

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



choral-ography: A benefit evening for Summit Choral Society. Photo by Brian Kovach



Photo by Shane Wynn



2ND QUARTER 2017
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Akron Partnership to improve Akron's public spaces, increase city vibrancy with \$1.5 million from Knight Foundation

Downtown Akron Partnership announced a project to connect Akron residents to downtown Akron through improvements to public spaces with \$1.5 million from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The project aligns with the city's larger goals to build city vibrancy, encourage private investment, improve perceptions of safety and keep and attract talent.



Cascade Plaza on Main Street is one of the grant focus areas

Over the next two years, Downtown Akron Partnership will study, test and implement improvements to public space in key areas of downtown. The project builds on a "Public Space Public Life" study completed

with Gehl Studio, the U.S. affiliate of Gehl Architects, a global leader in people-centered urban design. Gehl's previous work reveals that the vibrancy of urban public spaces—greenspaces, sidewalks, streets—has a significant effect on city success. New development and retail, as well as actual and perceived safety, talent attraction and retention, sociability, walkability and property value are all affected by how public space is designed and programmed.

As part of the 18-month study, Downtown Akron Partnership worked with teams of volunteers and other groups to measure current use of public space and create prototypes to test how those spaces might be improved. Building pedestrian, cycling

and social activity on city streets was further identified as a priority in both the Downtown Akron Partnership strategic plan and the Downtown Vision and Redevelopment Plan.

Based on this work, Knight Funding will focus on improving three key public spaces:

- **The Link:** Creating a one-mile corridor for pedestrians and cyclists that will connect The University of Akron and Akron Children's Hospital.
- **Cascade Plaza:** Enhancing a key public park adjacent to new residential development.
- **Night Out at North High Street:** Improving and activating the sidewalks around the North High business district to attract new activity and pedestrian traffic to the area.

In addition, Downtown Akron Partnership will work to scale up the current clean and safe services provided by Downtown Ambassadors, and expand the startup rent subsidy for new downtown retail businesses including the Northside Marketplace, while providing for marketing Akron's downtown.

The previous Gehl work included a survey of public spaces and public life, and helped define the current state of activity in Akron's public spaces. The study sets the groundwork for devising a strategy to better connect Akron residents to downtown.

Support for Downtown Akron Partnership comprises part of Knight Foundation's efforts in Akron to attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of engagement. Since 2008 Knight has invested more than \$58 million in Akron.

Downtown Akron Vision + Redevelopment Plan

First public meeting welcomed more than 175 participants

The Downtown Akron Vision and Redevelopment Plan, now in phase two, works with the Akron community to create a common vision for downtown. Through an extensive public process involving stakeholders, community leaders, and Akron residents, the plan will create an actionable and strategic framework to shape the future of our downtown.

The first public meeting was held on June 21 at the Akron Civic Theatre and welcomed more than 175 downtown residents, visitors and employees. Input was received on areas of residence, visions for downtown, parts of downtown visited or avoided and specific topics addressing Main Street, business vacancy, public space, parks/trails, parking and more.

For those unable to attend the meeting but would still like to participate, input can be provided through July at www.downtownakron.com/vision. Materials on this site

include the presentation given by MKSK and Downtown Akron Partnership, discussion boards and interactive features.

A 10-minute on-line survey asks for visions for downtown, downtown housing, transportation and more. A crowd-source story map provides the ability to add photos to an interactive map and



Public input was gathered at the first meeting

communicate downtown Akron's challenges and opportunities.

The next public meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 19 from 5-7 p.m. at the Akron Civic Theatre.

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Phase 2 of the Downtown Akron's Pop Up retail program is supported by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation. At the close of the second quarter 2017, we continued to welcome new business to Downtown Akron. Several inquiries from local entrepreneurs as to the remaining funding for the program are still arriving with several more businesses to be announced.

We are also pleased to welcome many new businesses to the district ranging from cafes, restaurants, recreation providers and technology products.



