

Agenda

Downtown Economic Growth Authority

Board of Directors



City of Kalamazoo

Monday, May 11, 2026

3:00 PM

City Hall Community Room – 241 West South Street

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 April 20, 2026. (**Action: Motion to approve**)

D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Financial Report - March 2026 (**Action: Motion to accept the March 2026 Downtown Economic Growth Authority financial statement**)
2. Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety - Downtown Kalamazoo (Sgt. Fidel Mireles II)

3. Downtown Report - May 2026

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Committee Membership Recommendation (**Action: Motion to approve Heather Holmer for a one-year term on the Business Recruitment and Retention Committee**)
2. Arcadia Creek Festival Place Season (**Action: Motion to approve an allocation of up to \$3,000 to support 2026 event operations and infrastructure needs at Arcadia Creek Festival Place, including event operational support services and seasonal irrigation operations, with the event operational support component coming forward at the recommendation of the Events and Marketing Committee.**)
3. Downtown Kalamazoo Parking

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

G. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

H. ADJOURNMENT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2026, 3 p.m. | City Hall, 241 W. South Street

PRESENT: Curt Aardema, Mayor David Anderson, Harvin Sandhu, Trisha Kidd, Clarence Lloyd, Rick Searing, Cheng Kidd Sun, Connor Sampson

STAFF: Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator),
Bobby Boyd (Economic Development Supervisor) (virtual),
Maria Smith (Community Investment Administrative Assistant),
Christina Anderson (Deputy Director of Community Planning & Economic Development/City Planner), Jessica Wood (DEGA Legal Counsel)

OTHER: Rob Peterson, Matt Smilanich, Ron Smilanich, Michelle Johnson

A. CALL TO ORDER

DIRECTOR AARDEMA CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 3:01 P.M.

PRESENT: Curt Aardema, Mayor David Anderson, Harvin Sandhu, Trisha Kidd, Clarence Lloyd, Rick Searing, Cheng Kidd Sun, Connor Sampson

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Stanley Steppes

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: None

THE APRIL 20, 2026, ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, IS RECORDED.

1. Purpose Statement:

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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

Director Aardema made a recommendation to amend the agenda to move item D.1(Financial Report) to D.3, add E.1(Conflict of Interest form), and update E.6(Downtown Kalamazoo Website) motion language.

DIRECTOR LLOYD MOTIONED TO ADOPT THE APRIL 20, 2026, DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY AGENDA AS AMENDED. DIRECTOR SEARING SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

Director Aardema welcomed the new board members. Connor Sampson of Treystar a longtime downtown worker, and Harvin Sandhu of Five Rivers Developments, a downtown property owner and resident, gave their introductions.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DIRECTOR SUN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2026, DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY MEETING. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

D. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation – Institute of Public Scholarship (Dr. Michelle Johnson, Executive Director of Institute for Public Scholarship)

Dr. Michelle Johnson presented an overview of the Institute of Public Scholarship and highlighted interdisciplinary programs in arts, humanities, and sciences. The institute emphasizes wellness, creative engagement, and community empowerment.

Key initiatives include arts and youth programming, open mic, writing/art studios, air quality monitoring, and “From This Place” oral history project. One of the projects being currently planned is a series of cultural artifact

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sidewalk wells and engraved bricks on the 300 block of North Burdick called “Paving the Past on Which We Stand” for which they are seeking grant funding and support.

Mayor Anderson led a discussion about potential collaboration with the Northside Cultural Business District Authority Board for historical preservation.

2. Imagine Kalamazoo 2035 – Downtown Engagement (Christina Anderson)

Christina Anderson presented an overview of Imagine Kalamazoo 2035, a citywide strategic planning effort. This program includes a 3-phase series of sessions and events designed for community engagement and feedback over an 18-month period expected to end June 2026. The last phase of engagement is a series of neighborhood meetings with topics such as housing, transportation and environmental goals.

The next neighborhood session will be held downtown starting Tuesday April 28th where there will be a week-long event tailored to those that visit, live and work downtown. This is meant to be a celebration of previous and upcoming plans and projects with workshops, simulations, tours, activities, and presentations. They will also be having a discussion panel, fireside chat, and walking audits. The key focus areas are mobility, wayfinding, infrastructure, downtown vitality, economic activity, young professional retention, and arts and culture integration.

The Board discussed ways to coordinate existing engagement efforts, parking and construction impacts, and opportunities for Board participation. Anderson will come back to the Board with a follow-up presentation later this year, likely July.

3. Financial Report – February 2026 (Meghan Behymer, Downtown Coordinator)

Behymer reviewed the February 2026 financial report: In February, the Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) received \$59,210 in revenue from Contributions from City of Kalamazoo related to Mall Maintenance. 2026 year-to-date revenues total \$59,210.

In February, DEGA expenditures totaled \$49,527. Key expense categories included: Professional and Contractual Services (\$35,500) for Block-by-Block Ambassador Program Services; Consulting Services and Fees (\$8,925)

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for a5 Branding & Digital agreement; Promotion and Advertising (\$2,677) for Brand launch materials; and Community Promotion (\$2,475) for brand launch event. 2026 year-to-date expenditures total \$49,527.

The Board discussed the lower expenses due to delayed hiring.

DIRECTOR SEARING MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 2026 DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY FINANCIAL REPORT. MAYOR ANDERSON SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Downtown Report – April 2026 (Meghan Behymer, Downtown Coordinator)

Behymer reviewed the Downtown Report and gave updates including the Match on Main grant program. The City has selected and submitted grant applications on behalf of The Grazing Table and Sit and Stay Winery.

