



Downtown Community Improvement District

2024 -2025 **ANNUAL REPORT** | KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI





DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The **Downtown Community Improvement District (DCID)** is proud to continue its mission in 2024 as a private, nonprofit organization committed to keeping the heart of Downtown Kansas City clean, welcoming, and thriving. Every day, our dedicated safety, concierge, and maintenance ambassadors work tirelessly to support the businesses, residents, and visitors who make the Central Business District their home. Through their efforts, **DCID fosters a vibrant and secure downtown environment for all.**

DCID Safety Ambassadors: Looking Out For You

DCID Public Safety Ambassadors play a vital role in fostering a safe and welcoming atmosphere throughout the Central Business District.

Known as the “bumble bees,” these Ambassadors patrol the district daily, covering **RideKC** and **KC Streetcar stops**, the **Central Library**, public spaces such as **Oppenstein Park**, **Case Park**, and **Ilus Davis Park**, as well as **The Barking Lot Off-Leash Dog Park**, streets, parking lots and local events. Along the way, they engage with business owners, employees, residents, and visitors of all ages, providing a reassuring presence.

Serving as the **first point of contact in emergencies**, DCID Safety Ambassadors help maintain order, assist those in need, and act as the **eyes and ears** for emergency services, ensuring a secure and friendly downtown experience for all.

Statistical Highlights: Safety Services Calendar Year 2024

9,525	Merchant Check
3,970	Citizen Assist
3,508	Public Nuisance



DCID Maintenance Ambassadors: Keeping it Clean

The **DCID** is equally committed to maintaining a clean and inviting Central Business District every day. Our dedicated DCID Maintenance Ambassadors work tirelessly to ensure that downtown streets and public spaces remain welcoming for all.

These ambassadors **sweep sidewalks** daily, **remove litter** of all kinds, and enforce a **zero-tolerance policy on graffiti**, stickers, and illegal posters in public areas. They also monitor **RideKC bus** and **KC Streetcar stops**, keeping them clean and

accessible. Additionally, they play a crucial role in reporting broken or deteriorating infrastructure to the City's **311 Action Center**, helping to maintain a well-kept and safe environment for district stakeholders.



Statistical Highlights: Maintenance Services Calendar Year 2024

1,719
Graffiti Tags
Removed

9,728
Trash Bags
Collected

Striving for Greater Efficiency

The **Downtown CID** partners closely with **EB Systems** to enhance the efficiency of Ambassador reporting.

Headquartered in Downtown Kansas City, MO, **Electronic Beacon (EB) Systems** is a leader in **mobile apps**, **Bluetooth technology**, and proprietary **Beacon Reader technology**. Through this collaboration, **EB Systems** equips Ambassadors with more than 70 customized cell phones, streamlining reporting processes for the DCID, RMCID, Central Library, and MoDOT Road Warriors. These devices also serve as a time clock for payroll management and provide a real-time, sector-based data analytics platform, ensuring seamless operations and improved service throughout the district.



Comprehensive Training

The **DCID** is committed to the continuous professional development of its Ambassadors through **year-round, comprehensive training programs**. Over the past year, Ambassadors have engaged in a variety of courses and certifications aimed at enhancing their skills and effectiveness, including effectiveness, including:

- **Visitor Influencer Program** through VisitKC
- **Bloodborne Pathogen Handling Certification**
- **CPR & First Aid Certification**
- **Interviewing and Ambassador Coaching**
- **Introducing/Refreshing DCID Services** to property owners and business managers
- **Class A Certification Training** for Safety Ambassadors
- **WatchKC Video Monitoring Training** in collaboration with the Kansas City Police Department



Community Engagement

The DCID is pleased to share that the organization had a very positive year of community engagement. By partnering with peer organizations, we were able to expand our reach and impact with public engagement meetings, community work days, entertainment opportunities, and more. Building relationships with neighborhood associations and other community groups allowed us to better understand and address the specific needs of our community. Through these collaborations, we were able to work on a wide range of issues, from improving quality of life to providing opportunities for those who call downtown home to better connect with each other.

Communications, Marketing & Outreach... for property owners, employers, workers, residents, riders, visitors & the public

- Alerts, events, news stories, traffic notices via the Downtown KC Connects e-newsletter and social media channels.
- Annual Report for the DCID.
- Bumblebee mobile kiosk provides homeless services information, along with retail and restaurant resources and directions.
- DCID resources on DowntownKC.org.
- Dine KC map + guide to River Market restaurants / attractions.
- Maps – digital (and print) maps to Downtown dining, parking, retail, trails.
- Organizational support for Central Business District businesses and residents, 816 Day, KC Restaurant Week, KC Streetcar activities and other events upon request.
- Social media communications & promotion of Central Business District area events.
- Resident Socials and Community Clean Up events.

