



DOWNTOWN
FRANKFORT
INCORPORATED

KENTUCKY DISTILLED

2022 Annual Report

Downtown Frankfort, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit established to promote historical downtown Frankfort by creating exceptional experiences and aesthetics for all those who live, work and visit. Support and advocate for businesses, residents and tourists through marketing, partnerships, networking platforms and signature events.

President's Message, Anna Beth Bobbitt

Coming off a year with the Covid-19 virus still presenting hardships, 2022 showed the importance of Downtown Frankfort Inc. as we worked to bring downtown Frankfort back to its pre-pandemic vibrancy. DFI's concentration on marketing efforts to reach a regional, state, and multi-state audience throughout the year paid off with roughly 15,000 people coming to downtown for our signature events. As we build out a more robust communication and fundraising plan in 2023, we look forward to providing more support to our core merchants, restaurants and bars and growing the number of businesses in downtown Frankfort. It is important to remember as you reflect on the accomplishments of 2022, that it would not be possible without the many volunteers that are vital to driving our mission forward.

Downtown Investment for 2022

Downtown had a great year for investment. There are many current active projects still taking place. The downtown investment projects in progress between Mero and Main include Sower Building, Firehouse, Insurance Building, Marcus Building, Mason Hogue Building, Nitro Building, Broadway Hotel, and Parcels B&C. The total investment is \$119,100,000. We hope to see many of the projects finish this year!

Parcels B&C TIF Support

The DFI Board feels that the development of Parcels B&C represents the largest economic impact in a generation, that could benefit Downtown Frankfort and the community. The DFI Board still supports the development of Parcels B&C.

DFI Events

DFI kicked off their event season with bringing back the Downtown Derby! We held the Downtown Derby on May 7th, and this was an all-day event. We started the morning off with



Derby breakfast offered at downtown restaurants.

Throughout the day we had Derby hat making, stick horse races, jockey silk decorating, face painting, YMCA Derby dash, live music on the stage,

pedal for the posies, broadcasted the Derby on a large screen, and ended the event with a pub crawl.

Our next event was the Summer Concert Series—awarded “Frankfort’s Fave 2022” by the State Journal. The first concert began on May

27th and the last concert ended on August 5th.



Our first concert on May 9th was our “local” night. We had two local bands perform. This was our first time having a local’s night and we enjoyed it! We had a fan-favorite band return this summer—Alex Key. He jammed out with some country music. We had a variety of genres from 80’s music all the way to rock. WesBanco remained the title sponsor for the series.

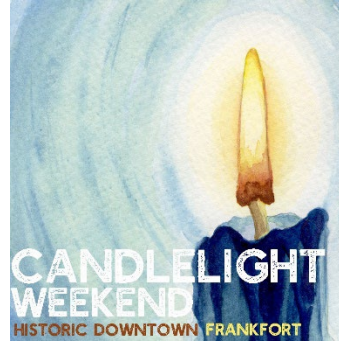


Investors Heritage was also a sponsor for the series. Hulette’s Printing Company provided DFI

with free print posters advertising the concert dates. This event could not be possible without our amazing sponsors. We thank each of them deeply!

DFI supported the Capital City Auto Club Show in showcasing their event in downtown. The car show was held on September 23rd on Broadway. They drew in nearly 200 classic cars and many people to our downtown. We loved working with this group and hope to again in the future.

DFI played the lead role as administrative, fundraising, and supportive planning for the 42nd annual Candlelight event that kicks off the



holiday shopping season.

Commonwealth Credit Union remained the title sponsor. CCU also brought back the ice-skating rink located in the

Farmer’s Market. DFI brought back the carriage rides which is always a fan favorite. The carriage rides were sponsored by Harrod Brothers Funeral Home. KSU played an important role in this year’s event by providing a great performance to open the tree lighting ceremony, volunteers, and face painting for all children. DFI provided Disney characters (Elsa and Olaf) again this year who walked around each night greeting and taking pictures with families. Various merchants participated this year and had their own specials happening in their stores/restaurants, including Liberty Hall and Capital City Museum. Kentucky Historical Society continued being a great community partner with which they provided tours and family-fun activities.

DFI’s major fundraising event of the year, VIP Rare & Collectable Bourbon Auction, was held on September 30th. DFI combined the auction with Bourbon on the Banks Festival. The total raised for Downtown Frankfort, Inc. (DFI) from bottles donated by Buffalo Trace is \$9,125 This

is huge for our small nonprofit that works on supporting development, tourism, and quality of life in downtown Frankfort. This includes direct work in cooperation with the Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist Commission on bourbon tourism.



The overall auction netted \$17,900 for DFI, but the auction would not be the draw that it is without the support of Buffalo Trace and

other local distilleries. We would also like to thank LIFE House, Elks Lodge, YES Arts and Blue Grass Community Foundation.

DFI Board Happenings

DFI welcomed five new board members: Adrienne Liebman, Darnell Owens, Sarah Thompson, Moira Wingate, and Steven Middleton. We updated our mission statement and expanded our boundary map to extend from Buffalo Trace to Cliffside Restaurant. Also, the board voted on 2023 Executive Committee: Anna Beth Bobbitt, President; John Senter, Vice President; Deirdre Calvert, Secretary; Karl Lawrence, Treasurer.

We Moved Office Space

For the past couple years, DFI's office has been at 232 West Main Street. We officially moved in September to 315 West Main Street (Clerks office on the 3rd floor). I absolutely love the new office and very grateful for this opportunity.

Note from Executive Director, Kaylah Smith

I now have a full two years under my belt. While this job has its challenges, it's very rewarding. My favorite part of this job is bringing many people to our downtown; whether it's taking a stroll, shopping, eating at our fabulous restaurants, or attending one of the many events. It fulfills me when I see people supporting our downtown and smiling while doing so. I hope to continue to grow and learn more in my position. I am excited to see what this year has in store for Downtown Frankfort!

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