

# Executive Director's Report

## August 2024

### **Economic Development**

#### **Active Projects:**

##### **Lamar Bldg.**

Agreement approved by board.

Working with bank on closing construction loan.

##### **Framework**

Agreement approved by board.

Phillip Smith in town for update on 6/24.

Fiscal Impact Report completed by Georgia Power.

Meeting with Scott Rountree 8/14.

#### **Hospitality Project:**

Closed Session

#### **Brunch House:**

Back on the table-SSBCI Loan Application Underway

#### **Bradley's Barbeque:**

SSBCI Loan application is in underwriting for approval.

#### **401 Greene Street**

Closing Documents underway to close on GCF Loan

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Street Development**

Developer has closed on 2 buildings (Morris Properties) and plans are underway for 33 market rate apartments and ground-floor retail.

#### **Accelerate Augusta-600 Broad Street**

Contract with McKnight Construction has been executed.

Construction is underway. Asbestos removal is completed and demolition is underway. Electrical, plumbing and HVAC work will begin in 2 weeks. Project completion is January 2025.

Budget overruns have been reduced to \$70,000. (from \$1.4 million).

Fundraising for sponsorships is underway.

Executive Director Position has been posted.

Annual Reporting has been completed and submitted to the SBA. We have been granted a one-year extension to June 30, 2025.

Advisory Committee Meeting held August 8.

Logo design is underway.

Project expenditures to date are \$259,613.

Groundbreaking Ceremony held August 13.  
Operating Agreement with Augusta Tech is underway.  
Grant Funding for Phase 2 underway.

**Ribbon Cuttings (May-Aug 15 2024)**

Able Kids  
Three Crow Fibers  
Studio  
Southern Regional Office  
EV Chargers  
2KM Architects  
Midtown Maintenance

**Business Closures**

Dolce Darlin'  
Soy Noodle House  
Augusta Grooming Lounge  
Senior Benefits Shop  
Foundry Coffee Shop  
The Glam Shop  
Noble Jones  
Vance's Bakery Bar

**Other Ribbon Cuttings:**

Pillars of the Golden Blocks Sculpture  
Freedom Bridge Murals  
Augusta Jewish Museum  
The Augustan  
Bell Auditorium

**Other Initiatives:**

Updated Occupancy and Rental Rates have been completed.  
Meeting with Scott Rountree and Jim Plunkett to review DDA Downtown Incentive Guidelines-will bring to full board for discussion and approval. Internal Project Incentive Checklist is completed as well for board discussion.  
Writing Letter of Collaboration for AU NSF Grant.  
AT Downtown Master Plan consultant has been selected. Gehl Consultants. We were on the selection committee and will serve on the advisory committee.  
Reclassification project with Tax Assessors Office has been completed. Thanks Holly & Corbin.  
Our Place Committee-AU Initiative.

**Design**

**SPLOST Projects:**

Project Close-out underway on Arches.

Balance of SPLOST to board next month for discussion and approval.

**ACE Cleanup:**

July 2024 Highlights:

4070 block faces cleaned.

168 trash bags billed and disposed.

30 areas of graffiti removed.

120 special project hours.

Quarterly report to city will be submitted 8/16.

**Downtown Adventure Center Initiative: Destination Augusta**

Trip to Lemont Illinois July 26-28 to visit The Forge.

Consultant has been selected.

**Chronic Vacant Building Initiative:**

Building Registry Ordinance has been drafted and discussed at meeting on 8/19.

**Vinson Institute Grant Project:**

1<sup>st</sup> draft includes chronic vacancy and other design projects for the DDA to consider.

**Finance:**

2025 DDA Budget has been submitted to city. Thank you Tara.

**Organization**

Welcome Reception Russell Keen 7/1.

Warnock's Office 7/2.

GDECD Conference Planning for November.

**Marketing**

Website is under constant update.

Georgia Trend Magazine- Augusta highlighted this month.

Social Media Stats-Tara.