



## DMI Leadership Report – July 2021

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

### **Creating Connections and Community:**

- DMI hosted several meetings in June including the What's Up Downtown Breakfast with Michael Johnson, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County; the Madison + Milwaukee Downtown Exchange, a panel discussion about the future of downtown commercial real estate; and a CNI/DMI sponsored panel discussion on homelessness and mental health emergencies.
- The DMI Board of Directors and the Inclusiveness Committee participated in another diversity, equity, and inclusion workshop in June with Step Up: Equity Matters. The workshop focused on microaggressions.

### **Economic Development:**

- DMI continues to assist the Black Chamber, Hmong Chamber, Latino Chamber, the BID, JD McCormick, and the City with the State Street pop-up shop program. The program should start later this year.
- The Economic Development Committee heard a presentation from Aaron Hagar from WEDC on all their entrepreneurship programs.

### **Challenge Committee:**

- The Challenge Committee did not meet this month but is preparing for this fall's work on the 2022 DMI Civic Engagement Agenda.

### **Membership Development:**

- The Membership Committee met to discuss their actionable items, wins, non-renewing members and their new member ambassador assignments.
- The new DMI members this month include: LKL Enterprises, Madison Originals, and the Olbrich Botanical Society.

### **Transportation:**

- The Transportation Committee met twice over the past month. In June, the Committee heard an update from Metro Transit with an update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) planning. In July, the Committee discussed DMI potentially taking a position on BRT stations on State Street.

### **Quality of Life:**

- The Community Based Crime Reduction steering committee is working with several partners in creating an advisory task force.

- The Quality of Life Committee toured downtown and State Street with our friends from Madison's Central Business Improvement District (BID).
- Several of the Committee's sub-groups met to discuss their work, including the Safety Sub-Committee, the Homelessness Sub-Committee, and the University Relations Sub-Committee.
- DMI and the BID hosted a discussion with Madison Police Department Central Precinct Captain Kelly Donahue for downtown leaders.
- DMI and several partners met with UW leaders to discuss the planning of Library Mall.

**Inclusiveness:**

- DMI hosted the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable (MADR) for their June meeting. The group discussed DEI metrics.
- The Beyond Compliance Task Force released their Madison Festivals and Events Accessibility Guide with a press conference in June. The Guide will be sent to all Madison festival permit holders and include the option for a virtual training.

**Government Relations:**

- The Government Relations Committee met separately with both Council President Syed Abbas and Council Vice President Arvina Martin.

For questions and more information, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President at 608-512-1330 or [jilstrup@downtownmadison.org](mailto:jilstrup@downtownmadison.org).