

## Chairman's Report

This has been another successful year for the Special Improvement District. Downtown Akron Partnership has implemented all components of the Services Plan and more, finding ways to achieve new goals and implementing additional benefits for the district.

## President's Report

It is exciting to witness the growth and vitality downtown. New residential developments, with more on the way, have made living downtown a reality; the opening of the expanded art museum has received national attention; continued investment in downtown reflects the confidence developers have in downtown Akron.

DAP continues to work to make downtown a great place to work, visit and live. Our mission to promote and build a valuable and vibrant downtown is ongoing as we continue to advocate for our constituents, working to assess and meet the evolving needs of the SID.

## Physical Environment

- The **Operation Neat Streets** crew continues to canvas the 42-block SID district, removing 64,000 gallons of litter and debris from sidewalks and assisting 1,500 visitors. The crew also performs special projects as needed.
- The inaugural **Green & Clean Day** had more than 300 volunteers working within the SID footprint on May 2nd. Volunteers showed their support for a clean and vibrant downtown by completing deep cleaning projects in or around their buildings and the SID district.
- The **Cigarette Litter Prevention Program** has added an additional 19 cigarette receptacles it maintains within the downtown footprint to further reduce cigarette litter.
- The 40 DAP **planters** and DAP-funded **floralscapes** added colorful foliage and vibrancy to the district again this year. New **umbrellas** at Cascade Plaza replaced those damaged by spring storms.

- DAP staff members attend meetings of the **Downtown Operations Group** and manage a 311 log to advocate for the needs and appropriate levels of public service.
- DAP has partnered with the Summit-County Solid Waste Authority to begin a pilot **cardboard recycling program** within the SID district. Cardboard recycling dumpsters will be provided throughout the footprint for use of businesses within the SID.
- DAP is working with the City of Akron on efforts to begin a **coordinated streetscape** throughout downtown. A pilot program in the Northside District will begin early winter, providing newspaper corrals and trash cans.

## Safety & Parking

- Updated **Downtown Parking Maps** are available both in print and in an online interactive version.
- An **e-mail alert system** keeps individuals and businesses downtown apprised of emergency situations, traffic disruptions and upcoming events.
- All businesses and building contacts within the SID were distributed a **Office Security safety brochure**. This publication provides office safety tips and instructions on how to accurately report a crime or suspicious activities.
- Anyone within the SID can request **Downtown Asset Tracking ID Tags**, to identify valuable items, making them more easily traceable in the event of theft. DAP records the series of numbers and contacts the business if items are recovered by police.
- Periodic **block watch meetings** continue to address safety issues. DAP focused on emergency management plans and is working with government and others to begin a network of emergency notifications in the event of a downtown occurrence. Other topics included bus transfer station and emergency evacuation plans.
- DAP continues to work with Metro on the relocation of the **Bus Transit Center** (set to open in January '09) and the remaining bus shelters within the SID.

## Marketing and Promotion

- DAP has been performing one-on-one surveys with property owners and business owners within the SID. These interviews are used to address the needs and concerns of our constituents, addressing short term problems and assisting in long-range planning. A total of 64 business and 18 property owner surveys have been completed to date.
- An **upgraded website** is underway with more interactive components. A one-stop information site, it contains a searchable directory of downtown businesses, business snapshots, an events calendar, downloadable maps and other downtown business resources.
- More than 16,000 revelers participated in **First Night Akron** in 19 downtown buildings this past New Year's Eve and plans are underway for another exciting celebration of the arts this December 31. This alcohol-free, family-friendly event showcases the best performers in Northeast Ohio.
- DAP also continues to host or partner with other successful downtown events including the **Road Runner Akron Marathon, Tuba Summer, the Lunchtime Concert Series, Holidayfest, Bike Week and Towpath Trail** and the **Healthy Steps** program.
- A new program, **welcoming new businesses program** to downtown was established. DAP employees meet with new businesses, provide resources and a contact for their needs. **Recruitment packets** are available upon request for new employees or tenants, providing resources about the benefits of downtown Akron.
- DAP compiled **business demographic information** about downtown, sending a condensed report to all property owners. More demographic information is available upon request.
- DAP's 64-page downtown **Guide** aids residents and visitors, with more than 200,000 distributed. **Restaurant and event guides, Spotlight on Downtown, Do Downtown, Downtown Partners, Downtown Update**, keep DAP's constituents aware of downtown's progress.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Robert A. Handelman, Chair  
*Chemstress Consultant Company*

Lee S. Walko, Vice Chair  
*Brennan, Manna & Diamond*

Michael Kunce, Secretary  
*Bowery Management*

Stacey Brinko, Treasurer  
*McKinley Management*

Dennis Jancsy  
*Children's Hospital Medical Center*

Donald L. Plusquellic  
*Mayor, City of Akron*

Marco S. Sommerville  
*President, Akron City Council*

Kimberlee McKee, President  
*Downtown Akron Partnership*  
kmckee@downtownakron.com

### Downtown Akron SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



## Downtown Akron Special Improvement District, Inc. Statement of Activities - Cash Basis

	Year ended 06/30/08
Support and Revenues:	
SID Assessment	\$485,733
Interest Income	184
Total Support and Revenues	<u>\$485,917</u>
Expenses	
Contracts	\$482,711
Insurance	2,338
Accounting	3,150
Supplies	-
Annual Meeting	80
Bank charges	96
Total Expenses	<u>\$488,375</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (2,458)
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 5,488
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 3,030</u>

Downtown Akron  
Special Improvement District, Inc.  
58 West Exchange Street, Suite C  
Akron, Ohio 44308  
330-762-9550 (phone)  
330-762-6622 (fax)  
www.downtownakron.com

# Downtown Akron Special Improvement District

## Annual Report 2007-2008

[www.downtownakron.com](http://www.downtownakron.com)