Behymer detailed that the Downtown Dollars program had over \$1,500 dollars purchased and \$1,500 dollars redeemed at 16 Downtown businesses in March. Almost 50% of businesses have benefited from the program in 2026.

Director Lloyd shared details about the launch of a business support initiative called Retail Growth Lab starting in May. The goal is to help support the storefront business community.

Behymer has continued to meet with City departments regarding strengthening Downtown project coordination. Wolverine is contracted to do spring plantings and fall upkeep on the Kalamazoo Mall and landscaping on Bates Alley. Five additional BigBelly trash units are scheduled for installation on May 14.

Behymer explained that with warmer weather the Ambassadors have had increased activity conducting cleanup from graffiti, installing parking signage, continued coordination with public safety, and outreach efforts.

Behymer's other updates included Landscape Forums proposal for a pilot program. Downtown Social District expansion is under review. The second Portland Loo's construction is in progress and there are temporary bathrooms available. The Wayfinding RFP is in development. Downtown construction communication planning is underway. The Kalamazoo

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Marathon is returning to downtown. The Downtown Projects Coordinator position is posted.

E. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Conflict of Interest Form (Jessica Wood, Attorney)

Jessica Wood reviewed the annual conflict of interest disclosure process with the Board and instructed members to complete conflict of interest forms. Legal counsel and staff will review the forms and reach out with any follow-up as needed.

2. Committee Governance Model

DIRECTOR SUN MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE POLICY, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE APPLICATION PROCESS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FRAMEWORK FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, AND TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR SEARING. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION APPROVED.

3. Committee Membership Recommendations

Meghan Behymer presented the following committee members and term lengths for approval:

- **Events and Marketing Committee:** Sarah Olszowy (2028), Dana Wagner (2028), Kim Guess (2027), and Channon Russette Mondoux (2027) as external members; Connor Sampson as board member representative.
- **Business Recruitment and Retention Committee:** Tim Rayman (2028) as external member.
- **Placemaking Committee:** Jennifer Hudson Prenkert (2028) as external member.

DIRECTOR SUN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESENTED. SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR LLOYD. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION APPROVED.

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4. Bates Alley Parklet Recommendation

DIRECTOR SANDHU LEFT THE ROOM IN ABSTENTION DUE TO CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

DIRECTOR LLOYD MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AUTHORITY TO ENTER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF KALAMAZOO TO COMPLETE ONE-TIME REPAIRS TO THE BATES ALLEY PARKLETS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000, AND TO FORMALLY EXIT ANY FUTURE OWNERSHIP, MAINTENANCE, OR OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES UPON COMPLETION OF THOSE REPAIRS. DIRECTOR SUN SECONDED. DIRECTOR SANDHU ABSTAINED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION APPROVED.

5. Landscape Forms South Kalamazoo Mall Proposal

DIRECTOR SUN MOTIONED TO APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF AN IN-KIND DONATION OF SITE FURNISHINGS FROM LANDSCAPE FORMS, VALUED AT UP TO \$100,000, FOR INSTALLATION ON THE SOUTH KALAMAZOO MALL; TO AUTHORIZE THE PLACEMAKING COMMITTEE TO FINALIZE PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS, INSTALLATION LOCATIONS, AND INSTALLATION APPROACH; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL, TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT, WITH ANY DECISIONS CARRYING BUDGET IMPLICATIONS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL. DIRECTOR LLOYD SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Downtown Kalamazoo Website

DIRECTOR LLOYD MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION OF WEBSITE HOSTING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES WITH MAESTRO THROUGH JUNE 30 OF 2026 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN ANY RELEVANT AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZING THIS ACTION IN CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL. DIRECTOR SEARING SECONDED. NO OBJECTIONS. MOTION PASSED.

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F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matt Smilanich owner of Bimbo's Pizza downtown along with his father Ron Smilanich downtown real estate owner raised concerns about recent parking changes that eliminated short term parking flexibility. They explained the negative impact on their customers and their primarily takeout business and presented data from an independent study showing high short-term parking demand on the 300 block of East Michigan Avenue. Other concerns were parking enforcement and customer deterrence from coming downtown.

The Board acknowledged the Smilanich's concerns and explained parking decisions are outside Board authority. Continued dialogue and engagement were encouraged.

G. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Lloyd expressed gratitude to Meghan Behymer and Christina Anderson as City staff for their responsiveness to a downtown business's concern regarding front door access amidst active construction. He requested improved City coordination with Chamber town halls to foster dialogue.

H. ADJOURNMENT

**DIRECTOR SUN MOTIONED TO ADJOURN, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR LLOYD.
MOTION APPROVED WITH NOONE OPPOSED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 P.M.

**Downtown Economic Growth Authority
March 2026 Financial Summary**

In March, the Downtown Economic Growth Authority (DEGA) received no revenue. 2026 year-to-date revenues total \$59,210.

