

Agenda

Downtown Economic Growth Authority

Board of Directors



City of Kalamazoo

Monday, January 27, 2025

3:00 PM

Main Conference Room at Community Planning and Economic Development

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1. Purpose Statement:

The purpose of this Downtown Development Authority is to halt property value deterioration and promote economic growth within its business district, to increase property value.

The purpose of this Downtown Economic Growth Authority is to correct and prevent deterioration in residential, commercial, and industrial areas, to authorize the acquisition and disposal of interests in real and personal property; to authorize the creation and implementation of development plans and development areas.

The Kalamazoo DDA and DEGA, acting in concert, have set forth the strategic objective of focusing its resources on improving “The First 16 Feet”, a three-dimensional volume of space including buildings ground floor façade, the frontage that exists between the façade and the common space, and the common space that provides access to and through the district.

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of the Downtown Economic Growth Authority Board on December 16, 2024. (**Action: Motion to approve**)

D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Financial Report - November 2024
2. Committee Reports
3. Downtown Report

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve an amendment to the Downtown Economic Growth Authorities FY2025 budget to reflect an increase of \$60,000, consisting of \$20,000 in revenue from the Hall Foundation and \$40,000 from the City's General Fund, and an increase of \$60,000 in expenditures to the Professional and Contractual Services line item to support the downtown waste and recycling program.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS**G. DIRECTOR COMMENTS****H. ADJOURNMENT**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

PRESENT: Mayor Anderson, Curt Aardema, Kwame Gyimah, Stephanie Hinman, Susan Lindemann

ABSENT: Jeff Breneman, Matt Hollander, Clarence Lloyd, Jessica Thompson

STAFF: Erin Hahn, Meghan Behymer, Chelsie Downs-Hubbarth, Jerrid Burdue

OTHER: Jessica Wood

A. CALL TO ORDER

DIRECTOR LINDEMANN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:12 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Anderson, Curt Aardema, Kwame Gyimah, Stephanie Hinman, Susan Lindemann

ABSENT: Jeff Breneman, Matt Hollander, Jessica Thompson

EXCUSED: Clarence Lloyd

THE DECEMBER 16, 2024, ATTENDANCE INCLUDING EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES ARE RECORDED.

B. ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOVED TO ADOPT THE DECEMBER 16, 2024 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

DIRECTOR GYIMAH SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2024 MINUTES. DIRECTOR ANDERSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of the Financial Report - Meghan Behymer

Meghan Behymer, Downtown Coordinator, presented the October 2024 financial report, noting that there was no revenue reported in October, leaving the year-to-date revenue at \$666,200. The expenses for October totaled to negative \$9,181, largely due to a reimbursement from Block by Block for overpayment. Community Promotion expenses were \$5,000, supporting the Summer Sidewalk Sales sponsorship. Legal services and fees amounted to \$5,553, while the garbage disposal costs were \$407. Year-to-date expenses accumulated to \$495,613. Ms. Behymer noted that the Board is expected to be over budget

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

from what was approved, so there would be a budget amendment action item later in the meeting.

DIRECTOR ANDERSON MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 2024 DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED. DIRECTOR AARDEMA SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

2. City of Kalamazoo Economic Development Strategy Presentation – Jerrid Burdue

Jerrid Burdue presented to the Board about the City of Kalamazoo’s new Economic Development Strategy – its first in more than a decade. Mr. Burdue explained that the strategy is not just for the City, but for the ecosystem as a whole, requiring buy-in from partners like Discover Kalamazoo, Southwest Michigan First, Can Do Kalamazoo, and DDA/DEGA. Mr. Burdue stated that the City has engaged with stakeholders at numerous times throughout the process of developing the strategy and continues to do so in the implementation stage.

Mr. Burdue shared the four goals of the strategy, highlighting goal number four, which is to improve the downtown experience, recognizing downtown as an important driver for economic growth in the city and the region. Mr. Burdue shared that some of the metrics that will be used to measure the success of this goal are the number of events happening downtown and increased visitor spending. Mr. Burdue stated that with regards to downtown, the plan specifically calls for attracting diverse retail and entertainment options, increased mixed-use housing, expansion of family-friendly attractions downtown, and redevelopment of properties into productive uses.

