



# Discovery Special Improvement District 2020 IMPACT REPORT





## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

2020 was an unprecedented year with the pandemic forcing companies to have their employees work from home and institutions of higher education to have students learn from home. For a few months, our cultural institutions closed to prevent the spread of the virus, only to open to a decline of visitors.

Amid this turmoil, the Discovery SID neighborhood grew with the opening of six new apartment buildings, bringing more residents to our area.

Our Discovery SID bike ambassadors and special duty police officers are to be commended for keeping our downtown neighborhood safe. Seeing the familiar faces in red shirts or jackets put us all at ease as we navigated the nearly vacant streets and sidewalks.

And kudos to our homeless outreach team, Bill and Ryan, for continuing their great work to help people living on the street find a safe place to stay.

I am proud of the Discovery SID team for their efforts to identify the needs of downtown amid the pandemic by raising funds to get portable toilets and handwashing stations placed in downtown. The team also collaborated with the Coalition for the Homeless to open warming stations in Trinity Episcopal Church, Broad Street United Methodist Church, First Congregational Church, and the Columbus Metropolitan Main Library.

Our SID ambassadors, outreach team, and staff have been, and truly are, some of the unsung heroes helping others during this incredibly challenging time.

Thanks to your continued support, I know the Discovery Special Improvement District will remain resilient and come back stronger than before.

Cordially,

**Carl W. Brown**

*Board Chair, Discovery Special Improvement District*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### CHAIR

**Carl Brown**

*Franklin University*

**Jeffrey Mohrman**

*Vera on Broad*

### VICE CHAIR

**Anthony Wilson**

*Columbus Metropolitan Library*

**Kara Newbury**

*Junior League of Columbus*

**Lisa Stoneman**

*CCAD*

### SECRETARY

**Rebecca West**

*Resident*

**Peggy Volpe**

*Grant-Cleveland LLC*

**Randy Walker**

*Commercial One Realtors*

### TREASURER

**Ralph Smithers, Jr.**

*Encova Insurance*

**(Vacant)**

*Capital University Law School*

### PAST CHAIR

**Matthew Miller**

*Grant Medical Center*

### EX OFFICIO

**Cathryn Geppert**

*Discovery District Civic Association*

### TRUSTEES

**Kyle Anderson**

*State Auto Insurance*

**Robb Coventry**

*Columbus State Community College*

**Joe Henderson**

*Rich Street Lofts*

**Amanda Kepner**

*Columbus Museum of Art*

**Matthew Loving**

*Loving Realty*

**Mark Lundine**

*City of Columbus*

**Donald McTigue**

*McTigue & Colombo LLC*

## STAFF

**Marc Conte,**

*Acting Executive Director*

**Michelle Chippas,**

*Director of Communications & Engagement*

**Lisa Defendiefer,**

*Deputy Director of Operations & Advocacy*

## OUR MISSION

The Discovery Special Improvement District helps property owners create and maintain a safe, vibrant, diverse, distinctive, and walkable mixed-use neighborhood.

# SAFETY

Discovery SID safety ambassadors are a visible, uniformed, friendly, and welcoming presence in our downtown district. They patrol downtown by bike six days a week to welcome visitors, employees, and residents, and direct individuals in need to appropriate social service resources.

The ambassadors report criminal and nuisance activity and work with our special duty police officers to address unlawful behavior and improve public safety downtown.

The SID utilizes a security network of 51 public and private security managers to communicate and track downtown activity by radio in real time. Together they can respond to situations quickly.

## STAYING SAFE DURING COVID-19

As essential workers, the SID's ambassadors played a crucial role during the pandemic by providing a reassuring presence and being proactive during this critical time. Ambassadors took every precaution to keep the public and themselves safe, including:

- Wearing masks and observing social distancing.
- Cleaning their equipment and in the public areas of the SIDs office.
- Topping off overflowing city trash receptacles to protect city refuse collectors from potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Modifying their work schedule to reduce the chance of exposure of the entire team.



