



## DMI Director's Report – June 2025

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

### Creating Connections and Community

- DMI hosted our 2025 Annual Celebration at Camp Randall's South Endzone. The Celebration was the largest in our history. Thank you to every member who attended for making the event a true success.
  - Video from the event: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhYxri\\_E5w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhYxri_E5w)
- DMI hosted a sold-out New Member Coffee at the offices of von Briesen & Roper.
- DMI welcomed Ronald McDonald House Charities – Madison CEO Stephanie Hayden to the Downtown Happenings Podcast.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wc9eK84Mh0>
- Madison City Council President Regina Vidaver joined Jason for the May DMI Advocacy Update.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dh1hRLCy9VQ&t=1686s>
- Jason attended the City Nation Place Conference in Ottawa, Canada with Emily DeVore from our team and Ellie Westman Chin from Destination Madison.
- DMI hired two new part-time Policy Researchers: Luke Moore and Miguel Ruiz.

### DMI Media Mentions:

- May 22 – Wisconsin State Journal - [High-end Downtown Madison Apartment Building to Feature Lakefront Food Hall](#)
- May 28 – WKOW - [Pause In Visa Interviews for International Students Could Hurt Madison Small Businesses](#)
- June 3 – WISC - [Affordable Housing a Top Issue for Dane County Board Seat and the Reason It's Open](#) (DMI co-hosted and Jason moderated the Dane County District 1 debate).
- June 4 – Madison Magazine - [Editor's Note: The Look Ahead](#)
- June 5 – WISC – Story on the importance of the American Family Insurance Championship to the Downtown economy
- June 9 – WISC - [In the 608: Madison Reading Project Gearing Up for "READ\(y\) to Wear" Wednesday](#)

### Presentations:

- Jason gave a Downtown Madison update to the Attic Angels monthly breakfast.
- Jason provided the opening remarks to Commerce Lexington's delegation (160 leaders) visit to Madison. Jason and Emily also toured a few dozen members around Downtown Madison and through the State Capitol.
- Jason moderated the Dane County District 1 special election debate. The event was co-sponsored by DMI and CNI.

**Economic Development:**

- The DMI Economic Development Committee met and heard a presentation from Dane County Regional Airport Air Service Development Director Tom Pajor. Tom gave an airport update and discussed efforts to grow direct service to Madison.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaTs5PLO6TA&t=3s>
- The Regent Street Business Association met for the second time and discussed the new Regent Street vision.
- DMI assisted in hosting the Cap East Business Association summer social at Atico on the top of the Moxy Hotel in Cap East.

**Membership Development:**

- DMI welcomed several new members:

3G Companies	<a href="https://3gcos.com/">https://3gcos.com/</a>
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin-Badgerland	<a href="http://www.gsbadgerland.org">www.gsbadgerland.org</a>
Josh Stevens Homes	<a href="https://www.joshstevenshomes.com/">https://www.joshstevenshomes.com/</a>
Numbers 4 Nonprofits	<a href="https://numbers4nonprofits.com/">https://numbers4nonprofits.com/</a>
Pogie the Yogie	<a href="https://pogietheyogie.com/">https://pogietheyogie.com/</a>
Prime Urban Properties	<a href="https://primeurbanproperties.com/">https://primeurbanproperties.com/</a>
Ryzo Commercial Realty	<a href="http://www.RyzoCRE.com">www.RyzoCRE.com</a>
The Alliance	<a href="http://www.the-alliance.org">www.the-alliance.org</a>
Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Inc.	<a href="https://www.veracourt.org/">https://www.veracourt.org/</a>

**Transportation:**

- The Transportation Committee will hear a presentation from the MPO on their Active Transportation Plan for Dane County at their June meeting.

**Quality of Life:**

- The Quality of Life Committee welcomed Karla Thennes and Kim Sutter from Porchlight, and Jim O'Keefe and Linette Rhodes from the City of Madison to give an update on the new men's shelter.
- DMI and Catholic Charities hosted our quarterly Beacon Homelessness Issues meeting. Dozens of stakeholder organizations gave updates and discussed important issues related to the Beacon.

**Inclusiveness:**

- The Inclusiveness Committee's Book Club met in May to discuss their latest book, *James* by Percival Everett.

**Beyond Compliance:**

- The Beyond Compliance Sub-Committee continued their discussion on next projects.

**Government Relations:**

- The Government Relations Committee met with 8<sup>th</sup> District Alder MGR Govindarajan.

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