Ms. Behymer stated that she is looking forward to working with the Board on reviewing the DDA/DEGA strategic plan and creating a work plan to guide the Board’s work for the next 1 to 3 years. Ms. Behymer stated that this work comes at a good time with several board members rolling off in March. Ms. Behymer noted that the same consultant who is working with the City’s Economic Development team to create a work plan for the Economic Development Strategy has been contracted to work with the Board on their own work plan, hopefully bringing synergy across the two plans.

Director Aardema asked about how the Economic Development Strategy ties in to the Imagine Kalamazoo effort. Mr. Burdue answered that the Economic Development Strategy will inform sections of Imagine Kalamazoo, such as shared prosperity initiatives within the strategic vision of the city as well as some of the master plan.

Director Aardema asked where the plan is located for the public to view. Mr. Burdue answered that it is on the City’s website, and can be found by Googling “Economic Development Strategy Kalamazoo,” but that City staff can send out the link to the Board as well.

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

3. Committee Reports

i. Events and Marketing

Ms. Behymer stated that the Events and Marketing Committee met on December 2nd, approved the sponsorship of the 2025 Chili Cook-Off, and recommended to the board chair the renewal of the web hosting and maintenance agreement with Maestro for 2025. Looking ahead, the committee also discussed dedicating time in the coming year to evaluate and identify future needs and goals for the organization's website and digital presence.

ii. Ambassador Program

Ms. Behymer stated that the Ambassador Program Committee met December 5th to review the draft RFP alongside a memo that outlined the outreach efforts and changes made to the program scope based on stakeholder feedback. The draft and memo were also reviewed by a downtown business council stakeholder group. The final draft RFP will be sent to City of Kalamazoo procurement staff for review and creation of the complete RFP package.

iii. Executive Committee

Ms. Behymer stated that the Executive Committee met on December 9th to review key topics, including the agenda items for the December board meeting and the proposed 2025 Board and Committee meeting schedule, which is being presented for approval at today's meeting.

iv. Finance Committee

Ms. Behymer stated that the Finance Committee met on December 3rd, discussing three items that are coming before the board for approval at today's meeting: (1) City of Kalamazoo debt agreements; (2) budget amendments for 2024, and (3) acceptance of a donation in support of enhanced waste and recycling management in downtown.

v. Business Recruitment and Retention Committee

Ms. Behymer stated that the Business Recruitment and Retention Committee met on December 10 to discuss the draft marketing packet and how to engage prospective businesses through a welcome experience. Director Aardema added that the committee is starting to see some interest in its initiatives and is excited to get some materials out into the community soon.

4. Downtown Report

Ms. Behymer noted that the final open house for the Michigan Avenue redesign has been moved to January 16, 2025 in-person at 315 W Michigan Avenue, with a virtual option available on January 23.

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

Ms. Behymer noted that Rob Bacigalupi is working with Director Lloyd on a downtown business town hall update to discuss parking.

Ms. Behymer noted that she is working on coordinating a meeting with board members to discuss the Gud Marketing approach for Streets for All in 2025.

Ms. Behymer stated that the WMU Economic Development Study has shared its first quarter data, and the information could be helpful in informing the work the Board is doing.

Ms. Behymer stated that \$21,840 has been purchased this year in Downtown Dollars, with \$19,560 redeemed and \$135,180 in circulation. The Downtown Dollars program saw more growth with the re-addition of The Spirit of Kalamazoo to the program.

The Downtown Report also highlights several seasonal events happening now in downtown, including Santa's Workshop and the Holly Jolly Trolley.

Ms. Behymer shared that the Ambassador program report encompasses the ambassador's work on leaf pick-up throughout downtown, as well as parade route preparation for the holiday parade, and the removal of damaged green trash bins throughout downtown. She stated that although several businesses have asked about the trash bins, the ambassadors have not seen an increase in litter throughout downtown because of their removal.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve the Consolidated Loan Agreement between the Downtown Economic Growth Authority and the City of Kalamazoo in substantially the form presented at this meeting and to authorize the Board Chair to finalize and sign the agreement.

DIRECTOR HINMAN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATED LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO FINALIZE AND SIGN THE AGREEMENT. DIRECTOR AARDEMA SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Motion to approve the acceptance of a \$20,000 donation from the Hall Foundation to support the waste and recycling program in downtown Kalamazoo.

DIRECTOR AARDEMA MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A \$20,000 DONATION FROM THE HALL FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM IN DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO. DIRECTOR GYIMAH SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Motion to approve a budget amendment to increase the 2024 Downtown Economic Growth Authority budget by \$40,853.12.