Outreach Services for the Homeless

The 2024-25 fiscal year marked a period of tremendous success for the Beehive. In collaboration with the Downtown Council's 501(c)(3), Downtown Kansas City Civic Ventures, more than \$500,000 was raised to fund essential services and facility upgrades. Among these improvements, the Community Kitchen—operated by NourishKC—received significant enhancements, and two key service providers, Care Beyond the Boulevard and The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, joined the center's efforts.

Together, these organizations have rebranded the Downtown Community Services Center as **The Beehive: A Health and Housing Collaborative**. This innovative approach offers a wide range of critical resources, including **nutritious meals, housing referrals, advocacy, counseling, document assistance, and comprehensive health services such as medical, dental, and psychiatric care**. By addressing gaps in the continuum of care and partnering with overnight shelter providers, The Beehive ensures that individuals in need receive holistic support to help reconnect with family and secure stable housing.

To learn more about the Community Improvement Districts' homeless outreach efforts, contact Sean O'Byrne at sean@downtownkc.org.



Oppenstein Park

Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park, located at the northeast corner of 12th and Walnut Street, has long served as a peaceful oasis for Downtown employees, residents, and their pets.

In partnership with Jackson County, the DCID has managed and maintained this pocket park since 2003, with the agreement extended through 2024. As part of this commitment, \$75,000 has been allocated for infrastructure improvements, enhanced landscaping, and park activations, including live performances and community events.

Originally dedicated in 1981, the park underwent a major renovation in 2008 under the leadership of the DCID. More than half a million dollars was invested in new landscaping, hardscaping, and the addition of Celestial Flyways and the Stardisk installation by Kansas City artist Laura DeAngelis. These enhancements, commissioned by Art in the Loop, reflect an ongoing collaboration with the DCID to bring public art and engagement to the space.

To reserve Oppenstein Brothers Memorial Park for special events, please contact Mark Rowlands at mark@downtownkc.org.





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Improving the Library District

In 2024, the Downtown Community Improvement District (DCID) successfully completed a series of pedestrian-focused improvements in the Library District, funded by the Downtown Kansas City Library District TIF. The project concluded on time and within budget, with over \$655,000 invested in upgrades.

Key improvements included:

- **Decorative Tree Enclosures:** Geiske Custom Metal Fabricators designed, built, and installed decorative tree enclosures along 10th Street.
- **Landscaping:** Signature Landscaping enhanced tree well beds and bump-out beds on 10th Street, Baltimore Street, and Wyandotte Street with drought-tolerant perennials and trees.
- **Sidewalk and Curb Repairs:** Axiom Construction Group replaced approximately 7,100 square feet of deteriorating concrete sidewalks and over 100 linear feet of broken curbs in front of the Central Library and the Library Garage.
- **Synthetic Lawn Installation:** Although completed in 2019, the installation of synthetic lawn by Syn Lawn on the south side of the Library Garage continues to provide year-round greenspace for the neighborhood.

These improvements have significantly enhanced the area's walkability and aesthetic appeal, contributing to a more inviting and accessible neighborhood.

Meeting with the New Jackson County Prosecutor

A new year brought a new county prosecutor to Jackson County. Melesa Johnson, former Director of Public Safety for KCMO Mayor Quinton Lucas, reached out to the Downtown and River Market CIDs with the desire to meet with a group of business and neighborhood leaders to hear their concerns about crime and safety in the neighborhood.

Over thirty attendees gathered in-person and online to share their experiences with Prosecutor Johnson and Assistant

Prosecuting Attorney Ben Cox. The business leaders expressed their concerns about the recent increase in crime in the downtown area. The new prosecutor listened to the concerns of the business leaders and shared her plans for addressing crime. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between law enforcement, the community, and her office. Building off the success of the monthly CID Safety Task Force, Prosecutor Johnson pledged to keep the dialogue going with a new monthly CID Safety Committee where residents, business owners, property managers and stakeholders can continue to communicate and engage on this important issue.

Mayor's City-Wide CID Roundtable

In November 2024, the Mayor's CID Roundtable, hosted by Mayor Lucas, brought together members of the city council, law enforcement officials, and representatives from CIDs across the city to discuss and address crime and safety issues throughout Kansas City. The forum aimed to foster open dialogue, gather insights, and develop collaborative strategies to enhance public safety. The River Market and Downtown CIDs were well represented with multiple staff in the room. Executive Director Sean O'Byrne informed the group about the River Market's overnight security initiative along with the CID's strong working relationship with the Kansas City Police Department's resurrected Downtown Foot Beat Unit.

The Mayor's CID Roundtable concluded with a commitment from the mayor and other officials to work together with community stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive crime reduction strategies. The forum's recommendations served as a roadmap for future actions aimed at enhancing public safety and creating a more livable city for all residents.



Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and DCID Partner to create a cleaner and safer approach into Downtown

The DCID takes great pride in maintaining a safe, clean, and welcoming Downtown. When Downtown stakeholders and visitors raised concerns about excessive litter on highways surrounding the area, it became clear that action was needed.

