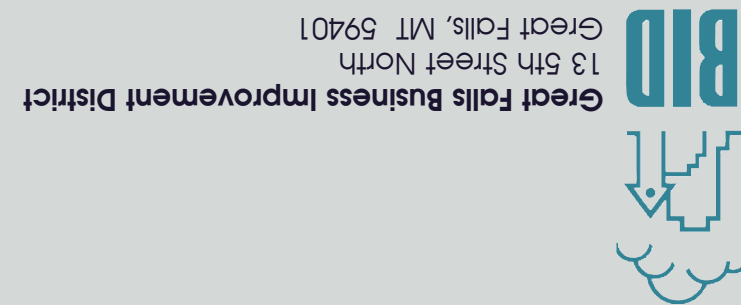




GREAT FALLS



business **improvement** district

BID

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Great Falls Business Improvement District (BID) is to represent the unique interests of the businesses and property owners located within the district. The goal of the BID is to create an environment that is appealing to shoppers, office workers, residents, tourists, and new businesses and investors. Overall, the BID is responsible for downtown revitalization through economic development, real estate redevelopment, short and long range planning, grant program administration, and physical and environmental improvement programs.

OFFICE

13 5th Street North, Great Falls MT 59401
(406) 727-5430 Office
(406) 727-5431 Fax
info@greatfallsbid.com | www.greatfallsbid.com
Monday-Friday
8:30am to 12:30pm

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT WHAT YOUR GREAT FALLS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) HAS BEEN UP TO

TREES

Within the BID there are 388 trees. In 2008, Great Falls experienced a freeze that harmed several of the trees. Having been approved for funding of up to \$50,000 of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds by the City Commission in August, 2009, the BID has hired Tillerias Landscape Nursery & Garden Center to remove & replace the 39 dead or dying trees within the BID. Tillerias has also been tasked with pruning the remaining trees.

The BID is currently holding discussions of creating an Adopt-a-Tree program to continue to care for the trees within the BID. Continue to check our website for updates on the status of an Adopt-a-Tree program.

BID BOARD OPENING

The BID has one opening on the Board to fill the remainder of a four-year term through June 30, 2012. The District consists of seven members appointed by the City Commission, serving a four-year term. The District oversees the functions, operations, management and administration as necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of the District. Interested applicants must be owners of property within the boundaries of the Business Improvement District or their personal representative, agent or guardian. For more information, contact the BID office.

DOWNTOWN PROPERTY/BUSINESS INVENTORY

The BID is partnering with the City of Great Falls in creating a detailed property and business inventory of Downtown Great Falls. This inventory will provide information for economic development and land use analysis and will be instrumental in guiding future planning efforts. It is likely that during this process you will be contacted as we work to create the most complete picture of Downtown Great Falls that has ever been created.

NEW DOWNTOWN MAP

Downtown Great Falls has been home to Robert Smith, an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), since August, 2009. Robert has spent his days working out of the Great Falls Development Authority offices, but has been tasked with many projects to increase awareness of our historic downtown. Robert has created a new map of Downtown Great Falls. This map has been in distribution since early 2010. It has a complete listing of all of the restaurants within our downtown area, reflecting over 40 locations where folks can come downtown to eat, drink and catch up on all of the latest happenings. Stop by our office to pick up your copy of this new Downtown map!

DOWNTOWN GREAT FALLS ASSOCIATION (DGFA) PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership with DGFA the BID has been actively involved in working to promote First Friday Art Walk. The BID is a

sponsor of the Great Falls Historic Trolley, providing free rides to and from the various art venues during the monthly Art Walks. Many retailers and restaurants are now staying open later for your convenience and enjoyment. If you haven't come downtown lately during the First Friday Art Walk make a plan to do so, you'll be glad you did

The BID has taken an active role on the Marketing Committee, in partnership with DGFA. The Committee has been promoting a city wide competition to create a new logo for Downtown Great Falls. The competition yielded fantastic results with 59 entries. The Committee narrowed those entries down to 10 finalists and voting for the new logo ends on April 15th. Look for details soon as DGFA prepares to unveil the new logo!

Another aspect of our partnership with DGFA is that we are now listed on Facebook and Twitter. Look for us on Facebook and become a fan of **Destination Downtown Great Falls** and follow us on Twitter at **DowntownGreatFalls**. We are working on keeping you informed about what is going on downtown, so be sure to check us out!