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024, 3 p.m. | Community Planning & Economic Development, 245 N Rose Street

Ms. Behymer stated that the budget amendment encompasses \$20,000 that would be due in interest on the loans from the City if the debt service agreement was not approved by the City Commission that evening. If the agreement was approved, the unused \$20,000 would drop back down to the fund balance at the end of the year.

DIRECTOR HINMAN MOTIONED TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE 2024 DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY BUDGET BY \$40,853.12. DIRECTOR AARDEMA SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION PASSED.

4. Motion to approve the Downtown Economic Growth Authority 2025 Board and Committee meeting calendar.

Director Aardema pointed out that several of the Board meeting dates were listed as 2024, and should be corrected to say 2025.

DIRECTOR GYIMAH MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY 2025 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR AS AMENDED. DIRECTOR HINMAN SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present.

G. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

There were no director comments made.

H. STAFF COMMENTS

There were no staff comments made.

I. ADJOURNMENT

DIRECTOR LINDEMANN ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 4:05 P.M.

Downtown Economic Growth Authority
Statement of Activity
11/30/2024

Total Available Cash 280,178

	<u>2024 Adopted Budget</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>2024 YTD Actuals</u>
Revenues			
Taxes	615,000		626,200
Other Revenue	-		-
Contributions and Sponsorships	102,000		-
Transfers	40,000		40,000
Charges For Services	5,000		-
Interest And Rentals	-		-
Total Revenues	762,000	-	666,200
Expenses			
Professional And Contractual Services	353,600	31,795	288,724
Sponsorships			2,500
Legal Services And Fees	30,000		44,237
Insurance Services			-
Operating Supplies			1,660
Garbage Disposal			4,487
Repairs			-
Utilities			-
Community Promotion	103,000		78,650
Audit Fees	13,400		13,400
Tax Appeal Refunds	5,000		-
Administrative Fees	125,000		93,750
Restricted For Debt Service	-		-
Total Expenses	630,000	31,795	527,409
Revenues Less Expenses	132,000	(31,795)	138,792

Notes:

Professional And Contractual Services:	<u>November</u>	<u>2024 YTD Totals</u>
Recycling Services - BIG BELLY SOLAR LLC	3,575	39,325
Ambassador Services - BLOCK BY BLOCK	28,220	244,236
Hosting & Maintenance - MAESTRO LLC		4,960
Liquid Web LLC		188
Websit eDomain Renewal - WHOIS.COM		15
TOTAL	31,795	288,725

Community Promotion:

Skeletour Spooktacular	5,000
Beats on Bates Events - LUXURY ESCAPES LLC	44,500
Workout Wed & Caribbean Fest - XPERIENCE INC	10,000
Canadiana Fest - Eclectic Events	2,650
Black Arts Festival - BLACK ARTS & CULTURAL CNTR	4,000
Sounds of the Zoo	5,000
Restaurant Week - SOUTHWEST MI FIRST	2,500
Summer Sidewalk Sales	5,000
TOTAL	-

Long Term Debt:

Mavcon Agreement	TBD
2019 Operations Loan from City	300,000
2020 Operations Loan from City	700,000

**Downtown Economic Growth Authority
November 2024 Financial Summary**

In November, the Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) recorded no revenue, leaving the year-to-date revenue at \$666,200. Expenses for October totaled \$31,795 for Ambassador Program and Bigbelly services. Year-to-date expenses accumulated to \$527,409.

**Downtown Economic Growth Authority & Downtown Development Authority
January 2025 Committee Reports**

The **Events and Marketing Committee** met January 6. During the meeting, the committee discussed and provided feedback on a presentation from Gud Marketing on the 2025 Streets for All marketing and communication efforts. Members of the committee also met with Gud Marketing separately to discuss opportunities for partnership during events.

The **Business Recruitment and Retention Committee** met January 7. The committee discussed the draft marketing packet, engaging prospective businesses through a welcome experience, and strategies to understand the state of downtown businesses in 2024 and the holiday season particularly.

The **Executive and Finance Committee** met January 13 to review key topics, including the agenda items for the January board meeting and next steps on downtown waste management solution. The committee also reviewed Board member applications and have scheduled interviews with four applicants for three available board seats in March 2025.

The **Clean and Green Committee** will meet January 29. The focus of the meeting will be determining membership of the Ambassador Program RFP Evaluation Committee.



JANUARY 2024 UPDATE

Downtown Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo Streets for All Projects

Kalamazoo Streets For All is a lane conversion project that will transform downtown Kalamazoo into a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant destination that offers safe travel for all modes of transportation.

