



# **ST. JOSEPH** *Downtown* **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**Annual Report 2014-2015**

St. Joseph Community Improvement District  
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## *Message from the Director:*

The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is putting its tax dollars to good use to improve the historic downtown area. The district was formed on September 6, 2011 as a special taxing district to improve the downtown area. Funding for the district is derived by a half cent sales tax and a property tax equivalent to fifty cents per one hundred dollars of property valuation. The total tax generated in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2015 was \$124,605.



The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed over \$76,000 to improve the cultural and economic development opportunities downtown. Historic downtown St. Joseph continues to become more viable and increasingly welcomes new residents and businesses. Downtown property owners are investing in their properties and creating opportunities for business development. Derelict properties are being purchased and rehabilitated bringing new life to these impeccable pieces of architecture and creating a vibrant central business district that the entire community can take pride in.

Thank you for reading about all the great projects funded by the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District in 2014-2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rhabecca Boerkircher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rhabecca Boerkircher  
Executive Director

# Our Mission

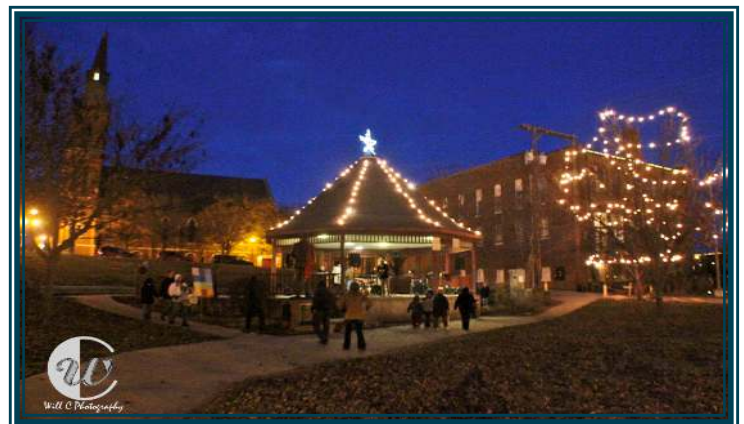
**The mission of the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is to create and promote economic and cultural opportunities within the district by providing businesses and residents a means to fund new services and capital improvements**

Projects funded by the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District:

Downtown Events:

The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District partnered with the St. Joseph Downtown Association by assisting with funding for several downtown events. They include...

**Christmas at the Square:** The holidays are a very festive time downtown and the St. Joseph Community Improvement District contributed \$2,252 dollars to the marketing and promotion of the holiday event, Christmas at the Square. They also contributed \$1,200 toward the addition of new lights, installation of holiday lights and the cost of taking down the lights and storing them for the next season. Christmas at the Square featured free carriage rides, refreshments, carolers and a visit with Santa to usher in the holiday season!



**Discover Downtown:** This event was held on Apple Blossom weekend. The annual Apple Blossom Parade, St. Joseph's biggest event of the year, went through the heart of downtown. Discover Downtown capitalized on this by allowing entrepreneurs to set up pop up businesses in some of the vacant spaces. As a result of this event, two new businesses have opened! The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District provided \$1,000 toward the marketing of this event.



**“Sounds of Summer” Concert Series:** Downtown rocks during the summer with many live music events and festivals at Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed \$500 to be a sponsor of the “Sounds of Summer” concert series.



**Vinyl Pictures:** The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District also partnered with the Downtown Association by funding vinyl pictures to be placed in the windows of an underutilized building downtown. The result added vibrancy to the area and they also placed an interactive sign in one of the windows with the schedule of all the events taking place at Coleman Hawkins Park at Felix Street Square. The cost of this project was \$2,724.



**Sculpture Walk:** For the second year, the St. Joseph Community Improvement District partnered with the Allied Arts Council and the City of St. Joseph to unveil a sculpture walk. The Allied Arts Council was able to increase the number of sculptures on display from 14 to 17. The sculpture walk is an exhibit where artists place their work for one year. Individuals are invited to take the walk and vote for their favorite. The sculpture with the most votes will win the Peoples Choice award. A sculpture will be purchased at the conclusion of the year to be placed on permanent display. All the pieces are available for purchase. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed \$15,000 for this project.



**Photo Gallery Project:** Fixing up the facades of derelict buildings and creating a positive image goes a long way toward economic development. Spearheaded by Jo Anne Grey and Laurel Vardebedian, the Photo Gallery Project was designed to take a run down façade and make it look nice by adding historic photos to the windows and painting the façade. The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed approximately \$5,000 to this viable project.



**Banners:** The District purchased new banners that will be displayed on the light poles downtown next year. The banners feature ten different designs and the cost was \$2,045.



**Mural:** The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District contributed \$4,000 for the completion and plaque describing the project for the “Paint the Town!” downtown mural. The mural depicts western migration and was the project was orchestrated by the St. Joseph Downtown Partnership and River City Development Committee did the fundraising. Mural artist, Sam Welty of Chesapeake, Virginia was commissioned to paint the mural. Mr. Welty was chosen because of his expertise in painting large murals in other cities. The mural depicts the spirit and adventure of our community’s unique historic past.



**Grants:** The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District initiated a grant program this year. The first recipient was the Ballinger Building LLC. The property owner received \$10,000 to assist with the cost of the fire protection system in the building. The building is now home to Bourbon Street Restaurant, a Cajun restaurant.



**Gateway Park Maintenance:** The Gateway Park was constructed in 2004. This park is located in one of the major gateways into downtown. Its maintenance is important because it is the first impression that individuals get when they enter the downtown area from I-229. The District spent approximately \$3,000 on the maintenance of this park.



**Planters:** The St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District is committed to helping create a pedestrian friendly environment downtown. With this as a goal, the district invested in several large planters several years ago. The district pays about \$2,000 to have the planters planted and maintained every summer. The planters add nice color and help to beautify the area.

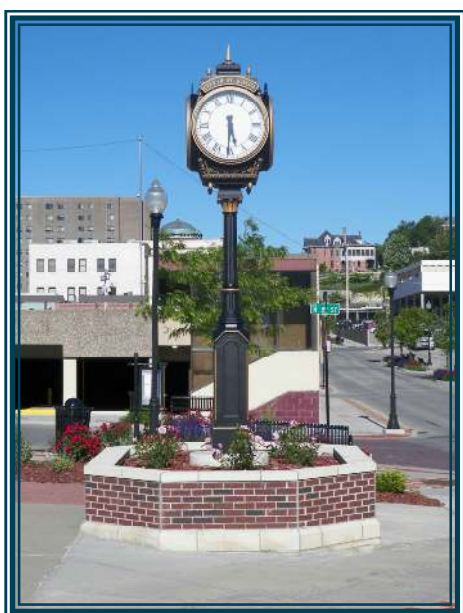


**Trash Pick-up:** Keeping downtown clean is a priority! Therefore, the St. Joseph Downtown Community Improvement District pays about \$3,000 per year to collect trash from the downtown trash cans weekly.

**St. Joseph Downtown Partnership:** The St. Joseph Community Improvement District is a funding partner for the St. Joseph Downtown Partnership. They work cooperatively 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. next to the historic Missouri Theater. The district pays \$24,500 to fund this organization.



**Website:** In an effort to better communicate what the district is spending their money on and what is happening downtown they created a website for the district. To find out what is going on in the district go to **[downtownstjoemo.com](http://downtownstjoemo.com)**. The creation of the website was approximately \$1,300. Maintenance of the site will be \$249 per month.



## 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.

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