

Discovery Special Improvement District

R 2016 Annual Report



DISCOVERY
Special
Improvement
District





From the Chairman

Discovery Special Improvement District (SID) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. Take a stroll along Long Street or near Topiary Park and the library, and you'll see plenty of changes throughout the district. The Discovery SID's focus on safety and collaboration continues to strengthen this vibrant neighborhood.

Inside this report, you'll find information about the Downtown champions recognized during our annual meeting featuring acclaimed author and community engagement expert Peter Kageyama.

Peter's talk was incredibly timely given the Discovery SID's current placemaking initiatives, which will showcase the district's identity as a neighborhood of arts, culture and knowledge.

You'll also read highlights about the SID's dedicated safety team and homeless outreach services, which remain the mainstay of the Discovery SID Mission. In the coming year, be on the lookout for one-stop-shopping information on a redesigned DowntownColumbus.com.

Jeff Fisher

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About Us

Discovery SID began operating in 2007. Property owners assess themselves to provide much-needed services within the Discovery District. Services do not replace what the City does. Instead, SID assessments expand and hone in on initiatives that complement this unique Downtown neighborhood where culture, art and academia converge. Through public-private partnerships, Discovery SID leverages additional support from corporate and philanthropic organizations to benefit this Downtown gem.

Discovery SID goes above and beyond what any one entity could do. Together, this group of invested property owners – more than 250 property owners in 284 acres – helps this community realize its potential.

Discovery SID property owners determine its priorities, which focus on safety initiatives and social service outreach. Right-of-way enhancements and area promotions round out the plan for services.

Mission Statement

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

PHOTO CREDITS: Melissa Fast, Andy Spessard, Keith Hollingsworth, Cass Freeland, Headshots Columbus, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Jennifer McNally

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“

I met with your representatives this week and cannot tell you how excited we are to have the doggy stations in the park. I even asked for one more! MANY THANKS for a wonderful public service!”

Carlene K. Palmquist | TOPIARY PARK

Engaged & Proactive

Discovery SID employs safety ambassadors and special-duty police officers. In addition, Discovery and Capital Crossroads SIDs engage two full-time homeless outreach specialists. Together they focus on a holistic approach to crime prevention, but it doesn't stop there. Through our award-winning, public-private partnership, the Security Managers Information Network of Ohio (SMINO), the SID connects Downtown private security officers with the Columbus Division of Police in real-time over a secure radio system.





Collaboration

- Collaborated with the Division of Police to address safety issues nearly 200 times.
- Responded to nearly 220 calls for service related to quality of life concerns such as general disturbances, intoxication, panhandling and trespassing.
- Hosted six meetings with downtown security managers in which the Division of Police and City Attorney's Office provided training.
- Coordinated 10 neighborhood meetings to address community concerns and discuss upcoming events.
- Advocated with the City of Columbus and Franklin County for additional resources for homeless outreach services.

Special Duty Officers

- Provided nearly 4,000 hours of service in the Discovery SID neighborhood.
- Involved with 6 arrests and wrote 2 citations.

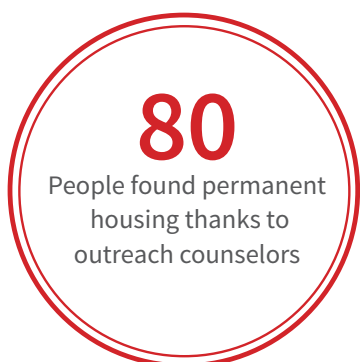
Ambassador Safety Services

- Provided more than 11,600 hours of service.
- Removed nearly 190 graffiti tags.
- Provided more than 110 safety escorts.
- Delivered a reassuring presence as they patrolled nearly 8,860 miles on bikes.
- Received regular training throughout the year, including CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events), IPMBA (International Police and Mountain Bike Association), Threat Knowledge Group Training, Defensive Tactics, CPR & First Aid Training and Effective Communications Training.
- Provided weekly communication of criminal "hot spot" activities, including people of interest, to the Columbus Division of Police's 16th Precinct officers.



Compassion

- Provided 3,280 service hours for homeless outreach in downtown; nearly 300 hours at the Main Library.
- Found shelter or permanent housing for 80 people experiencing homelessness (Both SIDs).
- Helped more than 100 people obtain birth certificates, which is essential to obtain permanent housing and jobs.
- Worked with Columbus Division of Police Liaison Officer, the Engagement Center at Maryhaven and Faith Mission to address an area homeless camp.