Electric Pete's

Pop Up Retail

Electric Pete's E-Bikes

331 S. Main St. | 330-204-5227 | Facebook: @elecpetes

Electric Pete's E-Bikes is located in the Evans Building (corner of Main & Exchange) and offers electric bicycle sales, and parts and repairs for all bikes. The shop also offers women's apparel available for all body types as well as the opportunity to test ride the e-bikes. *Photo by Pete Smakula*

Akron Yoga & Wellness

1 Cascade Plaza | www.bewellakronyoga.com

Akron Yoga and Wellness is all about empowerment, healing and growth. Classes, workshops, trainings and events are designed to create a space and community where people can come together to learn about their physical, mental and emotional body; develop tools to help them daily as they move through the world and explore who they are and how they want to grow.



BLU Plate

Welcome new businesses

BLU Plate

45 E. Market St. | 330-252-1190 | www.blueplateakron.com

BLU Plate is a "black & BLU" dining experience featuring a chef driven menu of low-country culinary delights. BLU Plate pays homage to the food, music and culture of New Orleans, St. Louis, Kansas City, Memphis, Nashville and more - with an Akron twist. *Photo by BLU Plate*



Dirty River Bikes

Dirty River Bicycle Works

21 Furnace St., ste. 404P | 330-990-9300 | www.dirtyriver.bike

Dirty River Bicycle Works provides a one of a kind, stellar customer service experience in the sales of bicycles, repair and accessories. All products and services incorporate core principles of integrity, sincerity, helpfulness and playfulness in assisting anyone to find success and solutions riding bicycles.

Hamad's on Main

121 S. Main St. | 330-615-7544

Hamad's on Main offers fresh, homemade sandwiches, salads and baked goods and are open for breakfast and lunch. In the coming month's the cafe will provide office catering and grab 'n go dinners.

HungerPerks

526 S. Main St., ste. 511 | 234-788-0791 | www.hungerperks.com

HungerPerks app combines surveys with location based notifications, resulting in a revolutionary way for restaurants to collect real-time customer feedback -- the most direct form of marketing to date. The app is currently in development and will launch during a July beta test.



Hamad's on Main

Urban Eats Cafe

51 E. Market St. | 330-221-7630 | Facebook Urban Eats Cafe

Urban Eats Cafe is under new ownership with Sam and Nathan continuing the great tradition of this local favorite. Urban Eats offers an assortment of wraps, paninis and individually portioned flat bread pizzas. Catering is also available. They are open for breakfast, lunch and during Musica shows.

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

Totally Cooked and Do Good Yoga programs for businesses and employees

Giving back to the community is part of the master recipe at **Totally Cooked Catering**. By sharing a talent for fabulous food and extraordinary events, long-term relationships with the community and clients have been built.



The company also gives tens of thousands of dollars in charitable donations every year, but want to ensure the donations help build a stronger, healthier community, and build a strong working relationship between their charitable partners.

The **Totally Cooked Charitable Partnership Program** was created

which offers local organizations and employees a discount and give-back program. Companies receive a 5% discount on all catering orders from their organization and 5% of the cost of the order is a charitable donation to their organization. For details, contact Sydney Murphy at 330-923-9964 x 15.

Do Good Yoga wants to create positive change by offering **Corporate Unlimited Memberships** to local businesses. For a company with 10-15 employees, the cost per month is \$225. For businesses with less than 10 or more than 15 employees, a monthly rate can be customized. The regular monthly unlimited cost for an individual person is \$75.

Yoga can be a benefit to overall health by increasing focus and awareness and decreasing fatigue, it can reduce anxiety, depression and stress, boost immunity, relieve lower back pain, and lower blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar. Six million people in the US practice yoga and spend \$5.7 billion a year on equipment. Yoga is the sixth most commonly used complementary health practice among adults.



CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING



19,671

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

245

GRAFFITI REMOVED

509

BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

277

SAFETY ESCORTS



251

MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

1,597

PARKING ASSISTANCE

2,598

BUS STOPS CLEANED

2,623

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

DAP Ambassador stats Jan-June 2017

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

TOTH AND BROWNING TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED LEADER AWARD FROM LEADERSHIP AKRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The **Leadership Akron** Alumni Association has named Kirstin Toth and Nick Browning this year's recipients of its Distinguished Leader Award. The award recognizes a graduate(s) of Leadership Akron who has contributed in an extraordinary and significant way to a specific issue or cause in the community. The award honors Toth's and Browning's partnership and commitment to revitalize and stabilize Summit Education Initiative, bringing the organization from nearly closing their doors to, now, an integral part of improving Summit County's educational systems.

Kristin Toth is a graduate of Leadership Akron Class 27 and senior vice president of GAR Foundation. Nick Browning is a Class 17 graduate of Leadership Akron and president of the Akron Region, Huntington National Bank.

PEOPLES BANK RECEIVES 2017 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR THE ARTS IN OHIO

Since its beginning in 1971, the Governor's Awards has recognized individuals and organizations who have been vital to the growth and development of Ohio's cultural resources. **Peoples Bank**, with a branch located in downtown Akron, received an award for Business Support of the Arts. Their foundation worked with the renovation of the Peoples Bank Theatre, a historic landmark in downtown Marietta, Ohio, the bank's corporate headquarters.

STATE AND FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC. NAMED ONE OF TOP 100 WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN OHIO FOR 2017 BY OMNIKAL

At the 17th Annual OMNIKAL National Business Summit at The Harvard Club in New York City on May 18, 2017, **State and Federal Communications, Inc.**, and its president and CEO, Elizabeth Z. Bartz, were honored with a key diversity award as a Top 100 Women-Owned Business in Ohio, and are the only business in Akron named to the list. State and Federal Communications has won an "America's Top Business" award every year since 2008.

PERANTINIDES & NOLAN UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SCHOOL OF LAW & PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

Perantinides & Nolan attorneys are graduates of the UA School of Law and the firm regularly employs UA law school students. They support the law school by providing financial assistance, guest lecturing, serving as trial team mock court judges and participating in the mentoring program.

The firm underwrites the University of Akron School of Law Pro Bono Service Award, which bestows monetary awards to deserving students reporting the highest number of pro bono hours. The firm believes in the importance of pro bono work and this provides an opportunity to reward and encourage students to support the position that everyone in this country should be entitled to excellent legal representation. This year's recipients are Farisa Rana (717 hours) and Jeremy Gilpatric (343 hours).



Browning and Toth



State and Federal Communications



Perantinides & Nolan

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

DOWNTOWN IS ONE OF THE SAFEST NEIGHBORHOODS IN AKRON. HELP US KEEP IT THAT WAY.

VEHICLE & PARKING TIPS DO YOUR PART...

- Lock your car and secure all windows.
- Park in high-traffic, well-lit areas if possible.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view.
- Do not leave your car running unattended.
- Do not leave any keys in the car, locked garage or hide-a-key box.
- Remember where you park.
- Leave only the ignition key with an attendant, mechanic or valet.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

- Report any thefts, break-ins or suspicious activity to an ambassador, police officer or parking personnel immediately.
- Have your keys in hand before walking to your car.
- Do not leave personal ID, ownership title or credit cards in your vehicle.
- Keep vehicle information numbers (VIN) and insurance information with you.

