

AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESERVATION DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Planning is underway to provide property owners with in-depth information and private consultation on the use of historic tax credits for building renovation projects.

Thanks to a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Knight Foundation, Duluth has gained some valuable insight on using tax credits to help breathe life back into older, under-utilized buildings. More than 75 individuals turned out for an initial training session last year on the basics of historic tax credits and if they are appropriate for specific projects.

Now we are looking for property owners who are serious about utilizing this financing tool for their projects. A very specialized level of service from a group of three consultants will be made available to property owners who meet certain criteria. A checklist will be developed within the next few weeks for property owners who are interested in receiving consultation services, so be on the lookout for more information on this exciting opportunity!

For additional information on tax credits, the National Trust's Community Partners

program has a step-by-step online rehabilitation tax credit guide available at www.ntcifunds.com. Leaders from the National Trust say the site was the result of the Trust's belief that although the federal tax credit program has shown great success over the years, it is not reaching its full potential. This site provides great information and helps the property owner better understand the process for tapping into the credit's value.

Watch for more information on the specialized training in the coming weeks.

GDC



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Great News

FROM THE GREATER DOWNTOWN COUNCIL

JOIN US AT THE 20TH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING ON JANUARY 19, 2005

Keynote Address by David Ginsburg,
President and CEO of Downtown Cincinnati, Inc



The Greater Downtown Council will be celebrating

the kick-off of the Downtown Waterfront District this year, the newly created service district that will provide enhanced programs and services in Duluth's downtown area. With such a new program, it's always exciting to hear about the successes of similar models in other communities.

Cincinnati, known for its relatively mild climate, has seen a downtown renaissance in the past decade. At the forefront of the activity, serving

as a catalyst and a strong support system, has been the organization led by David Ginsburg, Downtown Cincinnati, Inc. In existence since 1994, DCI went on to create a business improvement district in 1998 and property owners voted to renew it in 2002.

For the first time in the city's history, the downtown is connected to the Ohio riverfront thanks to a project

story continued on inside ...

THE GREATER DOWNTOWN COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 20TH ANNUAL DINNER MEETING:



GOLD: Oneida Realty ■ Republic Bank ■ Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick PA

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GDC Annual Meeting ■ Wednesday, January 19, 2005 ■ Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites

Published by the Greater Downtown Council.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



DECC DULUTH SUPERIOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Unrequited Love
January 22 (Saturday)
8 pm

*Simply Sinatra
with Steve Lippia*
February 12 (Saturday)
8 pm

Lollipop Concert
February 13 (Sunday)
3 pm

Family Skating Party
January 23 (Sunday)
February 6 (Sunday)
3-5 pm

*Minnesota Ballet
Women's Choreography Showcase*
January 15 (Saturday)
7 pm

Northland Figure Skating Competition
January 27-30 (Thurs.-Sun.)

THE DEPOT

Family Day
January 13 (Thursday)
10 am-8 pm
February 21 (Monday)
10 am-5 pm

Free Antique Appraisal
January 19 (Wednesday)
February 16 (Wednesday)
Noon-3 pm

Lunch with the History People
February 8 (Tuesday)
Noon-1 pm

*DULUTH PLAYHOUSE
Blithe Spirit*
January 27-30
February 3-6
7:30 pm (Thursday-Saturday)
2:00 pm (Sunday)

*COCO'S TO GEAUX
Mardi Gras*
February 8 (Tuesday)
5-8 pm

FITGER'S BREWERY COMPLEX

*Bennett's Dinner Theatre
Ole & Lena's Wedding*
February 4-6, 11-14, 18-20
7:00 pm (Fri. & Sat.) 12:30 pm (Sun.)

Fitger's Winter Sales
January 20-23 (Thurs.-Sun.)

Isn't It Romantic Sales
Feb. 10-14 (Thurs.-Mon.)
10 am-9 pm

*John Beargrease
Cutest Puppy Contest*
February 26

*NORSHOR THEATRE
Undergroundhog Day Festival*
February 5 (Sat.) 9 pm

*SACRED HEART MUSIC CENTER
Wedding Show Open House*
January 16 (Sun.) 1-3 pm

*An Evening of Bluegrass
with Monroe Crossing*
January 29 (Saturday), 7 pm

LET THE SHOWS BEGIN



The much anticipated opening of the Duluth 10 Movie Theatre came just days before Christmas, and large crowds packed the complex for its debut.

Movie fans now have an opportunity to catch their favorite show right in the heart of the Downtown Waterfront. Cinema Entertainment Corporation operates the 10-screen facility at the DECC and company leaders say the great freeway access and visibility attracted them to the project, as well its proximity to restaurants and retail.

CEC also owns Lakes 10 and Cinema 8 in Hermantown, as well as Superior 7 in Superior. With the opening of Duluth 10, CEC is converting Cinema 8 into a theatre for second-run shows.

For years, businesses in the downtown area have expressed a desire to see a first-run movie theatre in their neighborhood. Such a development is expected to bring

Studies indicate approximately 43% of moviegoers enjoy dining out before or after going to the theater.

substantial spin-off business to the area, especially for restaurants. Studies indicate approximately 43% of moviegoers enjoy dining out before or after going to the theatre. In addition, some of them may also take in some shopping. And with a skywalk connection, the theatre is well-positioned for easy access and parking.

Higher traffic, more entertainment offerings and late-night activity—the movie theatre hits a home run in helping to build a more vibrant Downtown. GDC

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cover story continued ...

that reconfigured the interstate highway system. In addition, the downtown boasts more than 2,500 new residential units, two state of the art baseball and football stadiums for Cincinnati's beloved Reds and Bengals, and a new performing arts center with an adjoining Backstage entertainment district. Building upon this excitement and

energy is the addition of 20 new restaurants, a new Lazarus Macy's Department Store and a new commitment from Saks Fifth Avenue. The DCI's Safe/Clean/welcoming programs have been the foundation upon which all progress- and future progress- is built.

