

December 8, 2021



Dear Downtown Business,

By locating your business or investing in downtown Spokane, you are part of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District, or BID, managed by the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) on behalf of the City of Spokane. Organized by the business community in 1995 to revitalize a deteriorating downtown, we operate as an affordable extension of your maintenance, security, marketing, and communications, and serve as an advocate for the public services you need to be successful.

It is with great pleasure we inform you that City Council has reauthorized its contract with the DSP to continue as the administrator of the BID. The new contract goes into effect January 1, 2022 and expires December 31, 2026. We at the DSP are honored to continue fulfilling our mission of enhancing the quality and vitality of downtown Spokane as the basis for a healthy region and are looking forward to serving you over the next five years.

Here are some highlights and accomplishments from 2021, in addition to our regular duties of providing cleaning, security, marketing and events as deemed safe and permitted under state restrictions:

- Awarded \$25,000 as part of a Cultural Event Grant, supporting events that honor the history and traditions of our city's diverse communities, amplifying and celebrating in the exchange of culture.
- Reorganized leadership on the clean and safe teams to strengthen outcomes and improve efficiency.
- Safety Ambassadors provided multiple CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) assessments and recommendations for downtown businesses. Ambassadors are now also trained in suicide intervention, customer service, first aid and Crisis Intervention Training.
- Hosted multiple pop-up clinics in downtown in an effort to increase Spokane's vaccination rates, bring employees back to work and keep our community on the path towards reopening.
- Restarted "30 Minutes with"; a recurring series of virtual, 30-minute question and answer sessions with local industry experts and community leaders on the most pressing topics of the day.
- Issued a comprehensive public safety survey of our BID customers. The data will inform vital decisions and policies for improving the experiences of workers, residents, and visitors in the downtown area.
- Reinstated regular cleaning of downtown viaducts underneath the railroad.
- Continued our ongoing "Spokane is Downtown" campaign—Contracting with a copywriter and videographer each month to highlight local and small businesses within in the BID.
- Restarted activations on Wall St. to increase foot traffic and visitors to downtown, including Food Truck Friday, Fall Fest, and new events such as Tacos y Tequila by the Hispanic Business/Professional Assoc.
- Completed our work with City Planning staff to develop a ten-year update to the Downtown Plan. The plan provides design guidelines, zoning regulations and targeted projects for City staff, developers, and business leaders alike to follow in order to ensure vibrant, safe and proactive measures.
- Since the start of the year, our Clean Team has collected over 2,700 bags of trash, and eradicated over 2,300 graffiti tags. Contact our team directly at 624-9111 for cleaning needs and 353-9111 for security assistance.

Your success is literally our success; and we are so grateful you have chosen to invest in downtown. Through your assessment, you have allowed us to continue carrying out our mission of fostering a thriving downtown economy.

Thank you again for making downtown Spokane your business home, and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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