

DOWNTOWN AKRON PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN & DAP PRESIDENT & CEO



On March 12, 2018, the first consensus-led plan for downtown Akron was adopted by City Council. Consider how far downtown has come in just 24 months. We imagined the blighted buildings of The Bowers with new residents living inside. Now, residents watch from behind those long-vacant windows as a mixed-use residential building is renovated from its historic bones. We imagined a strategy to strengthen downtown as a place for business. Downtown is now an integral part of the Elevate Greater Akron strategy as a critical job hub and prime location for collaborative business retention and expansion efforts. We imagined

Our challenge is not only to overcome the daily trials of transformation, but to plan and prepare for an experience that draws people back to the heart of the city to take part in its reimagination.

a downtown for all people, a central gathering place for arts, culture and entertainment that reflects our community. Today, we have increased minority-owned businesses downtown, programmed public spaces for inclusive audiences and integrated local and international art into placemaking efforts throughout the district. We imagined a downtown with a street design to enhance health and safety. Six months from now we will see two years of construction come to fruition, incorporating plentiful and upgraded utilities, enhanced and creative lighting, café seating, a protected cycle lane, calmed traffic, improved walkability, on-street parallel parking, a clean canal waterway and a robust green-scape and tree canopy.

Amidst this transition, our challenge is not only to overcome the daily trials of transformation, but to plan and prepare for the experience that awaits the completion of the Main Street Corridor project—an experience that draws people back to the heart of the city to take part in its reimagination.

DAP remains your focused champion in this effort, dedicating our work each day to building a vibrant and valuable downtown.

Donald J. Pavlik

Suzie Graham

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Development

A core of excellent businesses is vital to the economic growth of downtown Akron. As dedicated representatives of a critical job hub in our county's regional economy, DAP continues to support business growth, attraction and retention in alignment with the Elevate Greater Akron strategy.

With the renewal of the Special Improvement District (SID) and in alignment with our 2016 strategic plan, DAP was able to officially establish the full-time position of the Director of Business Development, previously supported by GAR and Burton D. Morgan Foundations. In conjunction with the Director of Business Relations and under the guidance of our Business Development Committee, DAP is able to actively improve the downtown business environment.

DAP meets with retailers quarterly, and with professional services no less than biannually, to determine how to best help each business achieve success.

Our presence at weekly Business Retention and Expansion meetings with city, county, chamber and community leadership ensures downtown remains top of mind for new business location and retention efforts for the district. In 2019, DAP participated in 100% of the BRE team meetings and contributed to 27 collaborative site searches and visits.

To assist us in maintaining accurate and accessible data on downtown properties, DAP maintains the LOIS (Location One Information System) database on downtownakron.com to engage entrepreneurs interested in locating their business downtown. In 2019, the platform had 610 visitors, 866 sessions, 5,703 page views and an average session length just under 4 minutes. In addition to LOIS and a CRM database, a Salesforce account was added to DAP's business development systems and is used as directed by the city and county to continue collaborative business efforts downtown.

A Downtown for Entrepreneurs

With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, DAP has provided assistance for the Northside Marketplace. The Marketplace provides a valuable opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to co-locate with other start-up businesses and test their product with a shared checkout system. Over two years of support, this entrepreneurial model generated more than \$1.67 million in sales with a conservative estimate of 100,000 visitors.

DAP continues to support, guide and mentor retailers when needed by helping to identify their business strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, and by recommending local and regional resources for additional support.

Pop-Up Retail

The Burton D. Morgan Foundation-funded DAP Pop-Up Retail program continued to enhance the downtown business ecosystem in 2019. Phase 4 of the program benefited new businesses as well as alumni of the program. Eleven new businesses emerged in Phase 4 and five existing businesses benefited from a retroactive marketing initiative. The Phase 4 cohort reflects 44% women-owned businesses and 13% minority-owned businesses. Each Phase 4 business received 22 hours of assistance from DAP including engagement, marketing and connections to community resources and assistance providers. DAP expended an average of 7 hours of assistance to each alumni business, focusing on the creation and distribution of promotional rack cards.

