# Managing your Downtown



### What is a Management District





#### **Provides Essential Services:**

including security, maintenance, marketing, economic development, special events, etc.

- Over & beyond what government provides
- Concentrated within a distinct geographic area
- Paid for by a special property owner assessment
- Services managed by a not for profit organization
- Organization governed by a Board
- Board Directors represent those who pay

#### Benefits of Districts

1500+ Management Districts in North America

#### **Common successes:**

improved property values

increased sales

reduced crime

enhanced physical appearance

increased numbers of people using downtown for a variety of purposes

Speaking with one voice – creating the collective clout

### What you can do

### Districts typically serve some or all of the following 10 functions:

**Maintenance**. Collecting rubbish, removing litter and graffiti, washing sidewalks, shoveling snow, cutting grass, trimming trees, planting flowers in public places.

**Security and hospitality** Hiring uniformed security and street "guides" or "ambassadors"; buying and installing electronic security equipment or special police equipment, staffing sidewalk tourism kiosks.

**Consumer marketing.** Producing festivals and events; coordinating sales promotions, producing maps and newsletters; launching image enhancement and advertising campaigns; erecting directional signage.

**Business recruitment and retention** Conducting market research; producing data-oriented reports; offering financial incentives for new and expanding businesses; marketing to investors.

**Public space regulation.** Managing sidewalk vending, street performances, street furniture, code compliance.

### What you can do - continued

Districts typically serve some or all of the following 10 functions cont.:

Main Street

**Parking and transportation management**. Managing the public parking system; maintaining transit shelters; operating ridesharing programs.

**Urban design**. Developing urban design guidelines; managing facade improvement programs.

**Social services**. Creating or aiding help-the-homeless, job training, and youth services programs.

Visioning. Developing a vision or strategic plan.

**Capital improvements** Installing pedestrian-scale lighting and street furniture; planting and maintaining trees and flowers.





























## What Other Cities Have Done



#### **Safety Ambassadors**

- Program designed using proven methods utilized by over 125 downtown organizations across the country
- Aimed at improving the safety, friendliness and accessibility of downtown visitors, residents, and workers
- An excellent tool for addressing
  Homelessness in the district and changing
  not only the reality but the perception of the
  downtown area





### **Ground Support**

#### Ground Support on the streets

- Provide enhanced cleaning services and customer service
- Trained as tourism ambassadors to be well-versed on the area attractions, events, and businesses



"You think something is clean if it looks clean, you know it is clean when you see someone cleaning it." - Disney School of Management

#### Streetscape Improvement & Maintenance









### Beautification

- Planter boxes
- Hanging Baskets
- Electrical box beautification









### Street Banners and Signage





### Façade Improvements



**After** 

#### **Before**

- Develop Design Guidelines
- Manage Improvement Initiatives
- Find matching Grants and encourage participation



### Marketing and Promotions



#### **Reasons to Act**

Support new programs and events bringing targeted segments to Downtown.



#### Hire Staff — A Downtown Professional

The Executive Director (a seasoned professional) will take a proactive approach in developing and implementing programs

- Coordinate desired programs
  - Clean and Safe
  - marketing
  - event coordination and production
  - Façade improvements
- Facilitate board & committee meetings
- Government liaison
  - -Advocate in policy discussions
  - -Leverage more benefits/money for district







#### Cross-Education

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**INFO TO PROPERTY OWNERS** 



#### **INFO FROM PROPERTY OWNERS**

#### **Hear Opinion/Find Consensus on:**

- Perceived needs
- Priorities for improvement
- Which services are desired
- Costs and willingness to pay

#### **Outreach/Inform:**

- What is a Management District
- How Districts Benefit Stakeholders
- Case Studies from Other Cities

# District Formation



Feasibility



Organizational Infrastructure



Service Plan



Consensus



Marketing/Education



Support

#### Formation Process



**BOUNDARIES** 



**SERVICES** 



**BUDGET** 



**DATA** 



**MAPS** 



METHODOLOGY



**COLLECTION** 

#### Assesments

#### Everyone pays their fair share



Create Plan and Budget



Create Assessment to match budget



Assessment is a Surcharge on Property Tax