

### Giving Tuesday: November 28

This Giving Tuesday, consider a gift that nurtures the very soul of our community by donating to the Missoula Downtown Foundation. Your contribution will directly support our efforts to preserve the unique heritage and culture that make Downtown Missoula truly one-of-a-kind. From the Legacy Trail with its bronze medallions and information kiosks to street décor that enhances our sense of place, your generosity will help us continue to strengthen our community's identity for generations to come.



Graylight Media



Missoula Art Museum

### Empowering Dreams: MDF as the Fiscal Anchor for Community Progress

In the heart of Missoula lies an entity committed to transforming our community's aspirations into realities: The Missoula Downtown Foundation (MDF). Serving as a fiscal agent, MDF takes on the critical role of financial stewardship for various initiatives that enrich Downtown Missoula. Among these projects are the Downtown Riverside Art Walls Project at the North Western Energy substation, an open-air canvas that magnifies native american talent; the annual Santa Flyover, spreading holiday magic; and the Festival of the Dead, a celebration of life and art.

By managing the financial administration, MDF enables project leaders to focus on their missions. In doing so, the foundation acts as the backbone of community progress, ensuring each initiative not only survives but thrives.

MISSOULA  
Downtown  
CONNECTING OUR  
COMMUNITY

### Brushstrokes of Connection:

MDF is collaborating with artists to reimagine public spaces that are vibrant!

See page 4



## Giving in Action

Over the past 13 years, the Missoula Downtown Foundation has raised and invested more than \$2.0 million into Downtown Missoula. That total includes investments in Caras Park, wayfinding and décor, the Small Business Support Fund, place-making initiatives, and investments in programs that connect our community and bring people together.

### From the President: MDF Board President Dan Maronick



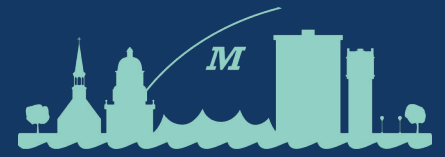
Welcome to the most colorful time of year, and what an exciting time it is for the Missoula Downtown Foundation! Fall is in the air, and as we bid farewell to a productive summer, I invite you to learn about the incredible projects we've been working on and how you can be part of this transformative journey.

As a board member, I'm thrilled about the enhancements we've embarked on. From fiscal sponsorships and Arts and Culture Grants to our imaginative "Past to Plate Tours" and exciting improvements to the underbridge at Caras Park, we're committed to making Downtown Missoula a hub of commerce, heritage, and culture.

This summer, we funded two stunning murals through the Arts and Culture Impact Grants. Created in partnership with local artists and the Missoula Art Museum Teen Art Project, these murals at Grizzly Hackle and the alley next to Office City are already enhancing Downtown Missoula's beauty. Your support doesn't just fund projects; it invests in the quality of life for both residents and visitors. And let's not forget the ongoing Beartracks Underbridge improvements, which offer additional outdoor activities near Caras Park.

These initiatives are just the tip of the iceberg. Our ultimate goal is a connected Missoula community experience, ensuring Downtown Missoula remains a place where everyone feels a sense of belonging. There are multiple avenues for you to support the Foundation, from planned giving to participating in our fundraising initiatives. Your involvement is a step toward a more vibrant, connected, and enriched Downtown Missoula.

So, as you enjoy the crisp fall air and cheer for the Griz, consider how you can be a part of this wonderful journey we're on. Your support is not just welcomed; it's essential.



## Looking Ahead: Fundraising Goals

Continued investment in Caras Park and the North Riverside Parks Plan

Completion of the Downtown wayfinding system

Ongoing support of the Arts & Culture Impact Grant Program

Additional investment in Holiday decor

Ongoing funding for Heritage Missoula programming



Athena Photography



## Heritage in Focus

This fall, Heritage Missoula continues to celebrate the stories and history that makes Downtown Missoula unique. Two initiatives stand out: the new Carnal Enterprises Tour for Unseen Missoula and the North Riverside Parks Interpretive Strategy.

New to the Unseen Missoula guided walking tours is the Carnal Enterprises tour. This tour delves into the untold stories of Missoula's West Front Street, once dubbed the city's 'red light district.' The tour explores the district's complex history, touching on themes of sex, race, class, and occupation. It aims to broaden social understanding against the backdrop of the remaining built environment. The tour is offered seasonally from April through September and covers about five city blocks, offering ADA accommodations.

On the other hand, the North Riverside Parks Interpretive Strategy is shaping the future of Caras, East Caras, and Bess Reed Parks. The plan includes recommendations for signage that adheres to Missoula guidelines, such as the Wayfinding Plan. It also emphasizes the importance of including stories from Montana's Indigenous people and historically marginalized communities. The strategy aims to create multi-use spaces that respect natural processes while providing better access for everyone.