As of December 2019, a total of 28 full-time and 59 part-time employees were added to the downtown workforce through this program. With the completion of Phase 4, the program in total has positioned downtown properties to gain \$1,148,883 in lease revenue over the terms of the leases signed. The net impact of the Phase 4 participation is the empowerment of 21 entrepreneurs across 13 businesses.

Between June 2018 and December 2019, DAP made over 50 referrals to resources within the Northeast Ohio entrepreneurship community, such as Elevate Greater Akron, Small Business Development Center, SEED Clinic, Akron Urban League, local government, ECDI, HFLA of Northeast Ohio and BOUNCE.

Of businesses supported by Phase 4, 8 of 11 remain open at their original pop-up location, and 16 of 18 entrepreneurs associated with these businesses continue to build and scale their ventures. Of alumni businesses, 5 chose to receive assistance from DAP in creating promotional rack cards. In 2019, we welcomed Grocery Grabbers, Mint Hair Collective, Rubber City Comics, The Experience Barber & Beauty Shop and Indulge Chocolates to downtown Akron.



New Businesses

In addition to pop-up clients, downtown Akron welcomed 16 new businesses and organizations in 2019: ACU-Serve, IgnitionOne, LevelHEADS, AMP Strategy, Noble Theory, Tea House Bakery, Famba Services, Lannon Home Care Agency, Ohio Notary Services LLC, Exactly., Fireland Title Group, Macho Nacho, Pritt Properties, The Botanist, Communicare and Akron Soul Train.

Outreach to existing businesses is quantified in Member Outreach & Support on page 9.

Investing In Public Space

With support from the Knight Foundation and Akron Civic Commons, DAP made strategic investments in improving public space to drive private investment, develop a more walkable district, improve perceptions of safety, attract talent and build our sense of place. These investments are guided by research, analysis and recommendations from Gehl Studio.

The Main Street Corridor transformation is one of downtown Akron's most significant events in a generation. DAP is committed to providing business and property owners with immediate, short and long-term initiatives to assist with this transformative project.

2019 mid-construction efforts included

- Facilitated connections between city engineers, construction teams and downtown businesses
- Attended biweekly construction meetings to communicate district needs
- Provided traffic closure information and closure planning assistance to businesses
- Audited construction signage for errors and advocated for additional signage
- Provided temporary signage as needed
- Provided print and digital marketing efforts to support businesses
- Cleared construction debris and materials as needed

- Provided support for businesses to explore delivery service partnerships through DoorDash
- Provided valet support to the Main/Exchange Street businesses
- Created *Akron Beacon Journal* / Ohio.com promotions to advertise shopping local, Make It to Main locations, and expand DAP's e-newsletter list
- Created and distributed 10 Make It to Main short videos promoting South Main Street businesses
- Commissioned and distributed the video *Winter in Downtown Akron: Come Say Hi*
- Commissioned the Lunch-O-Matic downtown eatery guide to encourage exploration of downtown restaurant options using a fun, game board spinner format

2019 long-term impact initiatives included

- With help from stakeholders, DAP successfully advocated for the retention of the State Street bridge. In 2019, funding support from the Knight Foundation provided consulting services for city engineers to design a permeable railing with future capability for lighting enhancements for the bridge. The bridge will provide an improved experience for pedestrians, highlight the beauty of the canal and enhance the downtown connection to Akron Children's Hospital. Total railing investment in 2019 was \$203,000.
- In 2019, DAP led a group of community stakeholders in the design of a new wayfinding system for downtown. The \$45,000 study included the design of signage and a programming plan for wayfinding for the entire district in phases beginning with the new Main Street. Wayfinding was designed for parking garages, vehicular signage and pedestrian kiosks to include "heads-up" directional signage and a comprehensive list of destinations which will be maintained by DAP annually.
- DAP also supported expansion of the implementation program for the first phase of signage on Main Street. Using \$50,000 of Knight Foundation support, DAP matched the city's \$50,000 budget to ensure a robust first phase of signage implementation.