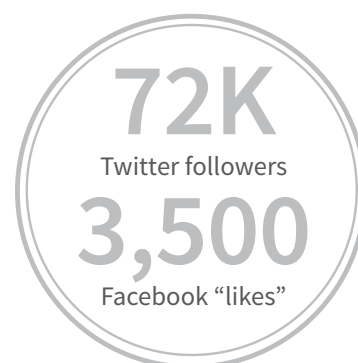
“

Museum staff observed someone suspicious milling around, and they notified SID for assistance, provided a description, and SID responded. This incident outcome is a big success for our partnership with the SID. I was very impressed with everyone involved. What a team!”

Rod Bouc, Executive Deputy Director of Operations and Chief Registrar | COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART

Active & Involved

The Discovery SID promotes the district through active and robust promotions and special events. In addition, integrated digital marketing boosts the image of the district, which garners attention from the media and community alike. The image of the district is enhanced in a variety of ways:





Community Engagement

- Produced Topiary Park Summer Movie Series, which experienced record attendance.
- Activated the neighborhood with Discovery Beach sand volleyball court for area residents, students and employees.
- Sponsored PBJ & Jazz Concert Series.
- Produced Biannual *State of Downtown Report* and event, which highlights downtown economic development research and trends.

Awards & Recognition

Each year, Discovery SID recognizes community members who make a significant difference in Downtown in the following categories:

Outstanding Aesthetic Contribution; Outstanding Service; Outstanding Achievement. In addition, the Ambassador of the Year receives accolades.



1

Outstanding Achievement

An accomplishment within the past year by a property owner, city division, tenant or civic organization that deserves special recognition.

Columbus Metropolitan Library Renovation

Columbus Metropolitan Library completely transformed the Main Library with a \$31.8 million renovation. The library now connects with another downtown gem, Topiary Park. The library's second-floor reading room provides spectacular views of the park while patrons engage in the 21st Century interactive learning experience.



2

Outstanding Service

A service in either the public or private sector that makes a significant contribution to downtown.

Columbus Division of Police for Outstanding Collaboration

Scott Peck, 16th Precinct Liaison Officer

Kevin Corcoran, 16th Precinct Sergeant

Larry Nelson, Columbus Police Training Academy Officer

Robert Meader, Columbus Police Training Academy Commander

Robert Strausbaugh, Zone 5 Commander



Safety services make up the vast majority of Capital Crossroads and Discovery SID services, and it's the unique public-private partnership that brought national recognition. These public servants provide invaluable support and information to all of our downtown partners. They truly understand that collaboration acts as a multiplier to every partner's effort, which keeps downtown one of the safest areas of the city. The Columbus Division of Police respects and amplifies the work that the SIDs perform every day.

3

Aesthetic Contribution

A project completed in the past year that added to the beauty, street life, energy, brightness, colorfulness and attractiveness of downtown.

Kramer Engineers for Public Art Restoration

In business for more than 60 years, Kramer Engineers is well known for its work on the James Rhodes State Office Tower, but Kramer Engineers took dedication to a new level when they preserved a piece of public art that had been created more than 20 years ago. Enlisting the help of a CCAD graduate, Kramer Engineers restored the Greta Garbo and John Gilbert mural, which portrayed a famous scene from *Flesh and the Devil*.



4

Ambassador of the Year

Ryan Jefferson

Ryan Jefferson thinks on his feet, and he stretches well beyond his comfort zone to excel in areas such as manning the hospitality information kiosk. He is a quick learner and exceeds expectations. Ryan's quiet and confident personality benefits the Discovery District community.



5

Unsung Hero

A person whose quiet and unrecognized efforts benefit downtown.

Terri Gehr

As a senior leader at Columbus State Community College, Terri led quietly and effectively. Her leadership within the Creative Campus initiatives not only resulted in three-year funding and cooperation from Columbus City Council, but also ensures this area of downtown will truly meet its potential.



Commitment and dedication help Downtown thrive

Discovery SID helps property owners create and maintain a safe, vibrant, diverse, distinctive and walkable neighborhood. Property owners assess themselves to fund SID services. We thank you for your support of downtown.

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