Both initiatives exemplify Heritage Missoula's commitment to making meaningful connections to the shared human experience. They tie together key natural and cultural resources into a cohesive network, enriching the downtown experience for residents and visitors alike.



*Heritage*  
MISSOULA

**Honoring our legacy.**

### Savoring History: From Past to Plate Connects People to Place

In September, the Missoula Downtown Foundation introduced an unparalleled experience called "From Past to Plate." Participants embarked on a memorable journey, starting with an Unseen Missoula historic walking tour. Led by expert guides, the tour unveiled hidden gems and stories, enriching our appreciation of Downtown Missoula's storied past.

The tour culminated in a fine dining experience at one of two restaurant partners: Brasserie Porte Rouge and The Depot. Their hospitality and support of this event were exceptional, creating an inviting atmosphere that perfectly complemented the historical theme of the day. Both restaurants went above and beyond, curating specialized menus. Their collaboration elevated the entire event, making it not just a meal, but a true celebration of the cultural and historical fabric of Downtown Missoula.

But it wasn't just about the food or history; it was an evening of community. Attendees connected with fellow supporters, learning about the Foundation's latest projects aimed at enhancing Downtown's vibrancy in arts and culture, economy, and safety. The event also offered an avenue for meaningful donations, ensuring the continued growth and improvement of our cherished Downtown.

Whether you're a history buff, a foodie, or simply a lover of Downtown Missoula, "From Past to Plate" offered a multi-sensory experience that connected people to place while supporting invaluable community initiatives.

Stay connected with us for future opportunities to contribute.





Athena Photography

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# Brushstrokes of CONNECTION in Downtown

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## Arts & Culture Grants Unite Artists and Building Owners

Downtown Missoula is not just a physical space; it's a living canvas where history, culture, and community converge. The Arts & Culture Impact Grants, spearheaded by the Missoula Downtown Foundation (MDF), contribute to this rich tapestry by re-imagining public spaces that are vibrant, accessible, and inviting.

Our latest milestone? The vibrant *"Greetings from Missoula"* mural by local artist Tanya Lee Yarrow, a beautiful nod to Missoula's unique spirit.

MDF's grant program also plays a crucial role in youth engagement through the Missoula Art Museum's Summer TAP (Teen Art Project). This Arts and Leadership Program for high schoolers combines community connection, skill-building, and civic engagement. Participants collaborate with professional muralists to create alley murals, a project aligned with the Downtown Master Plan's focus on alley activation and placemaking.

The Summer TAP initiative is a stellar example of how the Arts & Culture Impact Grants meet multiple goals:

- **Heritage and Historic Preservation:** Safeguarding the soul of Downtown Missoula for future generations.
- **Arts & Culture:** Facilitating art projects like Tanya Lee Yarrow's mural and Summer TAP's alley installations that catalyze community engagement.
- **Safety, Livability, Walkability:** Crafting spaces that are universally welcoming and accessible.





Missoulian

## REIMAGINING PUBLIC SPACES THAT ARE VIBRANT

“The MDF’s Arts & Culture Impact Grants create destination artwork and activate spaces in Downtown Missoula, from gateways to alleys,” said Dan Maronick, President of the MDF Board of Directors.

Applications for 2024 projects will reopen this January. Applicants must align their projects with Downtown Missoula’s established plans and aim for completion within six months.

Whether you’re a budding artist, a property owner, or just a citizen invested in Downtown Missoula’s future, the Arts & Culture Impact Grants offer an unparalleled opportunity to weave your own brushstrokes into the community’s evolving masterpiece.

Learn more about the Arts & Culture Impact Grant’s and the Missoula Downtown Foundation at [www.missouladowntown.com/grants](http://www.missouladowntown.com/grants).



Missoula Art Museum



# Falling into Progress: Downtown Missoula's Latest Development

As the leaves turn golden and the air crisper, Downtown Missoula is not just falling into a new season but also into a new era of progress. Three major projects are shaping the future of Downtown Missoula: the Downtown Safety and Mobility Project, the redevelopment of the Old Library Block, and the Citywide Parking Plan.

## Downtown Safety and Mobility

Funded by a \$25 million RAISE grant, the Downtown Safety, Access, and Mobility (SAM) project aims to modernize our streets and transportation systems. The project focuses on Higgins Avenue from Brooks to Broadway and includes Front and Main St. two-way conversion between Orange and Madison streets. The project will also enhance Riverfront Trail connections and optimize 22 traffic signals. The overarching goal is to create a safer, more accessible, and economically vibrant downtown. The project is in its early stages, with public consultations and final engineering designs expected to take shape over the next couple of years.