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Boa Mistura

In May, more than 150 community volunteers, including students and faculty at the Akron Public Schools National Inventors Hall of Fame School for STEM Learning (NIHF STEM), worked with the artists from the Spanish arts collective, Boa Mistura, to paint and install a colorful, immersive installation on the school's plaza. The public artwork, *The Roots of Rubber*, is a celebration of history and community in public space.

The project commemorated the 10th anniversary of the NIHF STEM Middle School as a leading institution for STEM learning in the Akron Public Schools and was brought to life through a partnership between Akron Public Schools, Downtown Akron Partnership and the city of Akron. It was made possible with support from the Knight Foundation.

Through patterns that mimic the markings made by Amazon rubber gatherers, the work evokes the story of Akron's

intimate link to rubber, referencing the roots of the manufacturing process that is now part of the inseparable history of our city.

The three-dimensional volumes on the plaza interact with the shapes on the plaza floor, creating a maze through which two lines from the Rita Dove poem "Dawn Revisited" shift into and out of view.

The school's students chose the lines "If you don't look back / The future never happens," as a source of inspiration to the students of the school and to the Akron community.

The installation will remain in place for five years with periodic maintenance from STEM learners and DAP. The work serves as a reminder of the vibrant minds at work within the school and serves as an outdoor learning lab and curriculum engagement opportunity as the learners study poetry, geometry, art and history.



INVESTING IN PUBLIC SPACE

A Walkable Downtown

Building both walkable infrastructure and healthy walking habits goes hand in hand in creating a vibrant downtown.

Beginning in February 2019, DAP led biweekly Main Street walking tours to engage the community around the Main Street Corridor Project, downtown development and events programming. The lunchtime tours were designed for downtown employees, but were also attended by community members beyond downtown. In October, the second tour of the month became an indoor tour of the residential development of The Bowery. Throughout 2019, 220 people participated in the walking tours and 70 people participated in tours of The Bowery. Additional walking tours included 3rd Thursday tours organized around different themes, such as Murder and Mayhem and Curated Storefront. Other walking tours included a Meet Your Neighbors tour and happy hour for downtown employees, and tours for University of Akron students, organizations, visitors and Akron Public School staff, totalling 80 additional participants.

Working with Hillary Nunn and her University of Akron “Unclass,” Summit Historical Society and DAP board member David Lieberth, DAP helped to develop a digital walking tour of downtown, Round About Akron, which is accessible at downtownakron.com.

DAP ran a 6-week walking program for girls in conjunction with NIHF STEM school faculty to engage students in exploration and stewardship of downtown. Seven girls participated, helping to select the locations they visited, which included Quaker Square, Rubber City Comics, Summit Artspace, City Hall, the Peanut Shoppe, the County of Summit and the Akron Civic Theatre. DAP staff members will meet with STEM faculty to make plans for the next session and hope to include more locations that highlight strong female leaders in the community while showcasing a variety of job opportunities and career fields.

Lock Next

DAP launched Lock Next at Lock 3 with support from the Knight Foundation and in partnership with the city of Akron. This public space improvement tested the creation of a more permeable, inviting boundary between Main Street and Lock 3. The space was outfitted as an all-ages experience, providing opportunities to relax, play, socialize and enjoy local snacks and beverages. The pop-up improvement featured a shipping container equipped to vend food and beverages. Other amenities included hammocks, games, building blocks and a Lock Next Monster climbable art installation by local artist John Comunale. Visitors were drawn to exploring the space with creative programming and events, including sidewalk stage and happy hour musical performances sponsored by Pritt Entertainment Group and the Ohio Arts Council.



STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

DAP is honored to serve in support of key local strategies as the voice of downtown.

Special Improvement District Renewal

The Special Improvement District has played a critical role in building the downtown neighborhood since its inception in 1999. Funds generated through the DASID are used to strengthen the neighborhood in alignment with our strategic plan through cleaning and safety services, marketing and branding, economic development and vibrancy efforts, member outreach and services, engagement and strategy and our commitment to operational efficiency.