1,079

Safety escorts

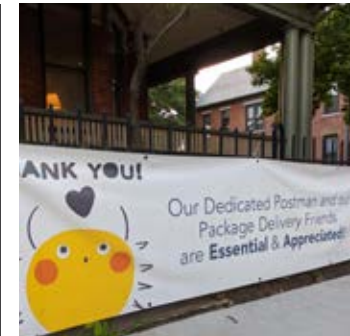
1,079

Graffiti tags removed



9,877  
HOURS

Safety service



5,543 MILES  
of bike patrols



49

Police collaboration

2,721

Special duty  
police hours



73

Quality of life issues  
resolved\*

*\*Includes trespassing, suspicious person, aggressive panhandling, mental disturbances, fights, narcotic complaints, and open container.*



343

Public relations check-ins  
with building security

39

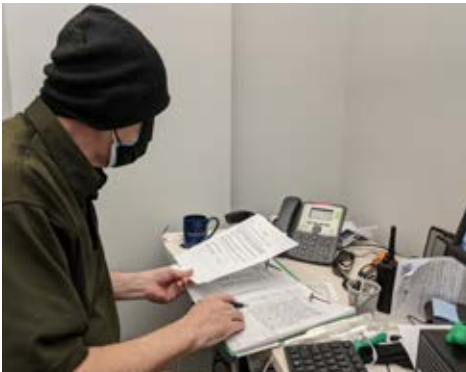
Wellness checks performed

# HOMELESS OUTREACH



The Capital Crossroads & Discovery SID homeless outreach team works tirelessly with the downtown's homeless population.

The team assisted nearly 1,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, connecting them to social services, assisting them with obtaining birth certificates, and social security cards.



**986**

People were assisted on the street, in the SID office, at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, in The Open Shelter or by phone

**99**

People were able to move off the street into shelter, permanent supportive housing and private housing, or were able to travel to stay with family or friends

**35**

Birth certificates secured

**3,680 HOURS**

of homeless outreach provided



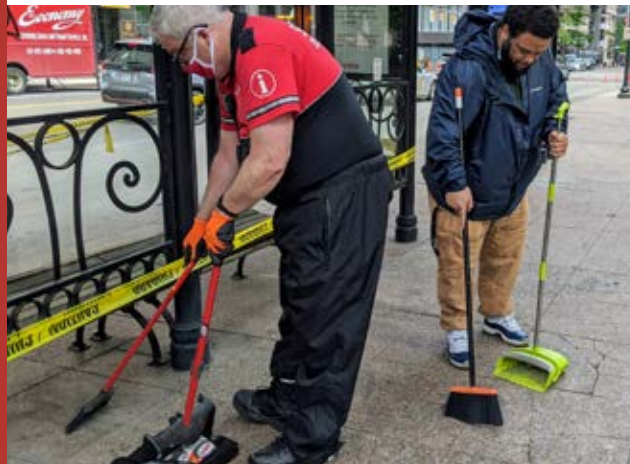


## SHOUTOUT TO DOWNTOWN CHAMPIONS:

Following the “stay in place” order by Governor Mike DeWine in March, the SIDs secured funding from the **United Way of Central Ohio** and the **City of Columbus** to place portable toilets and handwashing stations in high traffic areas downtown. Additional funding to extend the placement of the toilets came from the **ADAMH Board of Franklin County** and **Encova Insurance**.

Access to public restrooms, a challenge in the best of times, became more urgent with the closure of institutions, churches, and social service providers. Without access to basic hygiene, people experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to spreading and catching COVID-19.

Many entities that traditionally serve people in need either closed or limited their operations. Thankfully, the **YMCA, Faith Mission, The Open Shelter, Columbus Coalition for the Homeless, Southeast Healthcare, Trinity Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church, Broad Street United Methodist Church, and Columbus Metropolitan Library** stepped up to fill those gaps. These entities provided and continue to provide temporary shelter, warming centers, food, mental health services, and other resources to those who need them, even in the middle of a pandemic. The warming stations were made possible through funding from **United Way of Central Ohio, the Columbus Foundation, and the Community Shelter Board**.



## SHOUTOUT TO DOWNTOWN CHAMPIONS:

Although the vast majority of protests this spring and summer were peaceful, chaos erupted downtown in late May and tremendous destruction took place. Commercial buildings, residential properties, colleges, and other institutions were hit hard. Most notable were the small businesses that were absolutely hammered.

SID ambassadors were downtown during the protests and some of the first individuals on the street sweeping up glass, power washing, and removing graffiti. Others were quick to lend a hand. **Franklin County Public Facilities Management** helped with graffiti removal. Volunteers and others, like **DRAC (Downtown Residents’ Association of Columbus)** and **IREM (the Institute of Real Estate Management)**, coordinated additional cleanup efforts.

