DOWNTOWN SPOKANE
PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN SPOKANE PARTNERSHIP

The Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP) is a member-based, 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to a dynamic, vibrant, livable, and sustainable downtown Spokane. The DSP is the leading voice, convener, and problem-solver in advocating for the future of downtown Spokane.

The DSP was formed in 1995 when, facing the deterioration of downtown Spokane, business leaders determined a healthy urban core was essential for the health of the broader community. As part of their revitalization efforts the same year, the DSP worked at the request of the area's business and property owners to establish the Downtown Spokane Parking & Business Improvement Area, better known as the Downtown Business Improvement District or "BID." Established under Washington State law (RCW 35.87A) and authorized under city code (SMC 04.31), the BID uses special assessments to fund enhanced services that support downtown's economic vitality. Since its inception, the DSP has been the exclusive contractor retained by the City of Spokane to administer the BID. The DSP manages services and programs recommended annually by the BID Ratepayer Advisory Board in accordance with RCW allowed uses.

Strong downtowns depend on people who understand place management, economic development, public space operations, stakeholder engagement, communications, data, events, safety, advocacy and long-term planning. **This work requires more than enthusiasm for downtown. It requires our expertise.**

THE SUCCESS OF DOWNTOWN SPOKANE REQUIRES ACTIVE, PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.

Downtown is among the community's most important civic and economic assets. Downtown Spokane is where jobs, small businesses, culture, tourism, government, housing, transportation and public life converge. When Downtown is strong, it generates value for the entire region.

The DSP is both an operator and strategic leader. We advocate for Downtown while also helping stakeholders navigate real challenges and make practical decisions about the future. Our members are working through real challenges and helping communities make practical decisions about how Downtown will evolve.

The DSP focuses exclusively on downtown Spokane. We are an organization dedicated to protecting and promoting what makes Spokane, Spokane. The DSP has an exclusive focus on the most visible and visited part of our city.

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One of the most important roles of the DSP is connecting the dots. Downtown challenges rarely fall neatly into one category. Public safety affects business confidence. Housing affects foot traffic. Transportation affects access. Office vacancy affects retail. Homelessness and behavioral health challenges affect public space. The DSP sees the whole system and responds in coordinated ways.

DSP works every day to make this place function better. The DSP is not simply promoting Downtown from the sidelines. The DSP manages public spaces, supports businesses, improves cleanliness and safety, coordinates events, activates vacant areas, helps visitors and residents feel welcome, and works with public and private partners to solve problems.

The work of the DSP is practical and hands-on. The DSP provides the visible things people notice like clean streets, events, lighting, beautification and hospitality services, as well as the less visible coordination that makes progress possible, such as partnerships with city agencies, property owners, businesses, social service providers, police departments, transit systems, developers and community organizations.

The DSP is the connector between the public and private sectors. The DSP can move quickly, convene partners, build relationships, test solutions and help translate broad civic goals into day-to-day action on the ground.

The DSP helps address the shared places and challenges no single business, property owner or public agency can improve alone. That is why our work matters so much. Downtown success depends on coordination, trust and sustained attention.

When Downtown faces disruption, the professional stewardship of the DSP becomes even more important. Changes in work patterns, retail, housing, public safety and affordability continue to reshape downtowns nationally. The DSP helps Spokane understand these shifts and adapt locally.

The DSP brings greater services than the BID can otherwise afford. The DSP leverages funds from membership, sponsorship, event fees, and other non-assessment revenues annually to expand downtown services and initiatives beyond what BID assessment revenue alone can support.

The DSP leverages the International Downtown Association network to build on real-world experience. The DSP is connected to national best practices through the International Downtown Association, giving the organization access to research, peer networks, and proven place management strategies. The DSP's CEO, Emilie Cameron's professional certification as a leader in place management further reflects that commitment to industry expertise.

DSP members are active partners in shaping the future of downtown Spokane. Governed by a Board of Directors representing downtown stakeholders who provide oversight on the DSP's services and programs. While most DSP members are also BID ratepayers, our member partners choose to go a step further. Members make an additional investment into Downtown through membership dues, sponsorships and grants because they believe in its potential and understand that a vibrant, welcoming and thriving Downtown benefits the entire Spokane community. The DSP has more than 100 members from business sectors including real estate, banking/finance, law, transportation, insurance, communications, energy, tourism, nonprofit employers, and more.