In March, DEGA expenditures totaled \$229,619. Key expense categories included: **Professional and Contractual Services (\$59,974)** for Ambassador Program Block by Block Contract (\$35,500) and Bigbelly Waste and Recycling January through March (\$24,474); **Solid Waste Disposal (\$1,686)**; **Legal Services (\$3,266)**; **Administrative Fees (\$46,875)** for Q1 City of Kalamazoo Service Agreement; **Promotion and Advertising (\$10,444)** for Branded banners (\$7,730.60), Winter in the Zoo Ice Sculpture (\$2,500) and branded table throw (\$213.22); **Community Promotion (\$55,000)** for Beats on Bates (\$50,000) and In the Zoo event sponsorship (\$5,000); **Notes Payable – Principle (\$45,806)** for Mavcon; and **Notes Payable – Interest (\$6,568)** for Mavcon. 2026 year-to-date expenditures total \$279,145.

Contract and Agreement Snapshot (see full table below) includes agreements the DEGA is currently entered into and the contract period.

Contract and Agreement Snapshot		
Contractor	Contract Description	Contract Period
Big Belly Solar	Bigbelly Waste & Recycling	December 2021 – May 15, 2028
Block by Block	Ambassador Program Agreement	October 2025 – Sept. 2028
City of Kalamazoo	Service Agreement	February 2024 – February 2027
City of Kalamazoo	Loan Agreement	Dec. 2024 – Dec. 2035
Guess Who’s Dancing Fitness	Beats on Bates	February 2026 – Dec. 2026

Downtown Economic Growth Authority
Statement of Activity
3/31/2026

Total Available Cash 568,663

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>2026 YTD Actuals</u>
Revenues			
Taxes	1,126,558		-
Other Revenue			-
Contributions from COK	59,210		59,210
Contributions from Solid Waste Fund	32,000		-
Contributions from Grants			-
Total Revenues	<u>1,217,768</u>	-	<u>59,210</u>
Expenses			
Operating Supplies			-
Professional And Contractual Services	544,000	59,974	95,474
Solid Waste Disposal	8,500	1,686	1,686
Communication And Network Services	600		-
Repairs And Maintenance Services	24,000		-
Consulting Services And Fees	27,166		8,925
Audit Fees	13,400		-
Legal Services	30,000	3,266	3,266
Memberships And Subscriptions	2,500		-
Professional Development	7,000		-
Payroll	80,000		-
Administrative Fees	187,500	46,875	46,875
Promotion And Advertisting	65,000	10,444	15,546
Contribution To General Fund	30,000		-
Contribution To DDA	52,374		-
Community Promotion	165,000	55,000	55,000
Notes Payable - Principle	92,667	45,806	45,806
Notes Payable Interest	41,266	6,568	6,568
Total Expenses	<u>1,370,973</u>	<u>229,619</u>	<u>279,145</u>
Revenues Less Expenses	<u>(153,205)</u>	<u>(229,619)</u>	<u>(219,935)</u>

Notes:

	<u>Agreement Amount</u>	<u>Payments Made*</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Long Term Debt:			
Mavcon Agreement	483,000	90,934	392,066
City of Kalamazoo	1,060,000	-	1,060,000

**Will include all payments to show decreasing balance*

	<u>March</u>	<u>2026 YTD Actuals</u>
Professional And Contractual Services:		
Recycling Services - BIG BELLY SOLAR LLC	24,474	24,474
Ambassador Services - BLOCK BY BLOCK	35,500	71,000
TOTAL	<u>59,974</u>	<u>95,474</u>

	<u>March</u>	<u>2026 YTD Actuals</u>
Community Promotion:		
Beats on Bates Events - Sponsorship	50,000	50,000
Winter In the Zoo	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	<u>55,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>

DOWNTOWN REPORT

Downtown Momentum Continues into Summer

Downtown Kalamazoo continues to prepare for a busy summer season through coordinated beautification efforts, infrastructure improvements, business engagement, and major events. In April, Downtown Ambassadors completed 118 area cleanups and collected more than 12,000 pounds of trash, litter, and recycling as seasonal cleanup efforts ramped up across the district. Additional Bigbelly waste units and spring plantings are also being deployed throughout downtown, including improvements in Bates Alley.

Planning and activation efforts also continue to advance across several major initiatives. The Downtown Kalamazoo Pedestrian Wayfinding & Signage Master Plan RFP has officially launched, while preparations continue for Kalamazoo Streets for All construction and the future redesign of Arcadia Creek Festival Place.

At the same time, committee meetings have resumed under the updated governance model, helping advance work tied to branding, placemaking, events, communications, and downtown operations.

Downtown will officially kick off the summer season June 5–7 with JumpstART Weekend, bringing thousands of visitors downtown for Art on the Mall, Kalamazoo Pride, the Do-Dah Parade, live music, and community celebrations throughout the downtown core.



Shop Downtown. Enter to Win \$100

Spend \$25 or more at any Downtown Kalamazoo business and you're in!

How It Works

1

Shop Downtown.

Make a purchase of \$25 or more



2

Snap Your Receipt

Take a quick photo



3

Enter to Win

Scan the QR code to upload your receipt



When you spend \$25 or more at any Downtown Kalamazoo business, you can snap a photo of the receipt and enter for a chance to win \$100 in Downtown Dollars.

Entries for the first drawing are open now through Sunday at 11:59 p.m., with the first winner drawn on Tuesday, April 28. A new winner will be selected every week through the summer, giving you plenty of chances to win.

Learn more and enter:

www.kalamazoo.org/ParkShopWin

BUILT FOR BUSINESS

Downtown is a launchpad for growth—where businesses are rooted, visible, and thriving.

2026 PILLAR PROGRESS

Built for Business

Business Retention and Expansion Program

In progress

- Match on Main local applicants selected and grant applications submitted to MEDC with City of Kalamazoo as applying entity.