# DOGS OF DOWNTOWN



**12,000**

Dog bags were replenished in DSID's dog waste stations

**7**

Dog waste stations in DSID were maintained



## SID LEADER RETIRES

**Cleve Ricksecker** retired from the Discovery SID after being downtown's biggest booster for the last 20 years. He left his mark on Columbus through previous roles with GCAC, the Short North Business Association, and Riverfront Commons Corporation. But we all know him for his role in creating both special improvement districts and his unwavering passion to do everything he could to make sure downtown thrived.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS:



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

As of December 31, 2020, Unaudited

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Cash-undesignated	\$201,987
Total cash and equivalents	201,987
Accounts Receivable	42,032
Prepaid expenses	29,115
Total Current Assets	273,133

#### Fixed Assets

Equipment and vehicles, at cost	96,597
Accumulated depreciation	(81,373)
Net Fixed Assets	15,223

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$288,356</b>
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### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$30,605
Accrued expenses	5,308
Capital lease obligation, current portion	778
Total Current Liabilities	36,691

#### Noncurrent Liabilities

Capital lease obligation, less current portion	1,051
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	1,051

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>37,742</b>
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#### Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	250,614
With donor restrictions	-
Total Net Assets	\$250,614

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$288,356</b>
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Complete audited statements for 2020 will be available by April. Please visit [DowntownServices.org](http://DowntownServices.org) and click on "Discovery."

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in net assets	\$103,567
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
Depreciation	9,135
Loss on disposal of asset	-
(Increase) decrease in assets:	
Accounts receivable	8,950
Prepaid expenses	(24,551)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:	
Accounts payable	20,178
Accrued expenses	(3,435)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>113,843</u>

### Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Purchase of fixed assets	(1,261)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	(1,261)

### Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Principal payments of capital lease obligation	(725)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	(725)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>111,857</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>90,130</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$201,987</u>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Change in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions:

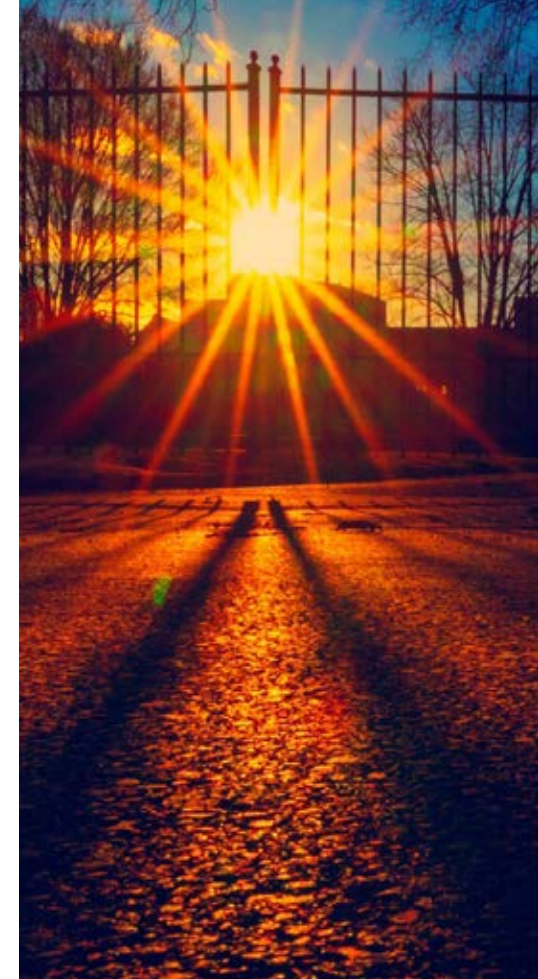
Revenue:	
Assessments	\$624,919
Contributions	180,757
Promotions	250
Grants	7,553
Interest	52
Miscellaneous	34,500
Total revenue without donor restrictions	<u>848,031</u>

### Expenses:

Clean and safe	600,910
Landscaping and maintenance	8,716
Communications and research	36,015
General and administrative	98,824
Total Expenses	<u>744,464</u>

### Change in Net Assets without Donor Restrictions 103,567

Change in Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	-
Change in Net Assets	<u>103,567</u>
Net Assets-Beginning of Year	<u>147,048</u>
Net Assets-End of Year	<u>\$250,614</u>



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