



Annual Report 2017-2018



St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District
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Message from the Director:



The heart of the city, downtown continues to make incredible progress on its goals of rehabilitation. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District uses its resources to help to establish those goals and improve the viability of the downtown community. Downtown is the cultural center of a community and creating a healthy environment is essential for the growth and prosperity of the entire community.

The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District was formed on September 6, 2011 as a special taxing district to provide funding for capital improvements, beautification, marketing and business assistance in the downtown area. Funding for the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is derived by a half cent sales tax and a property tax equivalent to fifty cents per one hundred dollars of valuation on downtown property. The total tax that was generated in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2018 was \$99,677.

The money generated by the tax was utilized by the board of directors to pay for several projects in the central business district helping to maintain and improve the creative and growing economic atmosphere. In the year 2017-2018, the district contributed \$45,048 toward cultural and economic activities assisting in the continued development of downtown.

We welcome tourists and citizens from the community to downtown St. Joseph, the cultural center of our community. We encourage individuals to stroll down the historic streets and marvel at the marvelous architecture that has been or is being brought back to life, interact with the individuals that have made the urban core of the city their home and enjoy being entertained with all the events, artwork, unique shops and locally owned restaurants that we have to offer.

Thank you for reading about all the great projects funded by the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District in 2017-2018.

Rhabecca Boerkircher

Rhabecca Boerkircher
Executive Director

Our Mission

The mission of the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is to create and promote economic and cultural opportunities within the district by providing businesses and residents a means to fund new services and capital improvements.

The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District was a supporter of downtown events, services and economic development.

“Sounds of Summer” Concert Series: Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square has a variety of entertainment options in the summer and fall. The “Sounds of Summer” concert series celebrated it’s twentieth year of providing live music at the park every Friday night from 5 to 9:30 pm. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District was a platinum sponsor of this popular concert series for \$1,200.00.



Imagine 11 Concert Series: Another popular concert series held downtown is the Imagine 11 concert series that is held on Sunday evenings for eleven consecutive weeks beginning in June. This is a alcohol free family friendly event that features a variety of live music bands, food, refreshments and information from several of the downtown churches and organizations. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed \$5,000.00 to this event to assist the planning committee comprised of downtown clergy with expenses associated with hosting the festival.



Joestock Festival: The St. Joseph Music Foundation hosts a Joestock Festival every Labor Day Weekend. This two day event features area local bands and musicians. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed \$500.00 to this festival to assist with marketing expenses.



Handpicked Series: Under the Big Oak Tree presented the second season of its seasonally –themed concert series, Handpicked. The series consisted of three original concert programs presented free to the public during first Saturday afternoons at the Paradox Theater. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District sponsored the series by providing \$500.00 to assist them in marketing the series.



Canopies: The canopies at Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square are used for every event and festival that happens downtown. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District paid \$500.00 to have them washed and repaired.



Sculpture Walk: The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is a supporter of public art. Once again, the district was the platinum sponsor of the 2017-2018 Sculpture Walk and contributed \$15,000.00 to the project. This is the fifth year for the project that is spearheaded by the Allied Arts Council. Fifteen new sculptures from artists across the United States have made St. Joseph their home for one year. Due to the generosity of Buchanan County, the Allied Arts Council was able to put two sculptures in the permanent collection last year.



Grants:

Three years ago, the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District began a grant program to provide gap financing for property owners making substantial improvements to their properties. This year, the district awarded two \$10,000.00 grants for property development. The first grant was given to Pat and Terri Modlin for the remodel of their building at 722 Felix Street. The grant helped them obtain their goal of creating a unique and elegant environment for business and personal events, Room 108.



The second grant was given to Family Guidance Center to assist with the funding needed to complete their two and a half million dollar renovation to their building at 901 Felix Street. For more than 100 years, Family Guidance Center has worked to create real change in the lives of thousands of local children and families, leading the charge in promoting behavioral health as an integral component of every person's overall health. They also are committed to the community by saving a historical asset in our downtown!



Holiday Lights: The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District funded \$1,000.00 for the installation, take down and storage of the downtown holiday lights. The lights add a festive ambiance to the downtown area. Last year, the district was requested to leave the lights up after the holiday season to facilitate a feature length movie that was being shot in the downtown, Christmas at the Chateau. The movie will debut in December!



Concessions Building: The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District has a lease from the city on the concessions building at 7th and Felix Street. The building is a wonderful asset for downtown festivals and events. Organizations can rent the building for restrooms for their events and sell concessions to help support their causes. The district spent \$4,228.00 for utilities, maintenance, insurance and audio/video upgrades to the building.

Eagle Scout Project:

Sebastion Perry requested assistance from the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District to complete his Eagle Scout Project. The district provided funding of \$348.00 to assist Sebastion in producing historical plaques to place on some of the buildings downtown. The plaques tell some of the historical facts about the community.



The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is partners with the City of St. Joseph, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, Mosaic Life Care, Buchanan County and the St. Joseph Downtown Association to fund an office and staff to work on common goals for downtown. The office is located at 713 Edmond St. and the District paid \$15,600.00 to assist with funding for this organization.

Downtown Beautification

The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is committed to making downtown an attractive place to live, work and visit. With this goal in mind, the district invested \$5,657.00 to have the large concrete planters downtown planted, trash pick up for the area and the maintenance of the Gateway Park.



Marketing: In an effort to better communicate what is happening downtown, the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District maintains a website **downtownstjoemo.com**. Maintenance of the site is approximately \$3,000.00 per year. The district also facilitates a facebook page.

Downtown St. Joseph continues to evolve and change as individuals and property owners continue to invest in the area. Many of the downtown properties have been rehabilitated or are in the process of being transformed back to the original architecture that has made us unique as a community. The Arts and Entertainment District continues to develop with locally owned restaurants, businesses and a variety of entertainment options. Downtown is becoming viable again and a "fun" place to be!

Leadership Commitment

The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District board of Directors reflects a diversity of professions and viewpoints. Directors either own property or represent a property owner in the district. Board Members are:



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