FOR NON-EMERGENCY CONCERNS ABOUT PARKING DECKS OR LOTS, CALL ABM AT 330-375-2594

QUARTERLY DISTRICT MTGS

Quarterly meetings for downtown stakeholders are held the second Thursday of the month. RSVP at www.downtownakron.com/work/district-meetings

Canal District:

Aug. 10, Nov. 9
2-3 p.m. | location TBD

Northside:

Sept. 14, Dec. 14
1-2 p.m. | Jilly's Music Room

Historic Arts:

Oct. 12
10-11 a.m. | ASCPL main library

JOHN G. CORP JOINS PIN OAK ENERGY AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

John G. Corp, joins **Pin Oak Energy Partners LLC** as Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Corp has more than 35 years of experience in management, drilling, production, and oil field service operation in the Appalachian Basin. Mr. Corp comes to Pin Oak Energy after successfully guiding a sale of TransEnergy to EQT Corporation in Q1 2017.

Pin Oak Energy Partners is an independent energy company, focused on the acquisition, exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas assets.

NEW RECYCLING PROGRAM AT STATE AND FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS

State and Federal Communications, Inc.

is upping their green-game with help and guidance from Downtown Akron Partnership and the city of Akron. The company recently began a program that will allow them to participate in the city's single-stream recycling program for not only cans and cardboard, but for bottles, cartons, cups, and many other items generated in the workplace environment.



RUBBERDUCKS OWNER/CEO KEN BABBY NAMED BY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD® 2017 WINNER

Ernst & Young (EY) announced that **Akron RubberDucks** owner and chief executive officer Ken Babby is a winner of the coveted Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2017 Award. The awards program, which is celebrating its 31st year, recognizes entrepreneurs who are excelling in areas such as innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. As a winner for the Northeast Ohio region, Babby is up for the national honor in November.

Ken Babby also recently received a Corporate College Smart 50 Award, presented by *Smart Business*. This awards program celebrates Northeast Ohio's top executives and in recognition of their talent to effectively build and lead innovative and "smart" organizations.

CRAFTY MART NAMED FINALIST FOR ARTPLACE AMERICA'S 2017 NATIONAL CREATIVE PLACEMAKING FUND TO CREATE RETAIL INCUBATOR SPACE FOR MAKERS



Crafty Mart was named among 70 finalists for ArtPlace America's National Creative Placemaking Fund. ArtPlace America selected 70 proposals from 987 applications, making Crafty Mart's project one of just seven percent of the projects across the country. Winners will be announced in December.

ArtPlace's National Creative Placemaking Fund is a highly competitive national program. Investing money in communities across the country in which artists, arts organizations, and arts and culture activity, help drive community development change across 10 sectors of community planning and development.

Pivotal downtown Akron redevelopment project receives competitive state historic tax credit award

The Ohio Development Services Agency has awarded a total of \$5.03M of Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits for the six buildings comprising “**The Bowery**” Project, which is located on S. Main Street adjacent to Akron’s historic Civic Theatre and the Lock 3 and 4 public park amenities.



The Bowery was among 30 applicants throughout the state of Ohio which were awarded a total of \$34,977,855 in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits from the Ohio Development Services Agency on a competitive basis.

The Bowery, which Mayor Dan Horrigan has called “critical” to the success of the city’s Downtown Vision and Redevelopment Plan launched early this year in concert with the Downtown Akron Partnership, consists of the rehabilitation of six historic buildings into a significant mixed-use complex including residential, office and retail

uses. As a \$38,000,000 investment in the city, The Bowery will create a symbiotic public/private relationship that multiplies the catalytic impacts of existing public improvements while rapidly transforming a long vacant, highly visible and underutilized area of downtown Akron.

Vacant for more than a decade and located on the main north/south artery of downtown, the proposed mixed-use project will attract new residents, businesses and visitors and reestablish the S. Main Street corridor as an economic development focal point of Akron and the region. The new apartment units within The Bowery will also help meet the strong demand for additional downtown housing, which is currently significantly underserved, while providing affordable housing options to many Akron residents.

The combination of the new residents attracted to the project with the proposed ground-level retail spaces will dramatically improve the 24-hour vitality and street life of downtown Akron. Each component of the proposed mixed-use project is essential to creating a sustainable project that meets the needs of this emerging market. To that end, Bowery Development Group has been working closely with area stakeholders to ensure that the project’s design and programming are consistent with the city’s vision for the neighborhood and regional partners, including the Development Finance Authority of Summit County, Summit County, Greater Akron Chamber, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, Downtown Akron Partnership and others.