While state law requires a supermajority of property owners representing at least 60% of downtown's linear front footage to support the renewal of a business improvement district, DAP was renewed for 2020 with more than 72% support and unanimous support from Akron City Council. Over our next five years of service, DAP will welcome people back to downtown with excellent programming and promotion of the transformed Main Street, improved and expanded cleaning and safety efforts, business development programs aligned with the Elevate Greater Akron strategy and initiatives to advance the Downtown Akron Vision and Redevelopment Plan.

Reimagining the Civic Commons

DAP serves on the core team of this national initiative funded by the Rockefeller, Kresge, Knight and JPB foundations. Under the local facilitation of the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition, the effort, which seeks to improve public space along the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail between downtown Akron and Summit Lake, focuses on civic engagement, environmental sustainability, creating value and socioeconomic mixing in public places. Learning across five participating cities has helped Akron improve our public spaces through thoughtful engagement and programming. Participation in this valuable cohort assists the Akron community in moving forward as a collaborative agent for positive change. In 2019, Civic Commons funding provided support for a 7-day ambassador pilot program, cycletrack beautification efforts and programming in Cascade Plaza.

Elevate Greater Akron

DAP participated in the Elevate Greater Akron strategy through the Refocus on Urban Centers, Business Retention and Opportunity Akron initiatives. Ongoing commitment to this regional growth strategy ensures downtown remains connected with local leadership, informed and engaged in opportunities for growth and aligned with principles for building an inclusive and equitable city.

Advocacy

DAP staff members attend meetings of the city and various organizations to continue to advocate for downtown and provide information to the public. Meetings included Akron Civic Commons, Downtown Operations Group, Main Street Corridor, Main Street PR Committee, Elevate Greater Akron BRE, Refocus on the Urban Center and Opportunity Zone committees, Akron Waterways Renewed! and UA Safety Task Force.

District Meetings

Quarterly meetings for each of the downtown districts (Northside, Historic Arts, Canal) continued on a rotating basis. The meetings, held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, are used to keep stakeholders informed about city projects, construction, general information, events and community updates. In 2019, DAP hosted 12 meetings averaging 25 attendees per meeting, including representatives from city engineering and the design build team of the Main Street Corridor.

Board Engagement

Strategic alignment and consensus-led growth is an imperative part of downtown's growth strategy. Taking process cues from the Downtown Vision and Redevelopment Plan, DAP engages board and stakeholder leadership to assist us in planning and implementing of our work. Established or ad hoc committees met in 2019 to guide business development, wayfinding study and design, 3rd Thursday, board nominations, marketing, residential services, annual meeting, beautification, finance, and governance.

MEMBER OUTREACH & SUPPORT

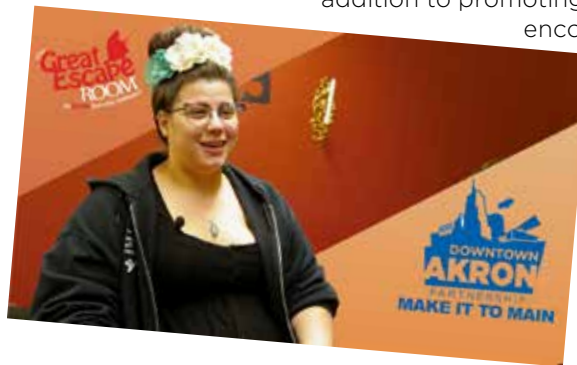
QUARTERLY RETAIL OUTREACH	203
BUSINESS OUTREACH	125
PROPERTY OWNER/BROKER OUTREACH	67
RESIDENTIAL OUTREACH	10 eventsand 5 property visits
RESIDENT WELCOME PACKETS	1,000
BUSINESS INFORMATION PACKETS .	1,215

Community Engagement

DAP launched the Urban Corps volunteer program as a way to engage the community in volunteer projects year-round. In 2019, the Urban Corps engaged more than 200 volunteers for nearly 2,000 hours of committee meetings, beautification, public art projects and event support in the service of building growth and vibrancy downtown. Plans for 2020 include the creation of a new student volunteer organization, the Downtown Advisory Council, that will engage students to provide insight on how downtown can be improved and build stronger connections to University of Akron students.

Member Outreach & Support

DAP works with members that include property owners, business leaders, government officials, residents and stakeholders to improve the image of downtown as a valuable location for businesses, working professionals and families. Through strategic marketing and management of downtown resources, DAP promotes the district as a destination for living, working and playing in the center of our city.



Business Marketing

With the support of the Knight Foundation, DAP created the Make It to Main series of short videos to spotlight businesses on Main Street. Series host, Grace Thanasiu, with videographers David Stephenson and Caleb Morgan produced 10 videos, each one highlighting a Main Street business. Videos introduce viewers to the owners and their businesses, encouraging people to experience the diverse, local offerings downtown, and conclude with an outline of nearby construction, available parking and Akron METRO Regional Transit Authority routes for easier navigation.

Restaurant Marketing

DAP created a unique and fun approach to exploring downtown lunch options with the release of the Akron-Lunch-O-Matic, a colorful handheld game board spinner that reveals lunch destinations with a spin of the wheel. In addition to promoting downtown eateries, the Lunch-O-Matic encouraged taking a midday break, getting outside and walking. The spinner included 12 “bonus break” spaces that showcased stops for snacks and drinks, as well as offering tips on the health benefits of taking breaks throughout the work day. The Lunch-O-Matic was designed by local firm About 350, and made possible with support from the Knight Foundation.

Quarterly Report

DAP continues to produce quarterly reports in alignment with our services plan. Issues feature new businesses, pop-up retail, marketing achievements, business news, economic development stories and more. Issues are emailed to a subscriber list and housed on the publications page of downtownakron.com.



MEMBER OUTREACH & SUPPORT



FACEBOOK
(DAP)
7,370 fans



FACEBOOK
(3rd Thursday)
806 fans



TWITTER
8,983 followers



INSTAGRAM
4,086 followers



LINKEDIN
1,157 followers



CONSTANT
CONTACT
15,506
subscribers



DOWNTOWNAKRON.COM
219,492
unique visitors

Website and Branding

Traffic again surpassed 200,000 visitors on downtownakron.com as visitors, residents and employees continue to use the site for the latest events, news and business listings. Dedicated landing pages were created for summer and winter activities, the ongoing series of Make it to Main videos, 3rd Thursdays and more to better highlight specific initiatives, events, participating businesses and sponsors. DAP and *The Akron Beacon Journal* created a bimonthly campaign to promote downtown businesses across four platforms: digital contests on Ohio.com, Do Downtown emails, Facebook posts and print ads.

Parking, Towpath Trail and Ambassador Services brochures were maintained and replenished in distribution holders across downtown as needed.

Publications

- Co-op page in *Akron/Summit County Convention and Visitors Bureau Visitor Guide* – May 2019
- *Downtown Akron Guide* with *Akron Life* magazine – June 2019
- Co-op page in Greater Akron Chamber's *Experience Greater Akron Guide* – Sept. 2019
- DTAkron updates were produced quarterly in April, July, October and January. All issues are housed on the DAP website.



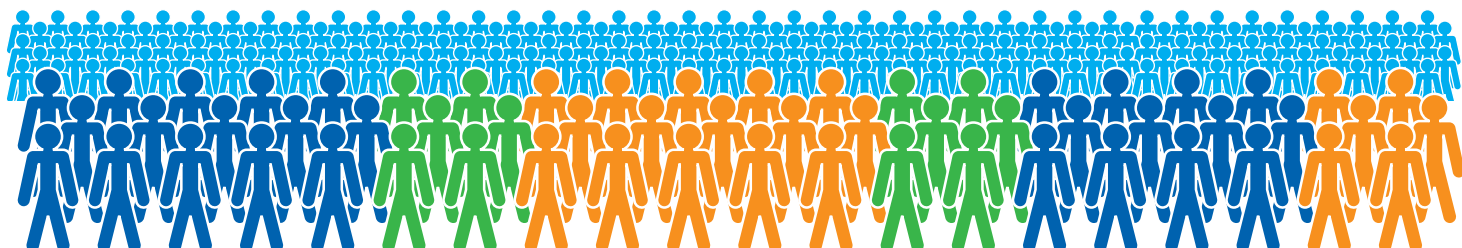
AKRONSTOCK.COM

- Includes more than 3,000 photos of downtown Akron and surrounding areas available to download for free
- Features 10 contributing photographers
- New photos added: roller dance parties, Rave on Main and several retail businesses.

