



DMI Director's Report – September 2026

From Jason Ilstrup, DMI President

Creating Connections and Community:

- DMI hosted several events in August including a New Faces, New Places at Foley's redesigned offices at Verex, a co-hosted event at Centro Hispano with Sustain Dane, a Behind the Scenes event at new Kellner Family Athletic Center on the UW-Madison campus, and a What's Up Downtown Breakfast at the Edgewater Hotel with James Tye from the Clean Lakes Alliance as the speaker.
- DMI, along with the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Destination Madison and over a dozen other chambers of commerce sent out this year's Next Normal survey to better understand the current and future economic conditions in the region.
- Jason, Emily, Matt, and Tim attended the International Downtown Association (IDA) Annual Conference in Toronto. Jason remains one of the organizations Vice-Chairs and the Chair of the US Government Affairs Committee for the 2026-27 year.

DMI Media Mentions:

- August 22 – WISC - [Student Impact on Madison Community](#)

Presentations:

- Jason attended the Governor's press conference announcing the Wisconsin State Capitol as one of the state's Wonders of Wisconsin.
- Jason served as a pitch partner for Turning Community Challenges into Entrepreneurship program as part of the U.S. Exchange Alumni Network.
- Jason participated, facilitated, and led four sessions at the IDA Annual Conference including on IDA's Advocacy Network, a CEO tabletop discussion on executive coaching, a session on community engagement, and a session on diversifying economies in capital city downtowns.

Economic Development:

- The DMI Economic Development Committee hosted a presentation and discussion on the new Madison Public Market with their CEO Keisha Harrison.

Membership Development:

- The DMI Membership Development Committee hosted their monthly meeting at the new Madison Public Market to prepare for the upcoming DMI Annual Celebration.
- DMI welcomed several new members, including:

Darin Buelow	www.deloitte.com
Hillel at UW-Madison	https://www.uwhillel.org/
Owner's Build PM, LLC	www.ownersbuildpm.com
Raymond Management Company	Raymondteam.com
The Arc Wisconsin	www.arcdl.org
The Kollege Klub	www.thekollegeklub.com
The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin	nature.org/wisconsin
Willy Street Co-op	https://www.willystreet.coop
Wisconsin Capital Management	wiscap.com
Wisconsin Youth Company	https://www.wisconsinyouthcompany.org/

Transportation:

- The Transportation Committee hosted a coffee happy hour at Ancora in August.

Quality of Life:

- DMI and Catholic Charities hosted our quarterly Homelessness Issues Committee meeting. Over a dozen partner organizations gave updates and discussed issues.
- DMI attended the BID's monthly homelessness coordination meeting along with several other local stakeholders.
- The Quality of Life Committee welcomed Michael Moody and Kim Tesch from Catalyst for Change to discuss their new Down for Change program at Grace Episcopal Church in Downtown Madison.

Beyond Compliance:

- The Beyond Compliance Sub-Committee completed a new community survey. The survey will help guide the Sub-Committee's work over the next few years.

Government Relations:

- The Government Relations Committee welcomed City of Madison 8th District Alder Ellen Zhang at their August meeting.

For questions or more information, contact Jason Ilstrup, DMI President, at 608-512-1330 or jilstrup@downtownmadison.org.