Business Database & Engagement Tracking

Not started

- City of Kalamazoo EcDev division Salesforce platform is current database platform; immediate focus updating construction contact database ahead of Kalamazoo Avenue construction.

Downtown Dollars

In April 2026, Downtown Dollars sales totaled \$3,625. At the same time, \$1,020 was redeemed at 12 businesses downtown.

Month	# of Businesses that Redeemed DTS (% of total)	Total Sold	Total Spent
January	17 (36%)	\$555	\$1,185
February	11 (23%)	\$3,070	\$2,385
March	16 (34%)	\$1,575	\$1,505
April	12 (28%)	\$3,625	\$1,020
2026 TOTAL	23 (49%)	\$8,825	\$5,075

Program Life Stats

\$550K
SOLD

\$381K
SPENT

\$113K
IN CIRCULATION

Program led by: Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Business Recruitment & Retention

Committee scheduled to meet May 11 under new governance model.

Brick & Mortar Retail Growth Lab

The Southwest Michigan First Chamber is offering a six-week Brick & Mortar Retail Growth Lab that may be of interest to downtown retail and restaurant businesses. Beginning May 12, this cohort-style program is designed to help business owners strengthen operations, improve margins, and drive sales through hands-on, peer-based learning.

Facilitated by Julie Reinhardt of Brick & Mortar Retail Consulting Group, sessions will take place Tuesday mornings at 180 E. Water St. in downtown Kalamazoo. Participation is limited to 15 businesses, with attendees developing a 90-day action plan to implement immediately.

<https://bit.ly/30eKVNg>



Southwest Michigan First Chamber
**Downtown Kalamazoo
Business Townhall**

July 14, 2026 @ 2 p.m.

180 East Water Street
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007

CLEAN, SAFE AND WELCOMING

Downtown is a place you want to be—inviting, well cared for, and safe for everyone.

2026 PILLAR PROGRESS

Clean, Safe & Welcoming

Bigbelly Sponsorship Program

Not started

Development of the Bigbelly sponsorship program will live with the Events and Marketing Committee in alignment with the FPI MOU and in coordination with the Placemaking Committee.

Downtown Maintenance Procedures

In progress

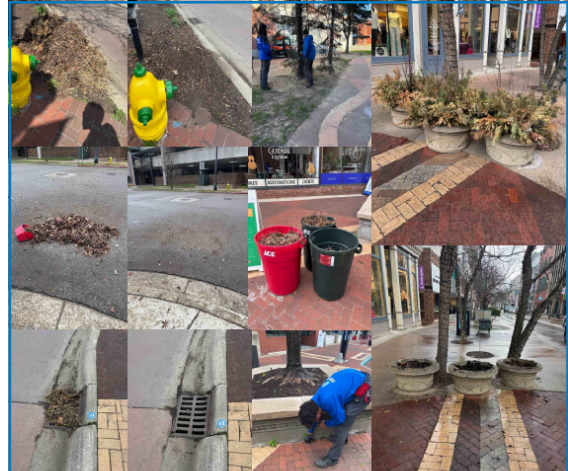
Downtown Operations & Maintenance Monthly Meetings, launched in February, have continued to strengthen coordination across City departments on downtown issues, projects, and long-term needs.

Since March, progress has been made across several key focus areas. A scope of work with Wolverine has been approved to support spring plantings and ongoing care, with planting anticipated for completion by mid-May. Wolverine has also been confirmed to complete necessary landscaping work in Bates Alley. Concrete planters have been redeployed on the Kalamazoo Mall into ground-level flowerbeds to help deter pedestrian traffic through planted areas while enhancing overall vibrancy.

Concrete pads have been poured for additional Bigbelly units, with five remaining units scheduled for installation on May 14, including two new units in Bates Alley to address a critical need in that space. Additionally, conversations have begun with City staff to assess options for the repair, replacement, or removal of non-functional downtown drinking fountains.

Ongoing Focus Areas:

- Kalamazoo Mall brick repairs
- Road closure planters
- Downtown drinking fountain assessment