In response, MoDOT issued a request for proposals (RFP) in 2023 to address both the maintenance needs of MoDOT right-of-way within a mile of the Central Business District and to support those experiencing homelessness. DCID was uniquely positioned to meet this challenge through its combination of trained Ambassadors and the essential services provided by the Beehive, including medical, dental, psychiatric, document assistance, and housing services.

This initiative focuses on removing trash, debris, and graffiti from the highways encircling Downtown while also providing direct outreach and support to unhoused individuals. Since

April 2023, our Road Warrior Ambassadors have completed over 12,000 units of service, including the removal of more than 8,000 units of highway debris and graffiti and responding to 500 homeless outreach calls. Many individuals have received basic services, meals, and housing referrals through the Beehive.

Our mission extends beyond improving the look and feel of Downtown—we strive to enhance the entire gateway into the city, ensuring a cleaner, more welcoming approach to the heart of Kansas City.



Harvey Fried Award

Harvey Fried was a beloved community leader and an unwavering friend to Downtown Kansas City. A member of the **Downtown Council's Board of Directors** since 1999, Harvey was among the first recipients of the **Downtown Council's Urban Hero Award** in 2005, a testament to his remarkable contributions.

As a **founding board member** of the **Downtown Community Improvement District (CID)** in 2002, Harvey served as **board secretary** until his passing in 2018. His commitment extended to active participation in the **Business Retention & Attraction Committee** and the **Open Space/Infrastructure Committee**.

To honor his enduring legacy, the CIDs established the Harvey Fried Award in 2018. This award celebrates exceptional service by CID Ambassadors and staff, recognizing individuals who embody leadership, teamwork, compassion, and, above all, kindness.

"Harvey had a special place in his heart for our Ambassadors, and I want them to know his legacy," said **Sean O'Byrne**, RMCID Executive Director. "The awards will be presented in recognition of leadership, esprit de corps, compassion to others, and above all else, kindness."

"Harvey was a great man. We want to make sure that his memory lives on."

2024 - 2025 Award Winner

Jerry Fikes

Kansas City is a city of growth, resilience, and boundless potential. Few embody that spirit more than Fikes, a dedicated Maintenance



Supervisor for the Community Improvement District (CID). His journey—from serving in the U.S. Army to becoming a key figure in maintaining and uplifting the heart of the city—reflects his deep commitment to both community and creativity.

Born and raised in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Fikes grew up around Hickman Mills and attended Hickman Mills High School. After serving ten years in the Army, he spent five years in Louisiana before returning home to Kansas City. In August 2021, he joined the CID as a Maintenance Ambassador, quickly proving his leadership and passion for the work. Within three years, he rose to the role of Maintenance Supervisor, where he now plays an essential part in keeping the city clean, safe, and welcoming.

A passionate creative, Fikes finds expression through poetry, creative writing, and performing at open mics and poetry slams. His artistic talents recently earned him a spot in the 2024 Art in the Loop performance series—an achievement that highlights his ability to inspire not just through words, but through action.

"I love the positive energy of the CID, and I love what I do," Fikes shared. "I see the potential of the city, and I want to be a part of it."

That passion fuels his daily work, ensuring that the spaces people walk, gather, and create remain vibrant and inviting.

Whether through his service in the Army, his dedication to maintaining the city, or his artistic contributions,

Fikes embodies the idea that a thriving community is built by those who believe in it and actively contribute to its growth.



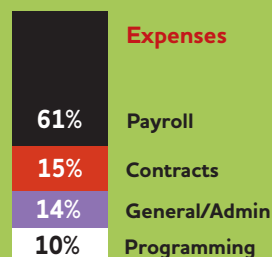
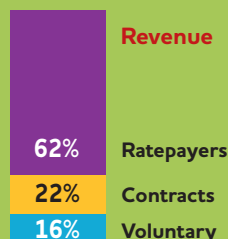
City & State Reporting Requirements

- The Downtown Community Improvement District adopted its annual budget on April 11, 2023 and April 9, 2024 respectively.
- The DCID annual budget was submitted to the City of Kansas City Missouri's City Clerk - January 30, 2024.
- The DCID annual report was submitted to the City of Kansas City Missouri and the State of Missouri - August 15, 2023.
- During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, no resolutions were passed by the DCID board of directors.

- Current Assessment Levy - \$0.10 per square foot of the parcel footprint as well as \$0.07 per \$100 dollars of market value for residential properties and \$0.115 per \$100 dollars of market value for commercial properties.



Budget: DCID 2024 / 2025





Leadership Team for the Downtown and River Market CIDs: Left to right: Tommy Wilson, director of business recruitment and research, Kaylea Mischlich, dispatcher, Jerry Fikes, supervisor, Frank Jackson, supervisor, Sean O'Byrne, executive director, Santos Ramirez, director of operations, Jared Campbell, resident engagement manager, Mark Rowlands, director of contracts, Wallace James, human services coordinator, Justin Tatum, supervisor, Corey Scullin, supervisor, Sheila Tatum, supervisor.