Summer Programming

With support from the Knight Foundation, Akron Civic Commons and the Ohio Arts Council, DAP presented lunchtime concerts at Cascade Plaza on Fridays, from May through August, Thursday after-work concerts at Lock 3 as part of Lock Next

Total Cascade Plaza attendance is estimated at approximately **2,300** people



575 people attended
lunchtime recess,
meditation & concerts

132 people
attended Saturday
Zumba sessions

600 people
attended the three
roller parties

281 people
attended
DrumFit

500 people
attended Rave on
Main, Summer Selfie
Party
& Pecha Kucha

175 people
attended yoga &
Wednesday
happy hour events

MEMBER OUTREACH & SUPPORT



as well as Sidewalk Stage concerts supported by Pritt Entertainment Group. Summer on the Plaza at Cascade Plaza continued to draw visitors from downtown as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. Zumba, DrumFit, meditation, yoga, roller skating events, happy hour events, Summer Selfie Party, Rave on Main and Pecha Kucha were added to the season. Guests to the plaza also enjoyed free Wi-Fi.

But First, Coffee

DAP partnered with the National Center for Choreography at the University of Akron to showcase a dance film created in downtown last year titled, *But First*. The film is a dance interpretation of what it feels like before and after morning coffee. In advance of National Coffee Day (Sunday, September 29), free coffee was offered at five downtown coffee shops from 12 – 3 p.m. on Friday, September 27. The film was shown at each of the locations throughout the day. More than 100 cups of coffee were distributed over three hours.

#LovetheWall

The #LovetheWall mural, which was originally installed in 2015, received a fresh coat of paint in October 2019 thanks

to a group of 10 volunteers that included University of Akron students, downtown employees and community members.

3rd Thursday

Each month, 3rd Thursday invited people to explore art, culture, cuisine and entertainment throughout downtown Akron. A robust committee met regularly to discuss promotions, the trolley route and general event oversight. DAP created new marketing materials featuring the tagline, “Explore Your Downtown.” Walking tours, block parties and other programming initiatives were offered throughout the season to focus on different areas of the neighborhood. The city of Akron continues to support the event by providing the free trolley and printing the 3rd Thursday map.

Winter on the Boardwalk

Winter on the Boardwalk was a whimsical and entertaining installation for visitors to enjoy before or after visiting destinations in the South Main and Exchange Street area. From January 10 to February 18, a series of ice sculptures was on display on the Diamond Boardwalk between Canal Park and Cilantro. Each Thursday, Elegant Ice Creations delivered a new set of five sculptures featuring themes that included winter, construction zone and dinosaurs. A sneak peek week with an “Akron icon” theme was on display at Lock 3 from January 3 – 9. Lost Tribe Media provided lights, music and a snowflake projection. The final week of the installation featured an ice throne with an “Old Man Winter” theme. The project was made possible through support from the Knight Foundation.



CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

Clean

The presence of clean and safe ambassadors in the 42-block SID continues to enhance the quality of life for all in downtown. In 2019 the team acquired a new Gator utility vehicle and watering tank to streamline plant care and other tasks.

Ambassadors shifted to a new 7-day/week presence and expanded some clean and safe services to The University of Akron spaces bordering the district. Additionally, improvements in the Smart System smart phone program allowed ambassadors to photograph and track graffiti removal more efficiently.