The Bowery Project will be financed through a combination of owner equity, federal and state historic tax credits, new market tax credits, tax increment financing and conventional and mezzanine debt.

FEATURED PROPERTY

The AES Building

388 S. Main St. | 216-937-4372

The AES Building, formerly part of the B.F. Goodrich manufacturing complex, blends true class A office space with a modern look and feel that today’s top companies demand. The AES Building offers 152,000 s.f. of contiguous office space available on the top two floors plus 45,000 s.f. on the third floor.



FEATURED BUSINESS

blue: a Goodwill boutique

335 S. Main St. | 234-200-0130

www.goodwillakron.org/shop/blue

blue boutique features upscale clothing, jewelry, shoes and accessories for primarily women, all at a fraction of retail prices.

The new concept is another type of shopping experience for customers, whether shopping or donating to Goodwill it all supports the mission of helping individuals prepare for, find and retain employment. Hours are Mon-Sat: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Closed Sunday. Designated parking is behind the Evans bldg for customers, except during special events.



PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



State Street Bridge



CitiCenter Parking Deck



\$7.5 million funding award allows city to replace downtown State Street Bridge in connection with Main Street Promenade Project

Mayor Horrigan announced that the city of Akron will receive \$7.5 million in Federal Bridge money to replace the State Street Bridge that runs between Water Street and Main Street. The bridge replacement—being performed in connection with the TIGER-funded renovation of the Main Street Promenade—will be completed between 2018 and 2019.

“I am pleased to announce that the \$7.5 million in Federal Bridge funds will allow us to construct a new State Street Bridge, maintain easy access to the parking garage, and provide a connection between Main Street and points west. The new structure will provide a lasting improvement to Akron’s downtown grid, and preserve the connectivity between the center of downtown Main Street and the hospital district,” Mayor Horrigan said of the replacement project.

Construction on the bridge is expected to begin next spring. Access to the adjacent State Street (O’Neil’s) Parking Deck will be maintained throughout construction. Through traffic will be detoured either to Bowerly Street or Exchange Street. Though the entire project, including Main Street, is expected to occur in 2018 and 2019, the detour duration is expected to be less than 12 months. The new bridge will include a smaller bridge deck (one drive lane in each direction), and a separated pedestrian/bikeway connection between Main Street and the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail.

Finally, the limits of the Main Street Promenade Project have been extended one additional block to better blend with the Exchange and Cedar Project, currently under construction. The original limits extended from Mill Street to Exchange Street. The extended limits are from Mill Street to Cedar Street.

Questions, comments, and concerns about the State Street Bridge Project may be sent via email to CJonke@akronohio.gov

Credit cards now accepted at all city of Akron parking deck locations

Mayor Horrigan announced that all city of Akron parking decks now accept credit card payments, for the convenience of customers and visitors. Until recently, many city of Akron decks were cash-only.

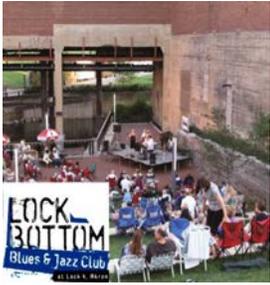
“I am committed to developing policies that make our city services and amenities as accessible and customer-friendly as possible,” Mayor Horrigan said of the announcement. “I hope this development will improve citizens’ experience when they visit our downtown and will encourage them to do so more often.”

For more information regarding city of Akron parking decks, please contact ABM at 330-375-2594.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN

LOCK BOTTOM BLUES & JAZZ

Every Wednesday through Aug 30 | 7 p.m.
Commerce Park | www.lock3live.com



Discover blues and jazz beats on the banks of the Ohio-Erie Canal in the heart of Akron. Food and drinks available. Bring your lawn chair.

