses on delivery of services and programs to the district.

\$656,156 of the DASID assessment collected is spent directly on clean and safe activities with the balance invested in member outreach and support, and communications. DASID revenue stabilizes the organization and is leveraged to extend DAP programs and activities in downtown with philanthropic and business member support.



In addition to funding from downtown business and property owners, Downtown Akron Partnership receives support from the above philanthropic organizations.



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

DAP strives to maximize each SID dollar for the greatest impact to the district. Last year's SID revenue of \$796,010 provided 44% of our \$1,782,592 combined operating revenue (includes \$287,487 restricted grant income earned in FY 2020-2021). Participation in the DASID by the city of Akron and county of Summit helped drive the collective impact of the organization.

Our ongoing partnership with METRO RTA provided an additional 7% of operating revenue for services to the Robert J. Pfaff Intermodal Transit Center and support for our Ambassador team services throughout the district. Business memberships with partners like The University of Akron, GOJO Industries and Canal Place allowed us to strengthen the safety of the corridor by providing contracted services to University properties and just outside our SID border.

DAP also has valued business memberships with Akron-Summit County Public Library and the John S. Knight Center. Our financial stability invites philanthropic support to improve services, programs and spaces downtown.

General operating support was generously provided by GAR Foundation and Akron Community Foundation, allowing us to use our discretion to respond to the changing needs of the SID. In 2021-22, DAP used \$287,487 from restricted grants received in FY 2020-21, primarily from Knight Foundation. DAP's grant from Knight Foun-

ation allows DAP to continue robust programming, investments in public space, DAP capacity building and collective action in the district. The 2020-21 grant revenue also includes CARES Act funding received from the city of Akron which was used to deploy the City of Akron Downtown Storefront Relief Grant Program.

The use of revenue earned in a prior year resulted in a negative change in net assets of \$156,680. DAP's cash and cash equivalents year-end position better reflect the organization's financial position which remains strong, stable and fiscally responsible.

Non-SID funding sources: Akron Civic Commons., Akron Community Foundation, Burton D. Morgan Foundation, Corbin Foundation, GAR Foundation, Knight Foundation, Peg's Foundation and Ohio Arts Council.

Information presented reflects our 2021-2022 fiscal year.

*DAP conducts an annual independent audit of the organization which, in conjunction with the engagement of a finance committee of the Board of Directors, helps to ensure the excellent fiscal stewardship of the organization. This year, the audit was performed by CLA. We are happy to report that CLA provided an unmodified opinion with no management issues. The independent auditor's report is available for review at downtownakron.com/audit.

FROM:

Dear, _____

In 2022, Nine businesses opened their doors for the first time, and two reopened to great acclaim.

- ☐ BLU-Tique Hotel, A Tribute Portfolio Hotel
- ☐ The 1: Food & Spirits
- ☐ Crave
- ☐ Street Craftery
- ☐ Perfect Pour Martinis, Bourbon and Burgers
- ☐ Velvet Vintage Boutique
- ☐ Ernie's Catering
- ☐ UNKNWN
- ☐ D.P. Dough
- ☐ Buffalo Wild Wings Go
- ☐ Urban Gourmet

Let's make plans to visit one or more, together!



Put a stamp on it

TO:



DOWNTOWN AKRON PARTNERSHIP

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