Safe

DAP's 10 Clean & Safe Ambassadors enhance downtown safety with foot and bike patrols every day covering the 42-block district and adjacent business member properties. DAP staff collects crime data within the district from weekly APD reports and the online Lexis Nexis® Community Crime Mapping system and follows up on issues of concern or incidents requiring immediate attention. Email safety alerts

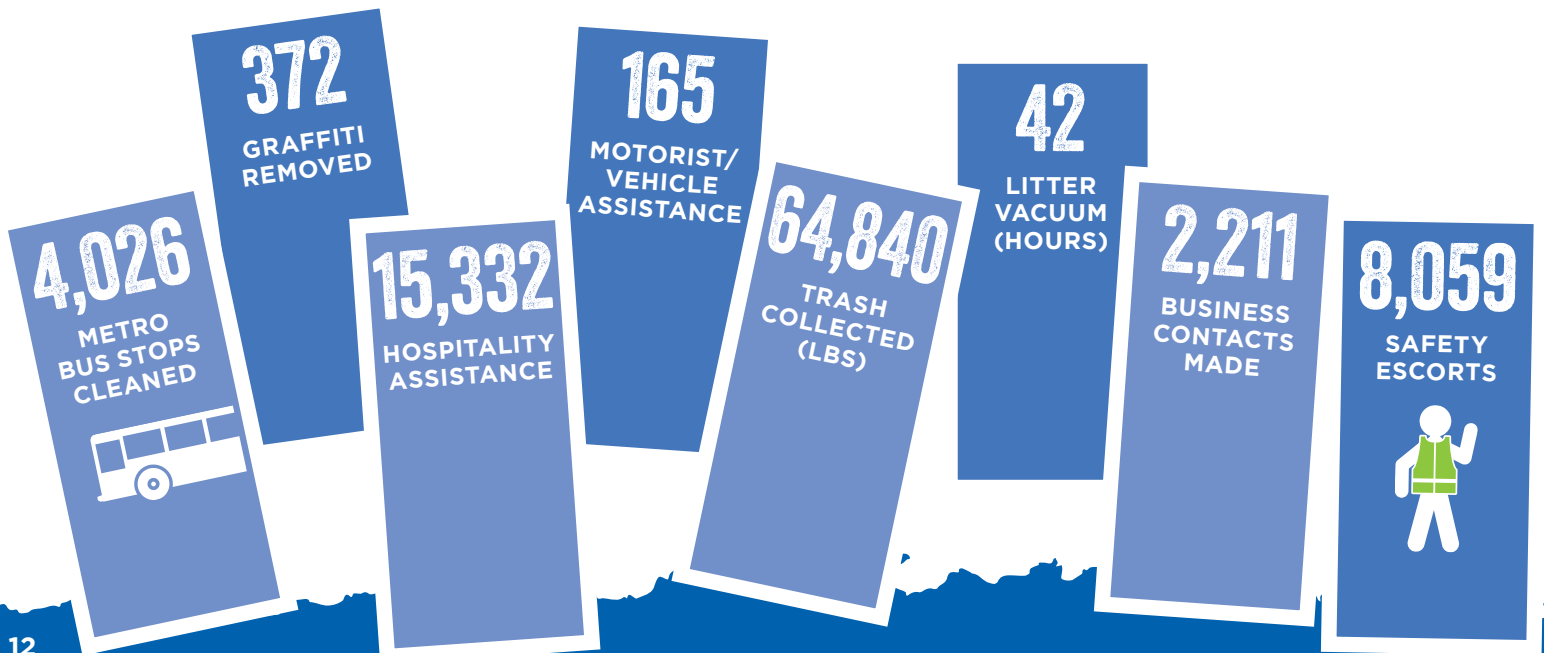
and traffic advisories are sent to businesses and individuals when emergency situations and traffic concerns warrant.

DAP funds an APD nighttime shift supervisor Thursday-Saturday in downtown to coordinate police presence at nightlife venues, communicate concerns to DAP staff and provide dedicated service to the district. This program, in conjunction with our ambassador program, is our most significant investment in safety in the district.

Welcoming

Through a grant from the Corbin Foundation, DAP ambassadors placed and maintained hanging baskets, planter boxes and sidewalk planters throughout the district. Downtown businesses participated in DAP's Adopt-a-Planter program and played an active role in beautification efforts by designing and planting a sidewalk planter near their business or building.

