

MEMORANDUM

DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY



DDA

DATE: April 8, 2022

TO: Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Tim Kelly, AICP
Executive Director

Agenda Item #09
April 13, 2022
DDA Meeting

SUBJECT: FY2023 Budget and Priority Plan

Each year the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recommends a one-year budget and five-year priority plan to the City Commission. With the approval of GR Forward in December 2015, the DDA and DGRI have clearly defined objectives and the proposed budgets are built to reflect and implement the community priorities for Downtown. For fiscal year 2023 (FY23), the DDA budgets consist of both new projects from GR Forward and carry forward priorities that span multiple fiscal years.

The attached budget narrative provides additional detail on the various priorities for the coming year. Among them are actions to implement recommendations from recently completed planning initiatives. Those include the Grand River Governance process, the Disability Advocates of Kent County and Common Notice accessibility report, and the Downtown Streetspace Guidelines. There is also funding allocated to complete the design initiatives for the River and Hill Network Plan, and to initiate major capital improvements to Downtown public spaces such as Lyon Square and the Van Andel Arena alley. Finally there is funding for event and activation to continue to support and produce events that draw people to Downtown.

Carry-forward priorities from previous years include completing Grand River edge infrastructure improvements, implementation of pedestrian and bike infrastructure, continued funding to support retail business attraction, and building on the tremendous success of the World of Winter.

When examined by GR Forward goal the breakdown from the LTI and NTI budgets is as follows:

- Goal 1 (Restore the River as the Draw): \$4,757,500
- Goal 2 (Create a True Downtown Neighborhood Home to a Diverse Population): \$1,828,750
- Goal 3 (21st Century Mobility Strategy): \$2,105,000
- Goal 4 (Ensure Job Opportunities and Ensure Vitality of the Local Economy) \$620,000
- Goal 5 (Reinvest in Public Space, Culture and Inclusive Programming): \$5,035,901



DOWNTOWN
GRAND RAPIDS INC.

As in previous years the Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. Alliances played an important role in developing the budget. Their 3-month, iterative process culminated with budget recommendations to the three fiduciary Boards of DGRI (DDA, DID, and MNTIFA).

Following a recommendation from the DDA Board, DGRI staff will present the recommended DDA FY23 budgets to the City Commission requesting bottom-line appropriation. After receiving City Commission appropriation, the Board will adopt their final annual budget and priority plan at the next scheduled meeting.

Recommendation: Recommend the FY2023 DDA Budget Summary to the City Commission to request fund appropriation.