



DOWNTOWN SPOKANE PARTNERSHIP

November 1, 2023

Dear Downtown BID Ratepayer:

On behalf of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District Ratepayer Advisory Board, thank you for being a part of this special district. By owning property, locating your business here and/or living in downtown Spokane, you are part of the special financing district known as the Downtown Business Improvement District, or BID, administered by the City of Spokane.

Nearly 30 years ago, the BID was established by property and business owners to promote economic and community vitality in downtown Spokane through enhanced services and programs in the geographically defined BID service area. As a BID Ratepayer, you have unique access to supplemental services and programs that directly benefit you, your employees and customers. BID assessments collectively fund supplemental services and improvements that enhance—not replace—existing municipal services, including: security, maintenance, beautification and landscaping, marketing and public space activation, business support, urban planning, and transportation. The Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) staff work 7-days-a-week to manage these services and maintain a dynamic and safe district where Spokanites can work, live, shop and recreate. Your BID assessment is critical to achieving this.

Like the more than 1,000 similar business improvement districts across the country, BID-funded services and programs ensure that the people that work, live, visit and recreate in our district flourish. With guidance from the BID Ratepayer Advisory Board and BID Ratepayers like you, DSP constantly evaluates and adjusts services to respond to the changing needs of downtown Spokane. 2023 assessments supported:

Keeping downtown safe and clean.

- Security & Hospitality Ambassadors provided more than 6,000 combined citizens assists, responses to calls for service, and contacts to merchants and businesses.
- New supplemental evening private security services were added to extend security services during the holiday shopping season.
- Clean & Green Team Members collected more than 3,000 bags of trash and removed more than 3,000 graffiti tags while maintaining 190 garden planters and 58 hanging garden baskets that enhanced the pedestrian experience.
- Clean & Green Team Members continued regular cleaning of downtown railroad viaducts with a focus on coordination with city code enforcement to address ongoing hot spots.
- Quarterly "Point in Time" counts assessed the number of unhoused populations in the area with new social outreach training programs and staff education to support connecting individuals with housing, services and supports.

Elevating the issues affecting downtown.

- Utilized a comprehensive survey of BID ratepayers to inform vital decisions and policies for improving the experiences of workers, residents, and visitors in the BID.
- Continued to lead education around policies, development and funding that support vibrant, safe and welcoming streets and public places.
- Completed review of the BID's management district plan with analysis of BID expansion opportunities.

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Enhancing economic vitality.

- Maintained and updated the BID's online business directory, parking information and event listings on the DowntownSpokane.org website.
- Supported nearly a dozen new business openings with ribbon cutting and grand opening support services.
- Awarded more than \$25,000 in Small Business Façade Improvement Grants to support and coach small commercial property and business owners to improve the street-front exteriors of their structures.
- Launched new Downtown Repair Grant program to support immediate repairs to address property damage to façades from criminal activity.
- Grew the "Spokane is Downtown" marketing campaign to highlight local and small businesses within in the BID each month, including the kick-off of the annual "Best in BID" awards featured in the *Spokane Journal of Business*.
- Produced a new economic snapshot of downtown Spokane featuring data, facts and statistics about the BID, in-depth editorial profiles, and a new downtown development map.

Expanding programming, events and place activation.

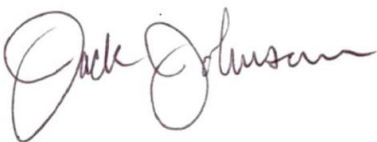
- Enhanced the Park Spokane program to create a recognizable parking brand to help downtown users find and use off-street parking.
- Revived events and activations that directly increased foot traffic in the downtown BID, including First Fridays, Weekends on Wall Street, Fall Fest, Holiday Sidewalks, and block parties like Teleport Vintage Fest, Wall Street Luau, National Night Out and more.
- Continued to support community organizations to host events in downtown that honor the history and traditions of our city's diverse communities, including Festa Italiana, Tacos y Tequila, and others.
- Provided ongoing support of Spokane Arts to repair murals and place new iconic art in public places around the BID.
- Expanded the "Back to Downtown" annual campaign to produce monthly activities and marketing promotions that engaged downtown employees and customers to continue the path toward recovery and reopening.

In 2024, BID assessments will continue to support services and programs that make downtown an appealing option to work, live and visit. In particular, focusing on services that ensure downtown is safe, clean and welcoming for everyone with expanded security and hospitality services, new public space activations, enhanced business support programs, and initiatives that will continue to add value for BID Ratepayers.

Learn more about the BID, services and your BID Ratepayer Advisory Board representatives at www.DowntownSpokane.org/ratepayers.

Thank you for investing in downtown Spokane and your continued support.

Sincerely,



Jack Johnson
2023 Chair I Downtown Resident, Position 1
Downtown BID Ratepayer Advisory Board



Emilie Cameron
President & CEO
Downtown Spokane Partnership