Additional flowers brightened the Northside District and the North High Street parklet as part of the public space enhancement efforts funded by the Knight Foundation.



LOVE LETTERS TO OUR AMBASSADORS

“My wife and I were parked in the downtown library parking garage for a meeting. When we returned, we became confused about our car’s location. We asked an ambassador if he could help us locate our car. With him willing and with our car’s description and approximate location, he went to several floors looking for it and, after locating it, returned and guided us to it. We greatly appreciated his kindness and his going above and beyond to help us.”

“Isreal Spear got my car door opened after work in December, after I was unable to get it unlocked. I appreciate that you are available to assist in these situations. I have referred your number to others in need of assistance in the past.”

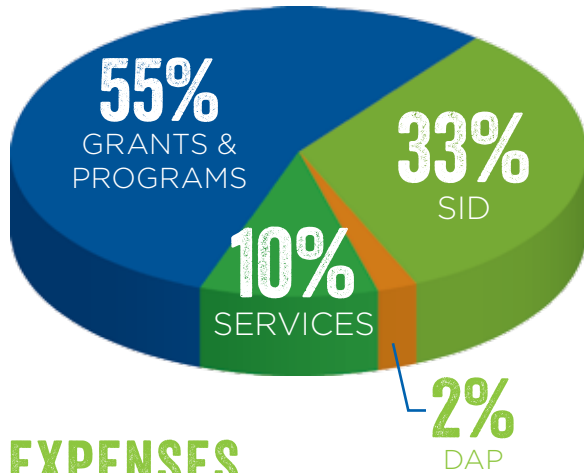
“Incredibly helpful! A friend locked her keys in her car, and while we were waiting for the cops someone suggested we contact Downtown Akron Partnership. They were quick and efficient and my friend was back in her car and on the road in no time! Thanks guys!”



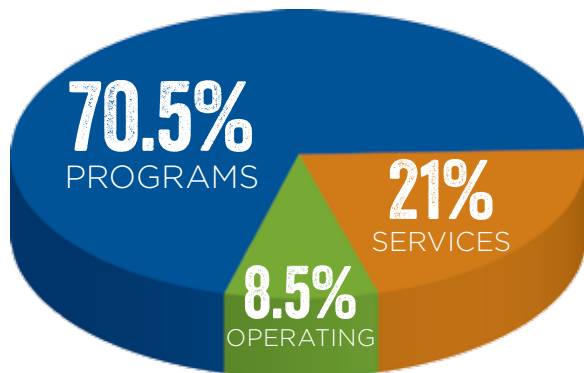
FINANCIALS

Downtown Akron Partnership, Inc.
Fiscal Year 2018-2019*

INCOME



EXPENSES





FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

DAP strives to maximize each SID dollar for the greatest impact to the district. Last year's SID revenue of \$736,287 provided 33% of our overall \$2,226,435 operating revenue. Our ongoing partnership with METRO RTA provided an additional 6% of operating funding for services to the Robert J. Pfaff Intermodal Transit Center and supported our Clean and Safe 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 just outside our SID border and provided for an additional 3% of revenue. DAP has valued business memberships with the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the John S. Knight Center. Our strong financial practices and stability empower us to request 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 address the changing needs of the SID on an annual basis. We were honored to receive a \$1.5 million grant over two years from the Knight Foundation—the largest grant in DAP's history—to assist us in evaluating and improving public spaces downtown. Special events rely heavily upon corporate and foundation support.

Other non-SID funding sources: Peg's Foundation (High Arts Festival), Corbin Foundation (beautification), John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (special programming), Burton D. Morgan Foundation (business development), Ohio Arts Council and Akron Civic Commons (arts programming).

*Downtown Akron Partnership is independently audited on an annual basis by an independent accounting firm selected via an RFP process every three years. CLA audited the DAP financials in fiscal year 2018-2019. The independent auditor's report is presented at the annual meeting and is available for review at downtownakron.com/audit.

Photos in this publication courtesy of Shane Wynn, Tim Fitzwater, John Aylward, METRO RTA and Everyday Akron



DOWNTOWN AKRON PARTNERSHIP