Lock 4 is located outdoors off Bowery St. behind the Civic Theatre next to Lock 3.

SUMMER ON THE PLAZA

Lunch concerts: Tuesdays through Aug. 29 | 12-1 p.m.
Yoga: Wednesdays through Aug. 30 | 5:30 p.m.
Recess: Wednesdays/Fridays through Aug. 25 | 11 a.m.
Cascade Plaza | www.downtownakron.com



Summer on the Plaza continues with live music on Tuesdays, lunchtime recess on Wednesdays and Fridays and yoga on Wednesdays. Grab your lunch and play yard games and watch live music, or unwind after work with yoga. On Wednesdays, enjoy the city of Akron's Cascade Cucina with different food trucks each week.

3RD THURSDAY

July 10, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21 | 5-9 p.m.
Downtown Akron | www.downtownakron.com/3rdthursday



3rd Thursday is a new monthly event highlighting the arts, culture, shopping, dining and entertainment offerings in downtown. Take the free trolley to more than 20 destinations from the Northside District to The University of Akron.

Each month has a different theme, so come often and experience something new every time.

DOWNTOWN@DUSK

Thursdays through August 10 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
www.akronartmuseum.org

Join the Akron Art Museum for the 33rd season of **Downtown@Dusk** presented by KeyBank in the art museum's Bud & Susie Rogers Garden as they showcase some of the area's best local music acts. These events are free and the museum galleries are also open for Free Thursdays.

HAPPY HOURS IN DOWNTOWN

Baxter's: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 3-7 p.m.
High St. Hop House: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 4-7 p.m.
Geeks Who Drink Happy Hour Quiz: Saturdays, 4 p.m.
www.downtownakron.com



Stick around after work with friends and colleagues and enjoy a drink or bite to eat at one of downtown's establishments. Many drink and appetizers specials are available. Geeks Who Drink is live, hosted trivia covering everything from celebrities in trouble to wordplay to bad TV.

SIDEWALK STAGE

Every Thursday through August 31 | 12-1 p.m.
Pritt Entertainment Group | www.downtownakron.com

Enjoy live music every Thursday from 12-1 p.m. at the Pritt Entertainment Group Courtyard (near the corner of Main & Cedar St.)

AKRON MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, TEAM RELAY

Saturday, September 23 | 7 a.m.
Start Line: 217 S. High St., Finish Line: Canal Park Stadium
www.akronmarathon.org



Celebrating 15 years on the Blue Line! The marquee event of the Akron Children's Hospital Akron Marathon Race Series, the **Akron Marathon, Half Marathon, & Team Relay** presented by FirstEnergy Corporation never ceases to amaze. Featuring the ultimate running experience throughout Akron's neighborhoods and downtown complete with a world-class finish inside Canal Park Stadium.

LOVE AKRON NETWORK'S 6TH ANNUAL AWARDS BREAKFAST

Tuesday, September 26 | 7-8:30 a.m.
John S. Knight Center | www.loveakron.org



The **Love Akron Network**, a broad coalition of professional clergy and Christian leaders in both the public and private sectors, will be hosting their sixth annual awards event.

The theme of the morning is, "Loving the City to Life."

MY VISION FOR DOWNTOWN AKRON IS...

A place for all to come together. CONNECTED to the neighborhoods.

FOR DOWNTOWN AKRON IS...

Stable Housing
Downtown

MY VISION FOR DOWNTOWN AKRON IS...

AN INCLUSIVE, FUN, GREEN, CONNECTED SPACES CREATED THROUGH PARTICIPATION

MY VISION FOR DOWNTOWN AKRON IS...

A SHOWCASE OF INNOVATION, FAMILY AND DIVERSITY



103 S. High St., 4th floor, Akron, OH 44308
Phone: 330-374-7676 | Ambassadors: 330-706-7383
Email: info@downtownakron.com
www.downtownakron.com



#DOWNTOWNAKRON