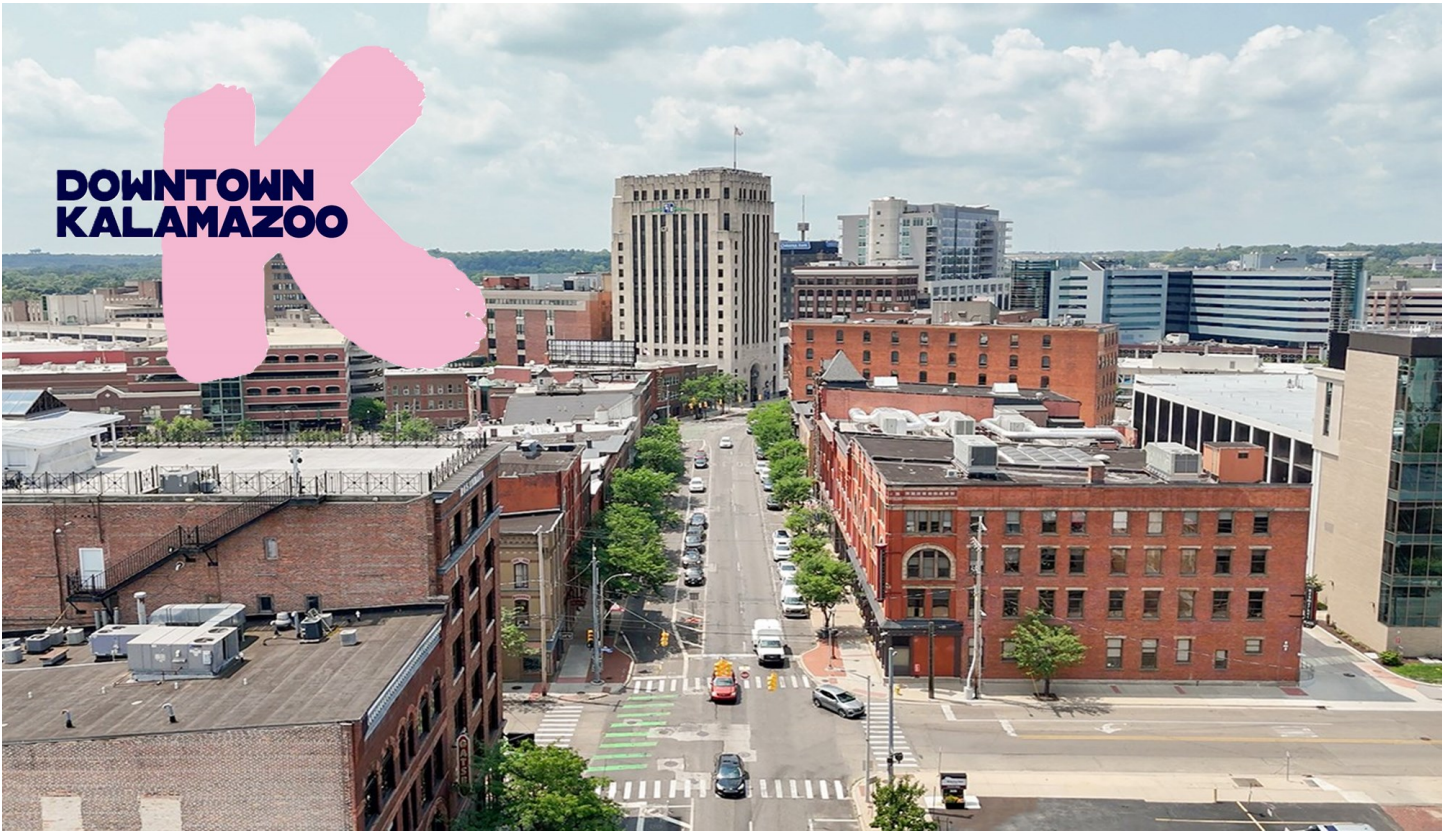
Ambassador Program

In April, Downtown Ambassadors collected 7,100 pounds of trash, 2,270 pounds of litter, and 2,875 pounds of recycling, while addressing 132 biohazard incidents, removing 31 instances of graffiti, and completing 118 area cleanups. The team also removed 70 instances of abandoned property, provided 66 hospitality assists, and conducted 12 business contacts.

With spring in full swing, Ambassador efforts shifted heavily toward seasonal cleanup and district beautification, including leaf removal, weed abatement, storm drain clearing, and preparing downtown for upcoming landscaping and activation projects.

>>> Full April 2026 Report on following pages

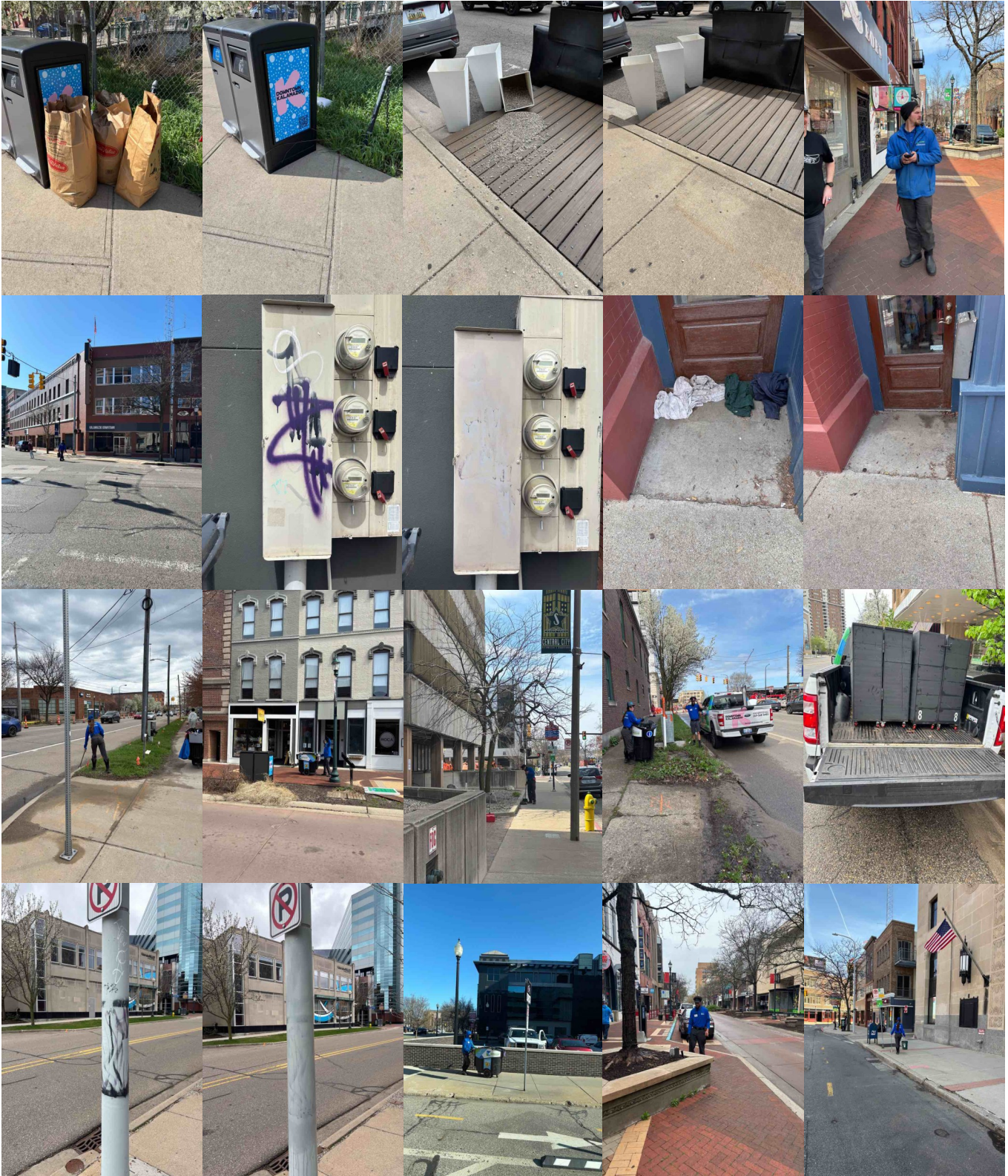
Program led by: Meghan Behymer (Downtown Coordinator)



