



## DMI Director’s Report – January 2024

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

### Creating Connections and Community:

- Downtown Madison, Inc. hosted our annual holiday themed New Faces, New Places at the US Bank branch on the Square. Several hundred people attended and were entertained by an excellent performance from the Children’s Theater of Madison.
- DMI recorded a new episode of our podcast with the team from the Hancock Center for Creative Arts Therapies - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko0F7-q4jZk>
- DMI welcomed Madison Parks Department Superintendent Eric Knepp for our December DMI Advocacy Update - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tr00adbFwAM>

### DMI Media Mentions:

- December 8 – Madison (Blueprint) 365 - [Downtown Madison Continues Bounceback but Housing Remains a Challenge, Report Says](#)
- December 10 – NBC15 – Story on the economic impact of UW Women’s athletics on Downtown Madison.
- December 12 – 608 Today - [Here's What We Learned While Reading Downtown Madison, Inc.'s Annual Report](#)
- December 29 – Madison (Blueprint) 365 - [Downtown Madison, Inc. Launches AI Location Tracking Program to Aid Businesses; Privacy Is a Concern](#)
- December 31 – WISC-TV - [What's Coming to Downtown Madison in 2024?](#)

### Presentations:

- DMI did not make any presentations in December.

### Economic Development:

- The DMI Economic Development Committee met in December to recap 2023’s meetings and plan for 2024.

### Membership Development:

- DMI welcomed several new members this month:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Madison Central	Amy Williamson	<a href="https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/madison/msnrr/hoteldetail">https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/madison/msnrr/hoteldetail</a>
League of Wisconsin Municipalities	Zach Vruwink	<a href="https://www.lwm-info.org/">https://www.lwm-info.org/</a>

Quinn & Co	Liz Quinn	<a href="http://www.quinncorealty.com">www.quinncorealty.com</a>
Risk Strategies	Rachel Geissler	<a href="https://www.risk-strategies.com/">https://www.risk-strategies.com/</a>
Wolf Paving	Michelle Kartman	<a href="http://www.wolfpaving.com">www.wolfpaving.com</a>

**Transportation:**

- The Transportation Committee is meeting in January to discuss their work in 2023 and plan for 2024.

**Quality of Life:**

- DMI continues working with students from UW’s Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture on two capstone projects focused on redesigning the 400-600 blocks of State Street.
- DMI is also participating in a UW College of Engineering capstone project to design the John Nolen pedestrian and bicycle underpass project.
- The Quality of Life Committee hosted City of Madison Planner Dan McAuliffe for the December meeting. Dan discussed the City’s experimental closing of the 400 to 600 blocks of State Street next summer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiGOCGCzoEU&t=1798s>.

**Inclusiveness:**

- DMI assisted in hosting the December meeting of the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable (MADR). The discussion focused on how DEI investments benefit organizations.

**Government Relations:**

- The Government Relations Committee did not meet in January.

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