

Report from the Downtown Annapolis Partnership, the Annapolis Arts District, and Inner West Street Association

We are grateful that the Recovery Zones have continued this year to allow the public the opportunity to have additional outdoor dining options. These have helped downtown Annapolis compete with the surrounding communities for attracting customers.

We are also grateful to the City for supporting the flower baskets downtown that helps make our city so beautiful and the expanded July 4th celebration that helped bring locals back to downtown.

We have been fortunate that most of the downtown businesses that have closed have been replaced with new businesses over the past year. Two streets (West Street and Maryland Ave) downtown currently do have some vacancies. However, when you look at places just outside of Annapolis you will see we have done pretty well in comparison. If you know anyone looking to open a business now is a good time to take advantage of the Governors Project Restore incentives.

Businesses will be eligible for sales tax relief rebates equal to the business' sales tax receipts for the 12 month period, with a maximum of \$250,000 per year. Eligibility will be based on the same tiering criteria as the [More Jobs for Marylanders](#) program:

Additionally, small business applicants will be eligible for rental subsidies of \$2,500 per month for 12 months—up to \$30,000—to help offset start-up costs during the first year.

There are additional state income credit incentives for artists that open a business in the Annapolis Arts District.

The Federal American Rescue Plan can be a source of funds to help business districts recover from covid and help businesses downtown survive the many years of needed but disruptive major construction that is coming. Here is a good article on the subject [The American Rescue Plan Can Be a Lifeline for Business Districts \(mainstreet.org\)](#)

In just 4 months construction begins downtown with the demolition of Hillman Parking Garage and the plans to attract and keep customers, people find parking, etc have yet to be announced and vetted. We believe funding is still needed to create strong marketing campaigns and events that will attract visitors and locals to downtown during construction.

Gotts Court will soon be our main garage and if you have not visited it lately I encourage you to do so. The handrails in the stairways are rusted out, lights along the exterior are broken, landscaping is void and so much more. This is not a great impression that will make people feel comfortable as they visit downtown. The Downtown Annapolis Partnership has offered \$5k to improve the landscaping at Gotts garage this fall.

The Annapolis Arts District is bringing David Hayes sculptures to Annapolis this fall in partnership with the Inner West Street Association. You can watch a PBS Special on David Hayes at [MLL \(mylegacylist.com\)](https://www.mylifecycle.com)

It is the 20th anniversary of the First Sunday Arts Festivals. These events attract tens of thousands of visitors each year to Annapolis and continued even during COVID.

Sincerely

Erik Evans
Executive Director

[Annapolis Arts District](#)
[Downtown Annapolis Partnership](#)
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