Ginsburg will share his expertise on what Safe & Clean means to a community and

how his organization helped play a role in the city's renaissance. He has been with DCI since its inception, and prior to joining the organization, Ginsburg spent 23 years in the retail industry with Marshall Field's and U.S. Shoe Corporation. **GDC**

DOWNTOWN GAINS ADDITIONAL POLICE COVERAGE



Welcome Officer Erickson!

Business owners and employees should be pleased to hear about a few new changes in the Duluth Police Department.

The Downtown District has been assigned an additional officer named Charlie Erickson. He joins Officer Laura Napurski in providing full-time foot patrol service through out the district. Erickson has been with the Duluth Police Department for more than 11 years, and had been assigned to the Harbor View Project. However, with the reconstruction taking place at that location, Erickson was reassigned to provide added protection downtown, with a focus on First Street.

In addition, Sergeant Shelley Johnson will be directly supervising the team of downtown community officers, which also includes Officers Mike Tinsley and Barry Midthun. Johnson was previously the Central High School Liaison Officer before taking on her new position as Central Community Sergeant. Sergeant Johnson is looking forward to collaborating with downtown stakeholders on tackling crimes impacting the central business district. **GDC**

DOWNTOWN IS A PLAY GROUND

Local and emerging artists in Duluth will soon have a new option for showcasing and exploring their art form. Plus businesses can also get in on the deal. The Duluth Playhouse soon will be unveiling a 70-seat theatre called "The Play Ground" in the Technology Village. The new facility is in the final stages of construction as workers prepare for an opening in February.

For approximately two years, the Playhouse has been working on the concept of the Play Ground and staff has been busy securing grants to help turn a dream into reality.

"This is not just about producing plays," says Playhouse executive director Christine Grادل Seitz. "This is about providing an intimate and friendly place for emerging or experienced artists of all disciplines to share their talents, as well as a place for businesses to conduct presentations."

The theatre will be owned and managed by the Playhouse, but Grادل Seitz says they will continue to carry on their play season at the Duluth Depot stage. However, it will allow them to take on a few performances that don't fit in their regular season, such as their upcoming presentation, "The Laramie Project."

The Play Ground name was inspired by the thought that it should be a venue where artists can feel that it's okay to roll up their sleeves and play around. Already the Playhouse has been recruiting artists, and interest has come from individual performers such as dancers to playwrights.

"Every artist wants to refine their skills," says Grادل Seitz. "We want to accommodate these artists and help them with audience building, as well as a place for businesses to conduct presentations."

Because of its commitment to the arts in our community, the Playhouse is willing to take on a bit of a risk with this project. The organization will not be charging artists to use the space, but as the presenter and marketing entity, it will share a portion of ticket sales.

"We really want to build audiences for more eclectic and innovative art forms in our community," expresses Grادل Seitz. "We know it's going to take time to build that audience, but it's an expansive and diverse group and we've got our sights set on them."

While the project is a significant investment for the organization, Grادل Seitz says A & L Properties, the owner of the Technology Village, has also been a strong supporter and contributor.

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for February 3rd, 2005. **GDC**

DULUTH DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT DISTRICT RAMP UP IN 2005

Implementation plans are underway as enhanced services and programs will hit the streets and skywalks of the Downtown Waterfront this month.

Services will continue to ramp up over the next few months until the district reaches its peak operation this summer. Look for the Duluth Downtown

Waterfront District staff in bright neon and blue uniforms as they take on the roles of helping to make the area cleaner, safer and friendlier. The group will be led by Operations Manager Jim Janousek.

The retired City of Duluth Police Officer comes to this position with 26 years of experience in law enforcement, and we

know you'll agree, he's a friendly face out on the street. The Greater Downtown Council is pleased to welcome Jim to his new position in the district.



Join us at the GDC Annual Dinner Meeting to meet Jim and some of our additional clean & safe staff who will be working hard to strengthen the core of our city. Property owners will soon receive deployment plans for the district, including contact information for staff members. **GDC**

2005 BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Greater Downtown Council brings forth the following slate of candidates for the 2005 Board of Directors:

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Dan Maddy
Fryberger Buchanan Law Firm

Vice-Chair
Tim Meininger
Beacon Bank

Secretary-Treasurer
Bill Bennett
LHB, Inc.

Immediate Past Chair
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(For Second Term)
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Merry Wallin-*Clear Channel Radio*

(For First Term)
Russ Schumacher-*Minnesota Power*
Roger Waller-*City of Duluth, Ex Officio*
Laura Ness-*Vintage Duluth*

IT RAINED ON OUR PARADE! Despite the rain, spirits weren't dampened during the **45th Annual Christmas City of the North Parade**. This large winter event in Downtown Duluth kicked off the holiday season, and despite the unusual rainy weather for November, it was a great success. Thousands of people lined the streets to brave the rain and wind, and more flocked to the skywalk system for warmth and shelter. Raincoats and umbrellas were the chosen attire for the evening.

Cheers of Happy Holidays! And Merry Christmas! echoed from participants and spectators along the street. Smiles were seen on the faces of children and adults viewing the 60 units that participated in the parade. Among the units was the DTA red trolley filled with members, family members, and friends representing the Greater Downtown Council. These participants were busy in the trolley singing carols and spreading holiday greetings.

Next year, don't be bashful, come and participate in the parade by riding the DTA red trolley and help spread holiday greetings from Downtown Duluth.