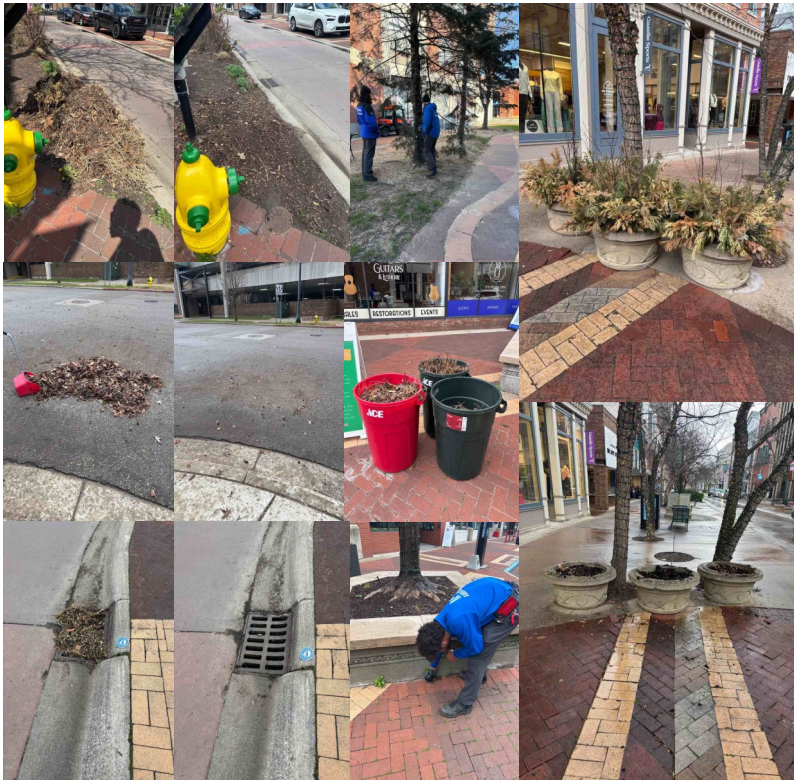
AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

APRIL 2026 REPORT

Around Town In April



April 2026 Highlights



Spring Cleaning

Spring is in full swing and the team has been working to cleanup the remnants from fall and winter. Cleaning up left over leaves, getting ready for new landscaping projects, pulling weeds and cleaning up storm drains that are clogged up throughout the district are just a few of the things we are working on to get the district ready for summer.



Abandoned Property





Spring normally brings an increase of unhoused individuals frequenting our downtown. This leads to a rise in Abandoned Property our team encounters. We try to give everyone a chance to take care of their belongings but after a certain amount of time passes we will discard of the items that remain left behind.

April 2026 Stats By Zone


	East	Kalamazoo Mall	North	West	Total
CLEANING					
Abandoned Property	19	23	15	13	70
Area Cleaned	25	24	28	41	118
Biohazardous Material	49	47	14	22	132
Restroom Cleaned/Stocked	2				2
Graffiti - Removed	10	4	11	6	31
Lawn Care (hours)					0
Leaf Removal (hours)	1	11	2	5	19
Power Washing (hours)				1	1
Snow Removal (hours)					0
Litter (lbs)	655	585	520	510	2270
Trash (lbs)	2475	2875	850	900	7100
Recycling (lbs)	1025	1175	300	375	2875
Flower Watering (gallons)					0
Weed Abatement (block faces)	3	14	--	--	17
Special Project (hours)		10			10
HOSPITALITY					
Business Contact	2	8	1	1	12
Hospitality Assistance	19	26	4	17	66
SAFETY					
Observed Visible Alcohol/Drug Use	1	3	1	5	10
Interaction With Alcohol/Drug Use	--	3	1	--	4
Needles Found	8	2	7	--	17
Panhandling - Aggressive					0
Panhandling - Passive	1	2	--	1	4
Public Defecation/Urination	2				2
Safety Escorts					0
OUTREACH					
Transient	53	69	33	39	194
Unhoused/Sleeping	30	70	24	82	206
Unsheltered Relocation	6	2 --	--		8