Projects led by: Christina Anderson (Planning); James Baker (Engineering); Rebekah Kik (City Manager's Office Liaison)

Consultant team is: Progressive AE, C2D, and Wightman Engineering.

Updates can be found at <https://www.kalamazoocity.org/Community/Projects/Streets-for-All>

Sign up here: <https://kalamazoocity.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=ab294794047fd50bdfbb847e8&id=cbae2f83cf>

Michigan Avenue Planning and Design

The City of Kalamazoo is inviting residents to help shape the redesign of Michigan Avenue by attending a series of meetings. These meetings will gather input for the two-way street redesign, with design work expected to begin this winter as part of the broader "Streets For All" initiative.

- Feedback from the design engagement process and initial Michigan Avenue design alternatives (presented at the January open houses) will inform the creation of preliminary engineering plans.
- Early Summer 2025: A more refined set of plans will be presented to the community for additional feedback.
- Required revisions will be made based on community input, and plan sets will be finalized for final review.
- Finalized plans will be prepared for construction bids.
- Michigan Avenue construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2027

2022 Parking Plan Implementation

The Parking Blueprint is organized into four sections defined by the following shared strategic objectives: (1) expanding parking supply/capacity; (2) managing parking demand; (3) improving/expanding mobility options; and (4) improving parking operations.

Parking Team: Led by Rob Bacigalupi (Mission North Consulting) with City staff Christina Anderson (Planning); Dennis Randolph and George Waring (Public Services); Rebekah Kik (City Manager's Office Liaison).

Parking Blueprint can be found at [parking-downtown-parking-management-blueprint-2023-update.pdf](#)

2023 GUD Marketing Consulting for Streets and Parking

The GUD Marketing Consulting for Streets and Parking is to support the communication, marketing and branding of the City's Streets for All project.

Communications + Marketing Committee: Led by Manny Garcia and Brooke Gieber (GUD Marketing) with City staff Christina Anderson (Planning); Neal Conway and Michael Smith (Communications); Dennis Randolph (Public Services); Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator); and Rebekah Kik (City Manager's Office Liaison).

2024 WMU Economic Development Study

Awareness of impacts on local businesses as street conversion projects evolve throughout the Streets for All projects

Study led by: Center for Transportation and Livability at Western Michigan University – Dr. Jun Oh with City staff Christina Anderson (Planning); Dennis Randolph (Public Services); Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator); and Rebekah Kik (City Manager’s Office Liaison).

- Second quarterly downtown business-focused survey launched to gather feedback on economic activities and the accessibility of downtown.

Imagine Kalamazoo 2035

Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 (IK2035) is all about engagement: engagement with citizens, community groups, businesses, developers, investors, philanthropists, government and YOU. We’re imagining a vision for Kalamazoo’s future – discussing it, planning it, designing it, and acting on it.

Project led by: Rebekah Kik, Assistant City Manager and Christina Anderson, City Planner and Deputy Director of Community Planning and Economic Development

Updates can be found at [kalamazoocity.org/IK2035](https://www.kalamazoocity.org/IK2035)

Meetings on the Go

Want to get involved but can't attend a public meeting? The Meeting on the Go “kit” has everything you need to host your own discussion at your convenience and be part of Imagine Kalamazoo. It includes instruction sheets, discussion questions, participant worksheets, feedback questionnaires, and directions for recording and returning responses.

<https://www.kalamazoocity.org/Government/Programs-Initiatives/Imagine-Kalamazoo/Imagine-Kalamazoo-Meeting-on-the-Go>

Imagine It! Survey

Want to share your input in a quick survey? Let us know your thoughts on happy and healthy cities and what Kalamazoo has been doing well, and what our community needs to focus on to achieve your vision.

<https://www.kalamazoocity.org/Government/Programs-Initiatives/Imagine-Kalamazoo/Imagine-It-Survey>

Downtown Placemaking Projects

2024 Projects from Notre Dame Public Realm Study

The Downtown Placemaking project seeks to add to the vibrancy with another alley activation, plaza redesigns that act as connectors, and enhancing the experience of the Kalamazoo Mall as a more active and engaging place. The city has identified 5 key public places downtown that are candidates for improvement.

Projects led by: Rebekah Kik (City Manager’s Office); Christina Anderson (Planning); Patrick McVerry (Parks and Recreation); Dennis Randolph (Public Services); PJ Thuringer (Economic Development).

