



**Executive Director's Report  
August 2023**

**Economic Development**

Active Projects:

Lamar Building:

- Meeting with Mayor & Tax Assessor
- Economic Impact Report underway by Georgia Power
- Documents in preparation for board approval in September

Marion Building:

- Deal structuring in discussion with developer

Microenterprise Center:

- MOU executed
- Lease approved with City
- Project timeline completed (attached)
- LLC paperwork underway
- Creation of oversight board underway
- Operating Agreement underway (Board of Directors)
- Nick Dickinson/McKnight selected, next steps are demolition permit and hazardous material report
- Asset mapping, programming, and fundraising in process
- Press Conference in planning for mid-September

Brunch House:

- SSBCI loan underway

401 Greene Street (Khar's Grocery)

- October loan closing anticipated with Georgia Cities Foundation

East Boundary Project

- Workforce housing/purchased from Land Bank Authority
- Financing Options (Opportunity Zones, etc.) scheduled for developer

Curtis Baptist Property:

- In conversation with developer, financing options, etc.

Miami Vybz:

- SSBCI loan under consideration

Ribbon Cuttings:

- Lenox on 10<sup>th</sup> 7/27
- Law Offices of Markus Russell 8/1
- Pedal Pub 8/7

How to Start a Business Guide has been updated

34 new businesses and 3 expansions to-date in 2023

### **Design**

Grants:

- \$1.76 million awarded by Governor Kemp for Downtown Connector (see attached)
- Submitted as a collaborative effort by the City, DDA, Cranston, & property owners
- Meeting held 6/30. City will be managing funding and timeline

Arches:

- 10<sup>th</sup> Street work is underway with 8<sup>th</sup> Street scheduled for end of October

Marina:

- Patio chairs and tables delivered and installed. Picnic tables shipping next week

Blighted Buildings

- Inventory has been updated to include 13 structures on Broad Street
- Property owner survey has been completed

Marketing

- SOOFA ad sales will be handled by SOOFA going forward
- PSA for AugustaDTP.com is completed. WRDW and WJBF will run the spot as a community partner
- Augusta was featured in August Issue of Georgia Trend Magazine with a collaborative ad
- Interviews completed with WJBF, WRDW, and Augusta Chronicle with 2022 annual statistics and downtown connector project
- DDA sponsored the Juneteenth Celebration and will sponsor Small Business Saturday in November
- Website Blogs: 6/21 on TIA projects, Downtown Connector and Microenterprise Center underway

### **Organization**

ACE

- Quarterly Report submitted 6/15 and 3<sup>rd</sup> disbursement has been received
- Statistics (July 2022-June 2023):
  - 17,779 block faces cleaned
  - 817 trash bags filled and disposed
  - 610 power washing hours
  - 759 special project cleaning hours

Collaboration with Black Chamber of Commerce

Juneteenth Celebration

Pitch Competition at Augusta Tech

SSBCI Bankers Luncheon held 5/23

### **Other:**

Meeting with Justin Prince, EDA	5/19
Trip to Dayton to visit HUB	6/13
Trip to NEXT in Greenville	7/11
Panhandling Initiative, City Administrator	7/12
Meeting with Senator Warnock's Office	7/25
ACE Board Meeting	8/2
Meeting with Augusta Tomorrow	8/3
2024 Budget Request submitted	8/4
Quarterly Report to Commission	8/7
Presentation to Augusta Bar Association	8/8
Presentation to Commission	8/8
Meeting with AT, ME Center	8/9
Jag Perks Program-Augusta University	