KDP Zone Map


KDP Zones

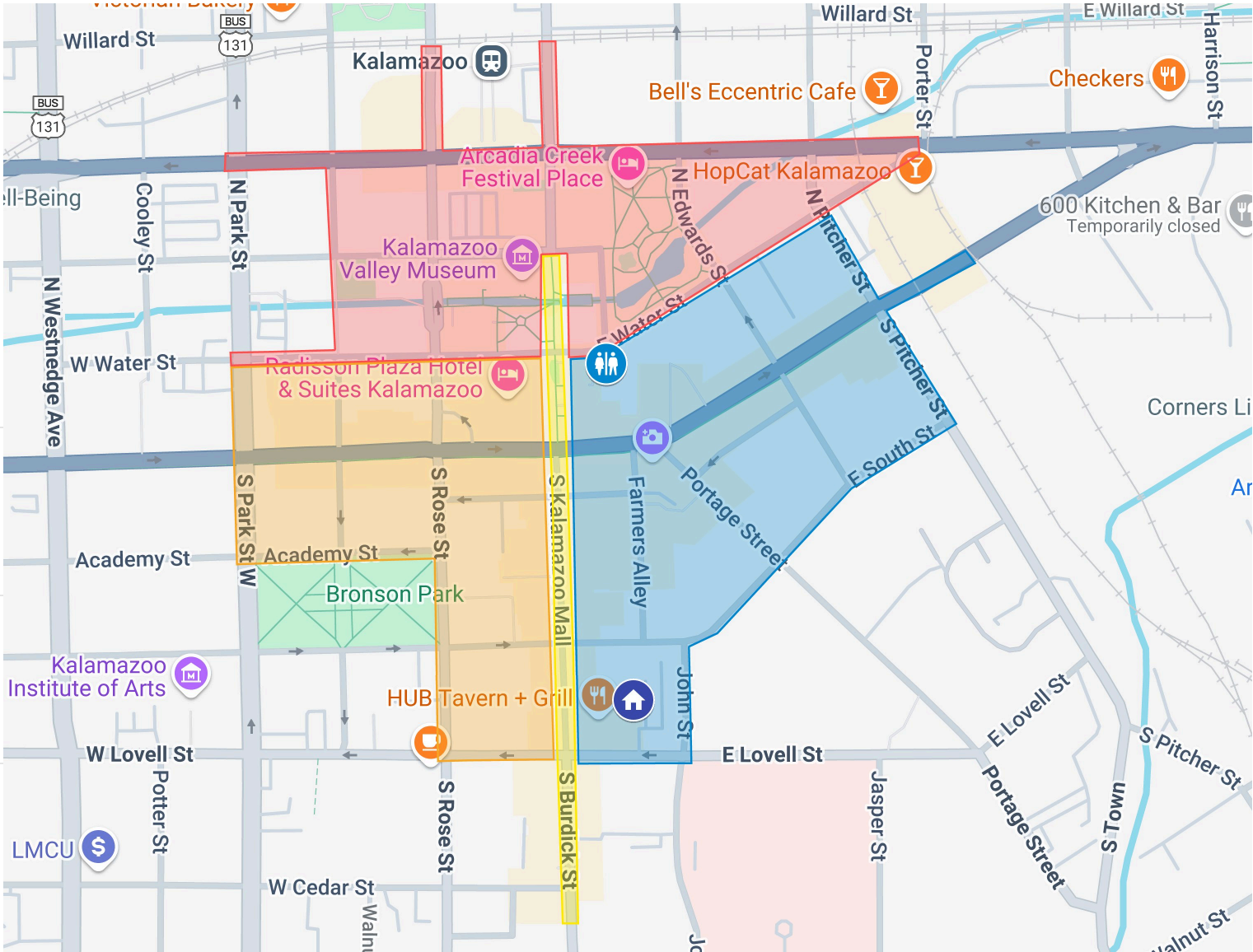
-  Kalamazoo Mall
-  North
-  West
-  East

Restroom

-  Portland Loo

Operations Center

-  Operations Center



2026 STATISTICS

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
CLEANING													
Abandoned Property	16	39	61	70									186
Area Cleaned	35	51	90	118									294
Biohazardous Material	30	91	158	132									411
Restroom Cleaned/Stocked	18	22	33	2									75
Graffiti - Removed	1	10	39	31									81
Lawn Care (hours)	0	0	0	0									0
Leaf Removal (hours)	21	18	55	19									113
Power Washing (hours)	0	0	0	1									1
Snow Removal (hours)	222	42	14	0									278
Litter (lbs)	925	1765	2000	2270									6960
Trash (lbs)	3950	5100	0	7100									16150
Recycling (lbs)	1525	1675	2600	2875									8675
Flower Watering (gallons)	0	0	0	0									0
Weed Abatement (block faces)	0	0	0	17									17
Special Project (hours)	3	12	5	10									30
HOSPITALITY													
Business Contact	4	3	15	12									34
Hospitality Assistance	32	40	66	66									204
SAFETY													
Observed Visible Alcohol/Drug Use	8	8	49	10									75
Interaction With Alcohol/Drug Use	3	6	1	4									14
Needles Found	4	17	12	17									50
Panhandling - Aggressive	0	0	0	0									0
Panhandling - Passive	0	0	1	4									5
Public Defecation/Urination	0	0	12	2									14
Safety Escorts	0	0	0	0									0
OUTREACH													
Transient	73	84	173	194									524
Unhoused/Sleeping	28	92	324	206									650
Unsheltered Relocation	3	1	3	8									15

STREETWISE AND CONNECTED

Downtown is a place that moves with people—intuitive, walkable, and easy to explore.