- Consultant team is Smith Group – Allison Marusic and Bob Doyle
 - Surveys of all placemaking areas have taken place. Two construction projects and one public art project have been chosen to move forward with the current budgets. Construction documents should be complete by the end of the year; bidding for the project let by January – construction to take place in April/May pending weather. Mural will be completed during September Brush the Block mural festival.
- Placemaking – North Mall
 - Construction project – pending federal grant approval.
- Placemaking – Exchange Place
 - Mural project - Pending property owner approval.
- Placemaking – Farmer’s Alley
 - Project is moving forward with construction documents to improve the concrete plaza, lighting, and landscaping.

- Placemaking – Rose Street Plaza
 - Project is moving forward with construction documents to improve the concrete plaza with furniture and landscaping.
 - Coordination meetings are currently happening with adjacent property owners to partner on improvements on the public/private areas.
- Placemaking – S. Burdick between Lovell and Cedar
 - Currently on hold awaiting budget or grant opportunity.

Updates can be found at [Kalamazoo Placemaking \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

2024 Arcadia Creek Festival Place

Renovation effort for the Arcadia Creek Festival Place to include improvements of items like electrical and landscape, among other things.

Project led by: Rebekah Kik (City Manager’s Office); Patrick McVerry (Parks and Recreation); James Baker (Engineering)

- Received \$2 Million grant from Redevelopment and Placemaking Fund MEDC – approved by Commission 11/12
- Received \$1.6 Million grant from City Commission
- Applying for future grants to cover the estimated \$14 Million project
- MEDC Technical Assistance for survey and market study

Event Center Coordination

City Planning and Design team members include: Jim Ritsema and Rebekah Kik (City Manager’s Office); Christina Anderson (Planning); James Baker (Engineering); Dennis Randolph (Public Services)

- Weekly meeting for utilities (Christina, Dennis, and James)
- Monthly design meetings (Christina and Rebekah)
- Annual meetings (Jim and Bill Johnson)
- Special meetings as necessary

2024 PROTECT Grant for Arcadia Creek along Stadium Drive and Michikal (Levy Project)

Led by: Christina Anderson (Planning) and James Baker (Engineering).

- Consultant RFP is being developed; Project may begin in 2025

Downtown Dollars Program

The Downtown Dollars program is designed to promote economic growth in the downtown area by encouraging local spending. Customers purchase Downtown Dollars to be redeemed at participating businesses, fostering a vibrant and thriving downtown community.

Program administered by: City of Kalamazoo, Community Planning and Economic Development

2024 METRICS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
# of Businesses	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	50	50	51	51	53
DT\$ Purchased	\$885	\$130	\$155	\$2,465	\$2,880	\$1,110	\$370	\$9,435	\$2,895	\$945	\$570	\$8,570
DT\$ Redeemed	\$2,485	\$1,700	\$1,220	\$1,720	\$1,265	\$1,350	\$1,415	\$4,545	\$1,520	\$1,275	\$1,065	\$1,440

TOTAL 2024

Downtown Dollars Purchased = \$30,410

Downtown Dollars Redeemed = \$21,000

Total Downtown Dollars in Circulation = \$138,550

TOTAL Program Life (09/2019 – 11/2024)

Downtown Dollars Purchased = \$510,475

Downtown Dollars Redeemed = \$356,345

Information can be found at [Shop local with Downtown Dollars - Kalamazoo Downtown \(downtownkalamazoo.org\)](https://downtownkalamazoo.org)

Downtown Events

UPCOMING

CHILI COOK- OFF – January 25, 2025

The annual Chili Cook-Off is a free, family-friendly event that invites thousands of tasters downtown to explore new and familiar stores and restaurants while sampling a variety of chili recipes in a spirited, but friendly competition.

WINTER RESTAURANT WEEK – February 20 – March 1, 2025

Kalamazoo Restaurant Week returns for another season, and this winter, the rest of Kalamazoo County is invited! Get ready to experience the absolute best dishes and drinks all from the local restaurants that make greater Kalamazoo special. Take part in the seasonal Cocktail Competition and be introduced to the new Chef's Competition. Will your favorites take home the crown?!

Downtown News

- [18 Kalamazoo-area developments to watch in 2025](#) (MLive)
- [Kalamazoo Women's March returns to downtown Kalamazoo, drawing hundreds](#) (WWMT)
- [Hands across Eleanor: An oral history of a unique downtown Kalamazoo business corner](#) (Second Wave)
- [Work underway to prepare future site of \\$300M arena in downtown Kalamazoo](#) (MLive)
- [Funding approved to help combat flooding in downtown Kalamazoo](#) (WWMT)
- [Shorter bike lane, wider sidewalks proposed for Michigan Avenue in downtown Kalamazoo](#) (MLive)
- [College students are helping to shape the future of the \\$300M downtown Kalamazoo arena](#) (MLive)
- [Kalamazoo secures \\$2.57M grant to address train delays, plan future changes downtown](#) (WWMT)
- [New Kalamazoo café specializes in matcha, vegan, gluten-free delights](#) (MLive)
- [Kalamazoo shoppers flock to downtown for last-minute gifts, festive cheer](#) (WWMT)
- [Taco restaurant closes after nearly a year in Kalamazoo, moving to 'the beach'](#) (MLive)
- [Kalamazoo Candle Co. to move into historic downtown storefront](#) (MLive)
- [Restaurant to close until fall 2025 for overhaul. Here's what it'll look like](#) (MLive)
- [Moonlight Madness promotes local businesses, downtown shopping](#) (WWMT)



AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

DECEMBER 2024



DOWNTOWN
KALAMAZOO



Around Downtown in December



Let It Snow



Snow Removal

As the snow flies our team will be out on the streets keeping sidewalk aprons clean, clearing around bus stops and looking for trouble spots that we can assist with. We work to keep Bates Alley clear as well. While we don't take responsibility for keeping all sidewalks clear if a block is clearly neglected and is a hazard we will give it our attention.

DECEMBER 2024 STATISTICS

CLEANING

Abandoned Property	60
Biohazardous Material	12
Graffiti - Removed	19
Snow Removal (hours)	61
Lawn Care (hours)	
Weed Abatement (block faces)	
Power Washing (hours)	
Flower Watering (gallons)	
Trash (lbs)	8,100

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Assistance	25
Business Contact	19

SAFETY

Drinking in Public	9
Needles Found	3
Panhandling - Aggressive	
Panhandling - Passive	3
Public Defecation/Urination	1
Safety Escorts	1
Visible Drug Use	

OUTREACH

Transient	36
Unhoused/Sleeping	112

2024 STATISTICS													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
CLEANING													
Abandoned Property	23	24	64	109	80	154	98	140	70	132	158	60	1112
Biohazardous Material	29	26	42	50	22	16	20	20	12	13	17	12	279
Graffiti - Removed	20	108	64	106	71	141	32	43	50	87	75	19	816
Lawn Care (hours)				8	9		1	2	2				22
Power Washing (hours)		3		13	6	19	10	15	6	11	1		84
Snow Removal (hours)											7	61	68
Trash (lbs)	6825	8975	10775	10900	12825	14725	11570	14800	12325	14150	10200	8100	136170
Flower Watering (gallons)						963	688	305	372				2328
Weed Abatement (block faces)				5	6		5	11		2	1		30
HOSPITALITY													
Business Contact		19	8	5	27	16	13	5	6	2	24	19	144
Hospitality Assistance	16	47	33	45	48	53	38	53	46	35	47	25	486
SAFETY													
Drinking in Public	2	8	8	22	3	6	4	3	2	2	6	9	75
Needles Found		3	3	3	4	6	2	9	5	9	5	3	52
Panhandling - Aggressive			3	2		2	6	0					13
Panhandling - Passive		2	21	11	6	5	3	5		2	4	3	62
Public Defecation/Urination		2	2	1	6		5	3		1	2	1	23
Safety Escorts	2	4	3	3	6			3	1	1	3	1	27
Visible Drug Use	2	6	37	29	1	3	1	1		3	3		86
OUTREACH													
Transient		15	25	10	0	1	4	4	5	15	17	36	132
Unhoused/Sleeping	32	89	195	470	292	85	72	101	77	45	82	112	1652



Downtown Economic Growth Authority Staff Report

City of Kalamazoo

TO: The Downtown Economic Growth Authority Board of Directors

FROM: Antonio Mitchell, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development

DATE: January 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Motion to approve an amendment to the Downtown Economic Growth Authorities FY2025 budget to reflect an increase of \$60,000, consisting of \$20,000 in revenue from the Hall Foundation and \$40,000 from the City's General Fund, and an increase of \$60,000 in expenditures to the Professional and Contractual Services line item to support the downtown waste and recycling program.

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION: