#### **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**





















@revbham <u>revbirmingham.org</u>

#### MISSION

REV creates vibrant commercial districts.

#### VISION

Birmingham is the most vibrant urban market in the Southeast where everyone can realize their dreams.

#### A note from David Fleming, President & CEO

Good things are happening in Birmingham. In 2022, we saw continued economic recovery from COVID impacts, with foot traffic and daily presence of employees downtown improving and the same increasing in Woodlawn. But Birmingham still has great potential and urgent need to grow and become more vibrant, more inclusive, more renowned. REV's new three-year strategic plan is already underway, as we build on our 2022 impacts and work toward our vision of Birmingham as the most vibrant urban market in the Southeast where everyone can realize their dreams.

More than ever, REV's work is focused on harnessing and multiplying the power of place. In Downtown and Woodlawn, REV is leading projects and programs that are essential to creating vibrant places that retain their authenticity and character as the city grows:

- Creating high-quality places and keeping them active
- Advocating for policies, tools, and strategies that make Birmingham better
- Vision-casting for catalytic developments and initiatives
- Driving inclusive economic growth in our districts
- Championing historic preservation to protect Birmingham's authenticity
- Improving first impressions of our districts

From recruiting and retaining businesses to changing perceptions about public places through intentional design (placemaking!) to advocating for smart policies and incentives, REV's next three years of work will push Birmingham forward. In particular, REV is more focused on proactive place-based economic development. We have hired and promoted people in positions designed to drive economic growth in our districts and strengthen our support for small business and developer clients. These changes to our team are increasing the impact of our current projects while expanding our capacity for economic development, business growth, and placemaking work.

## **Downtown Birmingham**



44 Storefront Openings





downtownbhm.com

@downtownbhm





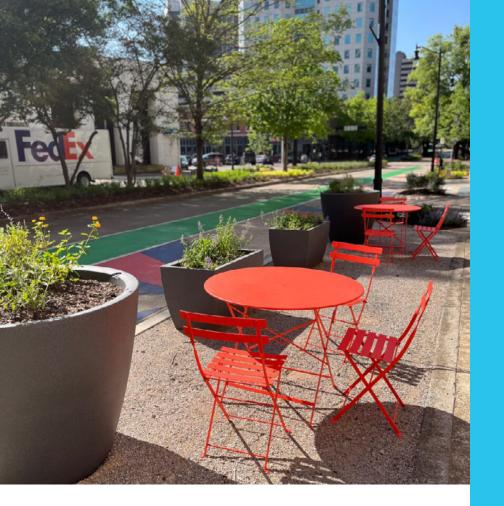
Growth is inevitable and desirable, but the destruction of community character is not. The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change. The question is, how?

#### Edward T. McMahon,

Chair for Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy at Urban Land Institute

Every member of our team is passionate about Birmingham and our mission to make it more vibrant. Thank you for being an important part of that work too! I look forward to talking with you about what is next for REV and Birmingham and to introducing you to more of our team. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us in 2023—for support, for more information about our strategic plan, or even for a quick #YayBham moment!

Hand B. He



# **20th Street Refresh**

REV Birmingham and our partners—the property owners who fund the City Center Business Improvement District (BID), the City of Birmingham and private funders—transformed the streetscape of 20th Street North stretching from Morris Avenue to Linn Park. The project added dedicated bike and flex lanes, native and drought-resistant landscaping, flexible café-style public seating, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, and public art. The project, which includes five years of street maintenance and programming, was funded by proceeds of the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, funding specifically dedicated to downtown improvements. The updated usability and appearance have helped existing business owners draw more customers while attracting new businesses to vacant spaces.

#### Partners

City of Birmingham City Center District Management Corp REV Birmingham

#### Sponsors

PNC Hugh Kaul Foundation Robert R. Meyer Foundation Cawaco RC&D







114 Tables & Chairs



6,308 Plants



4,462 Feet of Bike Lanes



5,100 People Celebrated at the 20th Street Party

# **20th Street Party**

After six months of hard work on 20th Street North, we held a block party to celebrate a grand re-opening. The 20th Street Party was May 20th and included live music, a confetti countdown, performances, and food trucks, not to mention Magic City Disco adding to the fun!

# Live on 20th

Launched shortly after the streetscape project wrapped, Live on 20th is a live performance program that adds extra energy and vibrancy to 20th Street North. The pop-up performances range from dancers to bands. We adjust scheduling to respond to trends and layer onto special events to create memorable experiences that give visitors a reason to linger downtown.

#### Live on 20th Entertainers included:

- \* Lily and Kate Chambers, violinists
- \* Connor Martin, singer and guitar player
- \* Sherry Reeves, flautist
- 🗱 Alie B Gorrie, tap dancer
- \* Isaiah Watson Deloach, saxophonist
- \* Arturito Lacruz, guitarist



# Downtown Brand

With our partners at City Center District Management, we launched the Downtown BHM brand and website in summer 2022 to offer residents and visitors a tool to navigate the city. The website is a guide to help residents and visitors alike to plan activities, dining, parking, and more.

Follow *@downtownbhm* on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn to keep up with what's going on!

downtownbhm.com







# **CAP is Downtown for You**

CAP is Downtown Birmingham's clean and safe program, funded by City Center BID property owners.

CAP ambassadors want to make sure everyone feels welcome and safe in the downtown BID. They patrol downtown on foot, Segways, and bikes, and deter unwanted behavior and activities. They look for opportunities to help people and tidy up our district as they're out and about. Ambassadors also visit businesses every day to check in, identifying and solving problems CAP can help address along the way.

#### How can CAP help you?

Call 205-251-0111 to request help within the City Center Business Improvement District (BID).







Instances of outreach to those experiencing homelessness



<mark>36,461</mark> Business Interactions



<mark>6,448</mark> Panhandling Instances Addressed



# 19,435

Cleanings (campsites, human waste, power washings, etc.)

# **Revision Linn Park**

REV led public and private partners in the development of a plan for Linn Park that drives inclusive growth, greater public use, and property reinvestment. The planning process began in April 2022 with the selection of OJB Landscape Architecture (OJB) as the park designers. REV worked with the nationally-acclaimed team to host three public workshops downtown Birmingham, convene with focus groups serving Birmingham's transient population, and survey citizens. *The community-led design created a vision for the park:* 

Birmingham's central park is where we create everyday connections, gather for important moments and share our strength and promise.

The Re-Vision Linn Park master plan will be advanced in 2023 and includes a renewed park design, proposed programming and activation strategies, operations and maintenance plans, and a financial sustainability strategy.



# Top 3 things Linn Park can do for Birmingham\*

According to the 800 people who participated in Revision Linn Park public engagement surveys

#### **Bring us together**

Set a vision for our future

3

Highlight the best of who we are and have been

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE**

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM OF ART | THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM PARK AND RECREATION BOARD | THE FRIENDS OF LINN PARK JEFFERSON COUNTY MEMORIAL PROJECT | THE PHILIP A. MORRIS FUND FOR THE DESIGN ARTS | REV BIRMINGHAM







# **Woodlawn Business District**





9 Storefront Openings



#### +22%

Pedestrian Traffic over 2021 woodlawnbhm.com @woodlawnbhm



WOODLAWN MARKETPLACE

After a successful 2021 pop-up, the Woodlawn Marketplace retail incubator opened in its very own brick-and-mortar location in October 2022. The Marketplace features 12 seasoned Woodlawn Street Market vendors, including three businesses anchoring the space.

# All Woodlawn Marketplace businesses are women-owned and operated!

#### Visit Woodlawn Marketplace!

5530 1st Avenue South, Birmingham, AL Wednesday through Saturday 7 am-3 pm Sunday 8 am-1 pm

11	32
Vendors	Seats
004	ĊO4 CL
821	\$21.6k
Cups of Coffee	Salas

#### **Anchor Vendors**

TRVL LOVE KOFFEE PEARL'S WOODLAWN THRIVE WELLNESS

#### **Retail Vendors**

Change Of Plans Element And Vibe Marsuko Jewelry Soul Sistah WE Made Bemele Candles SohGent Cabelle SASC Custom Designs Mattie's Garden

#### Sponsors

- \* Regions Financial Corporation
- \* Spire
- \* Alabama Department of Commerce
- \* PNC



# **Woodlawn Street Market**

A vibrant product of the partnership between REV Birmingham and Woodlawn Business Association, Woodlawn Street Market provides a fun, interactive space for local entrepreneurs to launch their businesses while also adding to the vibrancy of downtown Woodlawn. Since 2014, more than 500 Birmingham entrepreneurs have used this business-proving opportunity to test the waters, make sales, and see how customers respond to their products in real-time.

As part of our efforts to promote inclusivity, we strive to keep this market approachable for new and/or disadvantaged businesses with affordable market fees. We also save 10 spots at each market for first-time vendors.



5 Markets



38k Sales



54 First-time Vendors



8,116 Additional Pedestrians on Market Days



Unique Vendors



+ 74%

Foot Traffic on Market Days

# The Way

The Way, a mural-filled alley in the heart of Woodlawn's commercial district, is enriching the overall pedestrian experience and improving connectivity among local businesses. In 2022, the Magic City Mural Festival, in partnership with Blank Space Birmingham, added five new murals by minority and women artists to The Way.







# **Municipal Lot Makeover**

REV's Woodlawn Urban Main team gathered volunteers from the Woodlawn Business Association to give a tired municipal parking lot sign on 55th Place a makeover with some paint and landscaping!



# Four Awards

#### from Main Street Alabama

- Excellence In Economic Impact: Open In Woodlawn
- \* Excellence In Placemaking: The Way Murals
- Excellence In Public/Private Partnerships:
  20th Street North Refresh
- Excellence In Marketing: Downtown BHM Brand
  & Website Launch





#### 256

total small business and developer/real estate clients served



#### 453

total instances of small business assistance





minority clients (188)



#### 66%

female clients (170)

Received real estate assistance:

84 unique clients 117 occurrences Received one-on-one coaching: 151 unique clients 284 occurrences Received other types of business growth assistance:

21 unique clients 52 occurrences



# **Magic City Match**

The inaugural Magic City Match was a small business resiliency program for City of Birmingham Black business owners, addressing the need for increased access to resources and capital to bridge the wealth gap. More than 800 businesses applied, with 25 selected in the first cohort to attend an 8-week business academy and receive a \$2,000 stipend upon completion. Thirteen received grants, with 10 receiving \$25,000 awards, two \$50,000 awards, and one \$100,000 award. The program was a partnership between Prosper, IGNITE! Alabama, Urban Impact, Inc. and REV.



"We are pleased to bring City Walk to Birmingham as the latest great downtown public space where Birmingham connects. REV Birmingham was integral to advancing the conceptual planning and study that began in 2014 to analyze not only what could be done under the bridge to make this a great space for people, but also to create a fresh and vibrant space."

Tad Snider BJCC Executive Director

### City Walk "Where Birmingham Connects"

City Walk BHAM is a 10-block public space beneath the I-20/59 overpass bridge that opened in July 2022. The 1.5-mile linear park, which is part of the BJCC campus, features an amphitheater, skate park, dog park, pickleball court, playground, and more. REV supported City Walk in its earliest stages with vision-casting and advocacy, which REV offers to developers working on catalytic projects.



**PICTURED** Co-owner **Phillip Forstall** and his daughter, **Andy Forstall**, the store manager

# **20th Street Businesses**

The \$4.2M makeover of 20th Street North (*detailed on pages 3–5*) that connects Morris Avenue to Linn Park was designed to increase the appeal and functionality of Downtown's signature street, and help drive business to merchants. Dedicated flex and bicycle lanes make access to storefront businesses easier, additional outdoor seating has increased capacity for bars and restaurants, while new low-maintenance landscaping, hardscaping, and programming enhance the pedestrian experience.

"It's gorgeous...we love it! The plants, the flex lanes, all of it. The flex lanes make quick parking easy and convenient for our customers who are picking up an order, and the landscaping magnifies the investment we've made in our business."

Annette Taylor Co-owner of Forstall Art Supply on 20th Street

# d'Trespa

d'Trespa is a consignment boutique that has been a part of the Birmingham community for over 10 years. When d'Trespa owner LaRoyce Burrows Marsh was rushed out of her previous space, REV helped her find a home in Woodlawn.

"REV helped me when I was in a time crunch. They supported me by helping me find a new location and get acclimated to the area."

LaRoyce Burrows Marsh, owner of d'Trespa dtrespa.com





# **Thrive Wellness Lounge**

Thrive Wellness Lounge is a plant-based health and wellness store in the heart of Woodlawn owned by Tish Fletcher. Magic City Match helped her create a solid business plan and other foundational skills. She was one of the \$25K recipients, allowing her to open her business in Woodlawn and create a larger variety of inventory and support services.

"REV is more than a nonprofit; they are family. They have helped me fulfill my dreams by being able to serve my community and provide help through something I believe in. REV has made my entrepreneur journey easier and my business the success it is today."

Tish Fletcher, owner of Thrive Wellness Lounge thrivewellnesslounge.com

# Woodlawn Bar & Lounge

Corey Whatley opened Woodlawn Bar & Lounge in early 2022 and was promptly deployed to the Middle East for 12 months. While deployed, he managed his business from afar and did the significant work necessary to receive a \$25,000 Magic City Match award, often attending training sessions in the middle of the night (his time).

"Thanks to REV and the Woodlawn Business Association having my back, I was still able to tend to my new business from thousands of miles away while deployed with my National Guard Unit. They were there to answer questions, connect me and my wife with resources and offer the moral support we both needed during a very challenging time."

Corey Whatley, owner of Woodlawn Bar & Lounge woodlawnbarandlounge.com





**DAVID FLEMING** President & CEO



**ELIZABETH BARBAREE-TASKER** CFO



**JULIE MCKINNEY** VP of People & Places



**JACKSON DEAN** Research & Data Manager



SALENA LEE



**REV Team** 

Be on the lookout for new team members coming soon!



**MERRICK BONNER** VP of Impact & Investment



**ROBERT EMERICK** 



**MICHAEL SYMES** City Center District Manager



**BEKAH FOX** 



**EUGENE JOHNSON** 



**JONATHAN CRAIN** 



NATALIA DUŔAN-WHYTE **Communications Coordinator** 



**JASON AVERY** Woodlawn Community Facilitator



# REV Turns

In 2022, REV Birmingham celebrated TEN years of creating vibrant commercial districts in the City of Birmingham. It all started in 2012 when two organizations — Operation New Birmingham and Main Street Birmingham — merged to create the one and only REV Birmingham. Since then, we have covered so much ground, from branding to historic building rehab consulting to our refresh of 20th Street North. We held a party on November 15 — our actual birthday! — with old and new friends and long-time supporters. Thanks to Stewart Perry and Capstone Real Estate, we celebrated our accomplishments over the past 10 years at the gorgeous and newly-restored Nextec building. As we dream and plan more impactful work, we can't wait to see what the future holds. Here's to 100 more years of a vibrant city!

# **2022 Board of Directors**

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Beau Bevis ARC Realty

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Britney Summerville Community Leader

Lawrence Whatley Professional Building Services

Emily Wykle gener8tor

#### **Many Thanks to our 2022 Investors**

#### \$100,000 and above

City of Birmingham Friends of Linn Park Philip A. Morris Fund for the Design Arts

#### \$50,000-\$99,999

Alabama Power Foundation Mike & Gillian Goodrich Foundation Regions Financial Corporation Wells Fargo Foundation

#### \$25,000-\$49,999

The Daniel Foundation of Alabama Green Rock PNC Robert R. Meyer Foundation

#### \$10,000-\$24,999

Alabama State Council on the Arts Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, The Caring Foundation Brasfield & Gorrie Hill Crest Foundation Hugh Kaul Foundation Medical Properties Trust Protective Life Foundation Spire Stewart Perry Truist Verizon Vulcan Materials Company Foundation Woodlawn United

#### \$5,000—\$9,999

Alexander Group Amenica's First Federal Credit Union ARC Realty ARC Realty Allington Properties Bayer Properties BIG Communications Cooper Construction Dentons Sirote Hoar Construction Jemison Investment Company Ladd Real Estate Management Co LMS Investment Management Maynard Cooper & Gale, PC O'Neal Industries ProAssurance Valley National Bank

#### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Baich & Brigham, LLP Cadence Bank Barge Design Solutions First Horizon Foundation Graham & Company Growth Capital Partners Harbert Realty Services Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation John Pickering Renasant Bank Rives Construction Company ServisFirst Bank Synovus VIVA Health

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Adams Design Associates Alice Meriwether Bowsher Fund Keith Barfield Deepa Bhate Bressler, Amery & Ross Meredith Calhoun Michael Calvert Anil Chadha Colliers International Cushman & Wakefield / EGS Commercial Real Estate Jill Deer David Baker Architects David Baker Architects David Kassouf Kassouf & Co Kimberly Jackson Libby Lassiter MBA Engineers, Inc. Staci Pierce Royal Cup Coffee & Tea Southpace Properties Lawrence Whatley

#### \$500 - \$999

Action Enterprise Holdings Eugene's Hot Chicken Wes Lee Mickey Millsap Nielsen Family Fund Relay Accounting Managemen SARCOR, LLC Britney Summerville Emily Wykle

#### \$1 - \$499

Cameron Acneson Lynn Adams Melodi Anderson Reynolds Anderson Tamica Banks Elizabeth Barbaree-Tasker Barnes & Associates, REALTORS Richard Berliner Graham Boettcher CCR Architecture & Interiors Steve Clikas Tammy Cohen Patricia Dreher Janice Fleming Ashley Foster Lisa Graham Leigh Hancock Shia Hendricks Tyler Huddle Eileen Kunzman MADD Studios Philip McDonald Wesley Mindingall Matthew Nelson Marilyn Palmer Redmont Study Club Zac Riddle Camille Spratting Rhonda White

#### In-kind

Balch & Bingham, LLP Bistro 218 Capstone Real Estate Investmen Harambe Room The Palmer Parkside Veo

revbirmingham.org

#### **2022 FINANCIALS**

Numbers presented are Unaudited, Accrual Basis for Calendar Year 2022.
 Excess income includes project funds earmarked for disbursement by mid-year 2023.