## Redevelopment of the Old Library Block

City leaders have selected two companies, deChase Miksis of Boise and Edlen & Co. of Portland, to redevelop the old Missoula Public Library site. The Downtown Master Plan suggests various potential uses for the site, including mixed-income residential, nonprofit and general office space, a child care facility, a grocery store, and structured parking. The developers have a strong track record in urban mixed-income and mixed-use projects, and they plan to engage the community in shaping the site's future.

## Citywide Parking Plan

As Missoula grows, so does the demand for parking. The Citywide Parking Plan aims to improve parking and access options for everyone in Missoula. The project focuses on better management practices to support community goals like mitigating the effects of rapid housing development, supporting the economy, protecting the environment, and reducing traffic congestion. Public input is actively sought to shape the project outcomes.

These projects are not just about bricks, asphalt, and parking spaces; they are about building a future that reflects the values and needs of everyone who lives, works, and plays in Downtown Missoula. As we fall into a new season, let's also fall into a future of progress and community engagement town.

To learn more visit [www.engagemissoula.com](http://www.engagemissoula.com).



## Support Downtown Missoula When You Register Your Vehicle!



Contribute to the Heart of Missoula! When you choose the 406 license plate, \$25 from each purchase directly supports the Missoula Downtown Foundation. Your contribution helps us fund vital projects that make Downtown Missoula a lively, inclusive destination for everyone to enjoy!

For more details on how to make the switch to the 406 license plate or to get one for your new vehicle, reach out to your local County Treasurer's office today.



# Legacy of Love: How Planned Giving Nurtures the Heart of Missoula

Brandon Dewey, Director of Giving



Charitable giving often evokes the idea of immediate cash donations that produce instant benefits. These are crucial, but there's another dimension to philanthropy that endures—planned giving, a loving act that nurtures the core of Downtown Missoula for the long-term.

## Deferred Gifts: A Lasting Embrace for Missoula's Heart

Deferred gifts, such as bequests in wills or trusts that allocate funds to the Downtown Missoula Foundation, offer a way to continue your love for our community even after you've moved on. This form of giving ensures that your compassion lives on, fostering community development, artistic initiatives, and the ongoing beautification of our cherished Downtown.

## Gifts that Pay Income: The Win-Win of Annuities

Charitable gift annuities represent another heartwarming avenue for planned giving. By making a donation today, you don't just show love for Missoula—you receive it back in the form of a steady income for life. It's a reciprocal relationship that sustains you while also nurturing the community projects and causes you hold dear.

## Protecting Your Assets: Giving That Safeguards Your Estate

For those with substantial assets, planned giving is a way to shield your estate while generously contributing to Missoula's future. Financial tools like charitable remainder trusts provide a protective embrace for your assets and offer a lifetime of income, all while minimizing potential estate taxes. This is love in action, securing your legacy and enriching the heart of Downtown for years to come.

## Crafting Your Legacy of Love

When you commit to planned giving, you intertwine your legacy with the living tapestry of Missoula's past, present, and future. Your enduring love serves as a beacon, enabling the Missoula Downtown Foundation to remain robust, innovative, and ever-growing. Your thoughtful planning and generosity leave an indelible mark, ensuring that the heartbeat of Missoula's community—the downtown area—remains vibrant and full of life.

Planned giving options are as diverse as the donors who choose them, and can be tailored to align with your financial and philanthropic desires. Consult with your financial advisor to discover how you can weave a legacy of love into the fabric of Missoula's heart through planned giving. By investing in tomorrow today, you can ensure that your impact resonates far beyond your lifetime. Thank you for considering the long-lasting gift of planned giving to the Missoula Downtown Foundation.

## MDF by the Numbers: How we get it done



270 Individual Donors



Make projects happen

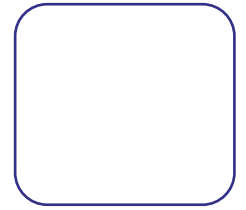


145 Business Donors





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# MISSOULA Downtown

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CONNECTING OUR  
COMMUNITY

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## Downtown for the Holidays



Kristen Victoria

Experience the Enchantment of Missoula’s Beloved Holiday Tradition—with a new name coming soon! While the name may be new, the cherished sense of community remains the same.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, Higgins Avenue will once again sparkle with illuminated floats, and our expanded Winter Makers Market is back—offering even more space for neighbors to unite, connect, and revel in the holiday spirit. Don’t miss the magical tree lighting ceremony, Santa Claus’s grand arrival, and an array of family-friendly activities that promise to make this holiday season unforgettable! Watch [www.missouladowntown.com](http://www.missouladowntown.com) for updates!