BID WEBSITE—BENEFIT TO OUR OWNERS

The BID has been partnering with Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA) for the past several years utilizing GFDA's property search engine via our website. This has been an additional service that we have been able to offer to our property owners, listings of vacancies in Downtown Great Falls. GFDA has recently changed from Location One to Prospector. As GFDA's website states: "Great Falls Prospector is an interactive Internet mapping program that provides enhanced economic development and site selection services to the business community. Great Falls Prospector allows users to search for available commercial buildings and sites as well as generate site-specific demographic and business analysis reports. Great Falls Prospector speeds up and simplifies the process of finding the optimal location for a business by providing public access to a range of valuable information." Thanks to the partnership with GFDA the BID is able to offer this benefit to our property owners, of listing vacancies as well as properties for sale within the BID boundaries. If you'd like to have your property listed please go to our website to download and fill in the Property Information Form located under the Properties tab. Submit a Property.

JOHNSON HOTEL BUILDING—BUSINESS INCUBATOR & CONFERENCE ROOM

The BID is the owner of the 3rd floor of the Johnson Hotel building located at 417 Central Avenue. The Business Incubator is located on the 3rd floor and is currently home to three businesses. Cindy Cieluch Photography will soon be one of the incubator's success stories. Cindy has had an office located in the incubator and will be vacating that space to move into a street level spot in

the 600 block of Central Avenue. Sequoia Energy US, Inc. is another of the tenant's in the incubator. This is an alternative energy firm that has just opened up its first US location and is using the incubator to launch its business.

The BID has another asset to offer the community on the 3rd floor of the Johnson Hotel and that is a large classroom-style, conference room. This room comfortably seats up to 20 people. It has been utilized by many non-profit groups for training. It has a computer with PowerPoint capabilities, an overhead projector, a DVD & VCR Player and offers dual large screens for viewing. This conference room is available to be rented for \$25 per event, contact the BID office if you are interested in scheduling it.

CTEP GRANT

The BID applied & was approved for a CTEP Grant with the City of Great Falls in the summer of 2009. This grant will be utilized to do a streetscape project on the Southside of the 200 block of 1st Avenue South. There are four blocks within the BID on 1st Avenue South. The CTEP grant currently is with the State of Montana awaiting their approval. Upon approval by the State of Montana the BID will proceed forward with the streetscape project for that half block section. The goal of the BID is to complete a streetscape project for the entire four blocks by doing one-half block at a time. The BID plans to apply for CTEP funds each year until the entire four-block streetscape project is complete.

GRANT FUNDS

Since July 1, 2009, the BID has funded the following grants:

Façade Grant funds paid out

The Kathryn Building	15 5th Street South	\$15,000
Espresso to Go	Times Square	\$840
MT Bar Building	612 Central Ave	\$2,046
Dunn Brown Building	316 Central Ave	\$9,917
CTA Architects Building	219 2nd Ave South	\$12,750

Interior Grant funds paid out

United Way	417 Central Ave	\$240
CTA Architects Building	219 2nd Ave South	\$5,000
Semansky Law Office	14 5th Street South	\$1,906

Residential Grant funds paid out

The Lofts at Johnson Hotel	417 Central Ave	\$50,000
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The following grants have been approved and will be paid out upon completion of the projects:

Residential Grants approved

The Lofts at 503	503 1st Ave North	\$50,000
Hastings Apartments	609 Central Ave	\$45,510

CTEP Grant

1st Ave S Streetscape Project—BID Portion		\$31,937
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CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Montana State By-laws state that BID Board members must be property owners or a representative assigned by a property owner.

Alison Fried, *Chair*

Term to expire June 30, 2011. No renewal option.

Tony Longin, *Vice-Chair*

Term to expire June 30, 2011. Option to renew.

Julie Duffy, *Treasurer*

Term to expire June 30, 2012. No renewal option.

Steve Alley, *Board Member*

Term to expire June 30, 2011. Option to renew.

VACANCY, *Board Member*

Term to expire June 30, 2012. Option to renew.

Hayley Leray, *Board Member*

Term to expire June 30, 2013. Option to renew.

Stacey Schaefer, *Board Member*

Term to expire June 30, 2012. Option to renew.

The BID would like to create an e-mail database of all of our property owners, to enable a more cost-effective and regular means of communication. If you have not already done so please e-mail the BID at info@greatfallsbid.com and let us know what your e-mail address is so that we can add you to the database. Within the BID there are 156 properties, our e-mail database currently has 47 property owners e-mail addresses. Please e-mail the BID and provide your e-mail address so that we can lower our communication costs.