2026 PILLAR PROGRESS

Streetwise & Connected

Wayfinding Study

In progress

Downtown Kalamazoo Pedestrian Wayfinding & Signage Master Plan posted with proposals due June 4, 2026.

Wayfinding Implementation Plan

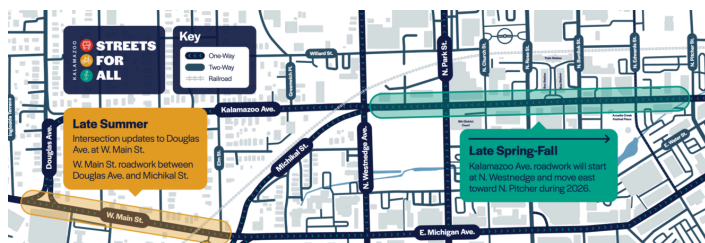
Not started

Kalamazoo Streets for All

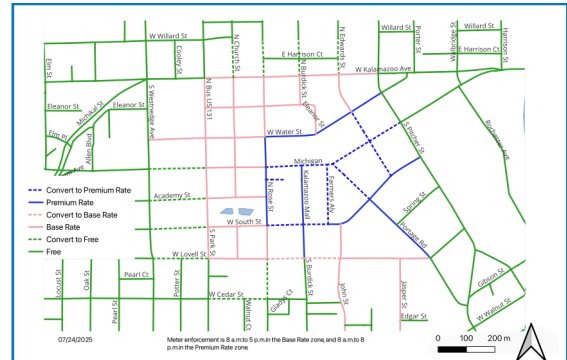
Kalamazoo Streets For All is a lane conversion project that will transform downtown Kalamazoo into a welcoming, inclusive and vibrant destination that offers safe travel for all modes of transportation.

- Kalamazoo Avenue roadwork will start at N. Westnedge and move east toward N. Pitcher summer through fall.
- West Main roadwork between Douglas and Michikal will commence in late Summer.

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



Project led by: Rebekah Kik (Deputy City Manager), Christina Anderson (City Planner, Deputy Director of Community Planning and Economic Development), and James Baker (Director, Public Services) with Consultants from Progressive AE, C2D, and Wightman Engineering



Downtown Parking Plan

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.

As part of the City's broader Parking+ Blueprint, on-street parking changes rolled out **April 1** with the goal to create a more reliable and flexible system. The changes include replacing outdated meters with kiosks that allow multiple payment options, lowering rates on some blocks, and adding accessible spaces throughout downtown.

Project led by: Christina Anderson (City Planner, Deputy Director of Community Planning and Economic Development) and Rob Bacigalupi (Mission North),

VIBRANT AND VISIBLE

Downtown is unmistakable—distinct in identity, celebrated in stories, and recognized for its energy and edge.

2026 PILLAR PROGRESS

Vibrant & Visible

Downtown Brand Rollout

In progress

Work continues on finalizing brand rollout and 2026 marketing plan within remaining budget.

Downtown Strategic Communication Plan

Not started

NEWS UPDATE

- [Voices of Youth Commentary: New developments in downtown Kalamazoo garner mixed reactions](#)
- [Zeigler Kalamazoo Marathon returns April 26 at Bronson Park in downtown Kalamazoo](#)
- [As traffic patterns change in downtown Kalamazoo, expect a few bumps in the road](#)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Events & Marketing

The committee meetings resumed in May under new governance model. A retreat focusing on the downtown brand rollout and strategic communication plan is in the works.

Event sponsorship applications for Q4 2026 (October - December) are due by July 15, 2026. Application link below:

<https://us.openforms.com/Form/21070ebe-bed9-421a-b3c5-b3d9d2245604>

To date, the Event Sponsorship program has provided \$18,500 in sponsorship support for six events.



JumpstART Weekend returns to downtown Kalamazoo June 5–7, bringing a full weekend of arts, culture, music, and community celebrations to the downtown core. From the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Fair and Art on the Mall to Kalamazoo Pride, the Do-Dah Parade, and more, downtown will be buzzing with activity and visitors from across the region. [View the full schedule and learn more: https://jumpstartkzoo.com/](https://jumpstartkzoo.com/)

STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE

Downtown is backed by strong leadership—resilient in structure, bold in vision, and prepared for what’s next.

2026 PILLAR PROGRESS

Strong & Sustainable

Hire Downtown Support Position

In progress

Downtown Projects Coordinator position has officially closed.

2027+ Operational Model

Not started

Annual Stakeholder Survey

Not started

DDA Development Plan

Not started

COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive & Finance

- Reviewed May Board Agenda and Recommendations.
- Engaged in meetings and discussions with City leadership on downtown parking system feedback and changes.



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: May 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Arcadia Creek Festival Place Season (**Action: Motion to approve an allocation of up to \$3,000 to support 2026 event operations and infrastructure needs at Arcadia Creek Festival Place, including event operational support services and seasonal irrigation operations, with the event operational support component coming forward at the recommendation of the Events and Marketing Committee.**)

SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND:

RECOMMENDATION: