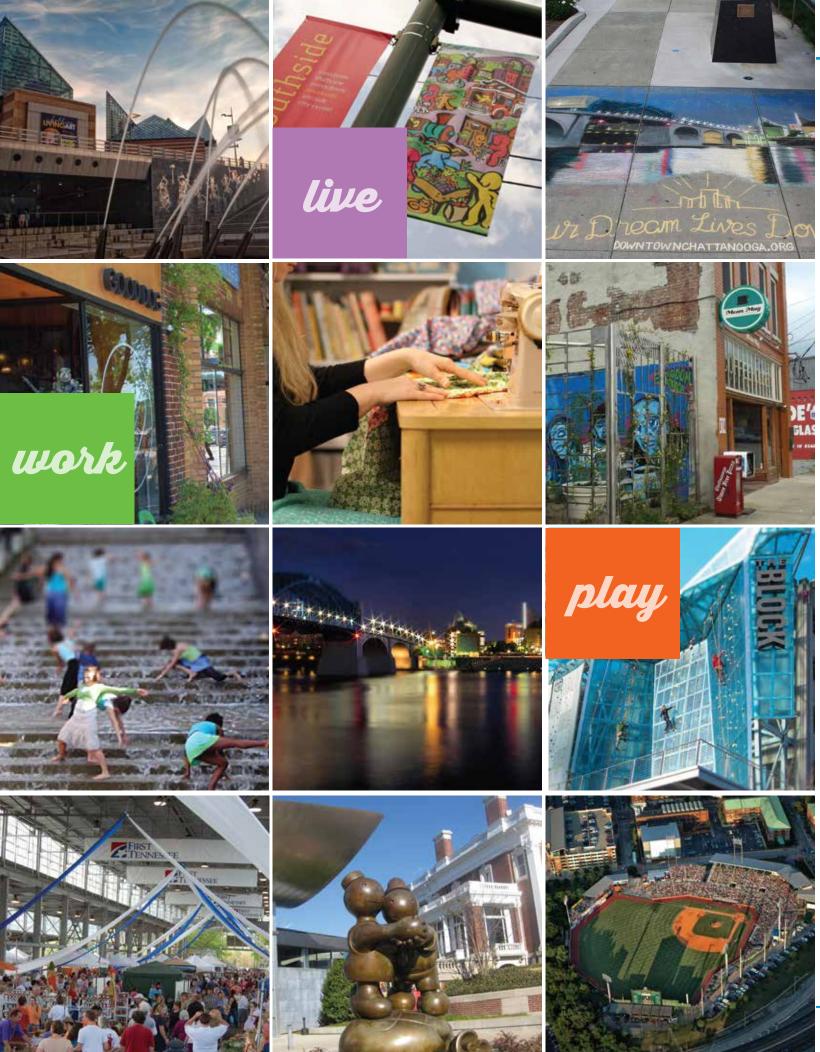
# THE RIVERCITY COMPANY

WORKING TO KEEP DOWNTOWN WORKING

2013 ANNUAL REPORT





FOR THE PAST O VEARS,

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### **OPEN LETTER**

River City Company has been actively engaged in the planning and development of downtown, and this was an exciting year for both.

Our new development, The Block, has added an exciting new component to the downtown skyline. It houses a local outdoor retailer, Rock/Creek, as well as one of the largest rock climbing facilities in the country with an astounding exterior climbing "art" wall even non climbers can enjoy. We invite you to go by and watch both the "pros" as well the next generation of Chattanoogans climb to new heights at High Point Climbing and Fitness.

With a focus on bringing new energy and vibrancy to City Center, we kicked off planning efforts that engaged over 600 community participants. As they expressed their hopes and visions for the future of downtown, we heard loud and clear that our community wants more housing choices, a downtown that's vibrant and connected to inviting public places, and a diverse city that's bikeable and walkable. Our City Center Plan reflects this and even more, and we look forward to making it a reality.

Our programs brought out over 750 people for an annual downtown cleanup, 350 people to outdoor movies, 45 organizations to participate in setting up "pop up" parks on Park(ing) Day and a growing list of partners and stakeholders. Because of this active shared commitment to the vibrancy of our city, our ever changing downtown stays authentic.

We are pleased to share with you an overview of our 2013 programs and projects; all focused on keeping Downtown Chattanooga the economic engine of our community. Thank you for your support in working hand in hand with us to build and plan for a city that people want to visit as well as live, work, play and invest!

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Kim White President/CEO River City Company



### ACCOLADES

**RATED NUMBER 1 FOR SMALL CITIES (100,000-250,000 POPULATION) FOR BEST CITIES** FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

under30ceo.com

**HOSTED 2013'S VOLKSWAGEN USA CYCLING PROFESSIONAL ROAD & TIME TRIAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS** 

**ONE OF TEN MOST UNEXPECTED CITIES FOR HIGH TECH INNOVATION** Techie.com

**ONE OF THE 10 BEST U.S. CITIES TO RETIRE FOR LESS THAN \$75 A DAY** U.S. News & World Report

**EPB WAS AWARDED THE POWER MAGAZINE'S 2013 SMART GRID AWARD** 

**ONE OF THE TOP 100 BEST PLACES TO LIVE** livability.com

**ANNOUNCED IN 2013 THAT CHATTANOOGA HAS BEEN SELECTED TO HOST A U.S. IRONMAN IN SEPTEMBER 2014** 

### ACCOLADES

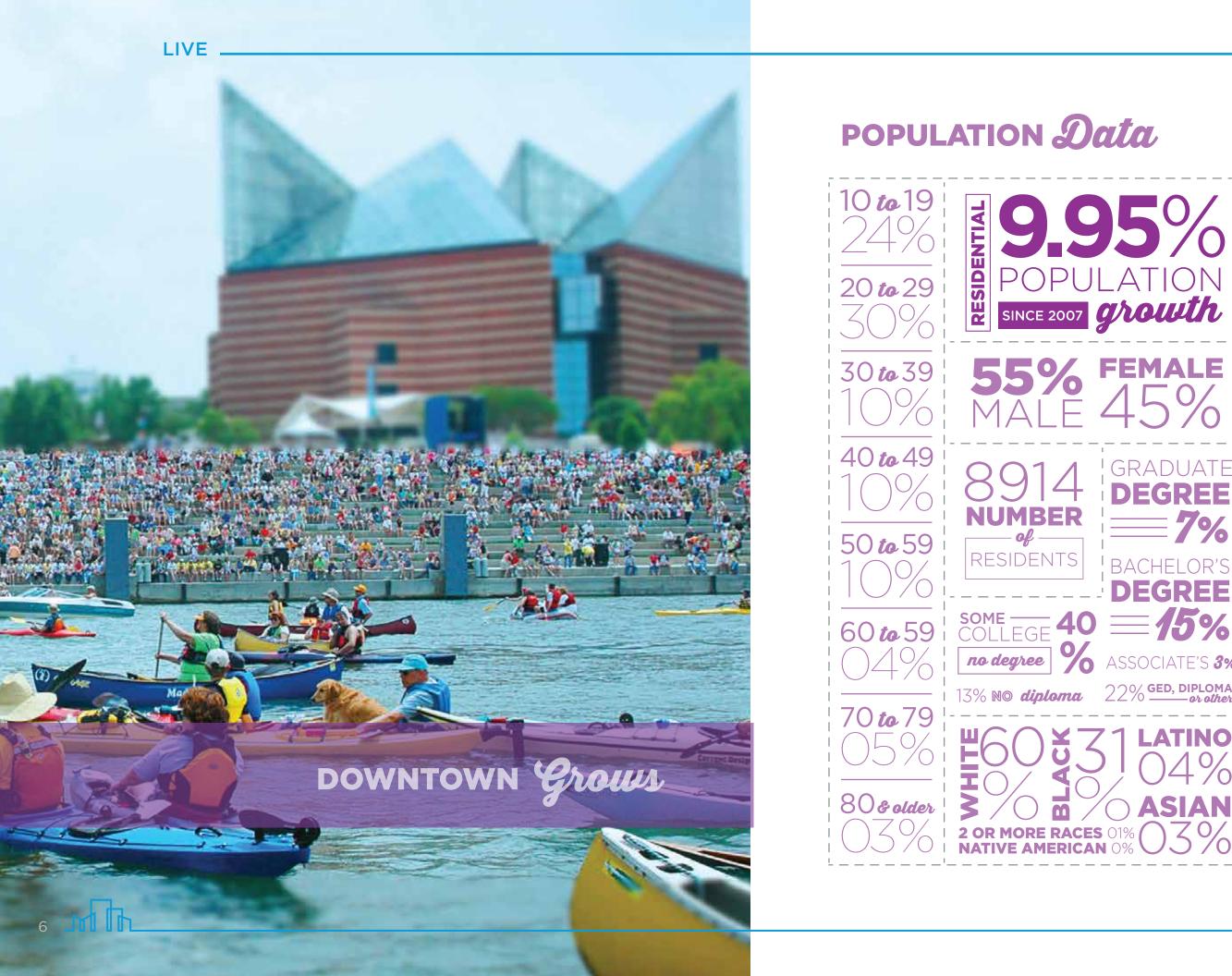
**THIRTY FOUR OUT OF 200 US METRO AREAS IN COST OF DOING BUSINESS** Forbes.com

**FEATURED IN CONNECTED** WORLD MAGAZINE, CNBC, **NEWAMERICA.NET, SNL.COM,** ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, **SMARTGRIDNEW.COM, FINANCIAL TIMES FT.COM FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE AND FORBES.COM** 

**TRAIL TOWN** Great Eastern Trail Association

**RUNNER FRIENDLY** COMMUNITY Road Runner Club of America



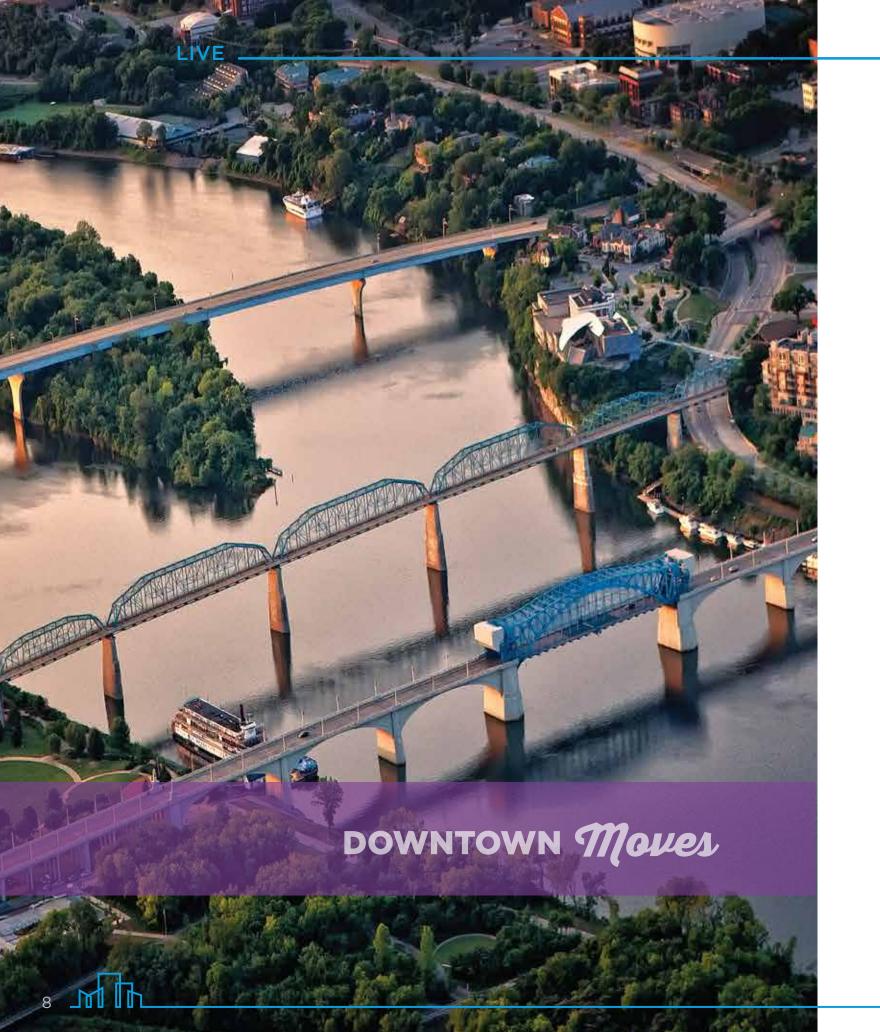






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### **CITY CENTER PLAN...** WHAT'S NEXT?

Occurring in October, the planning of the next phase of downtown redevelopment focused on City Center included a series of focus groups, stakeholder meetings and community input sessions to develop a thoughtful plan for residential, commercial and civic development in our city's core.

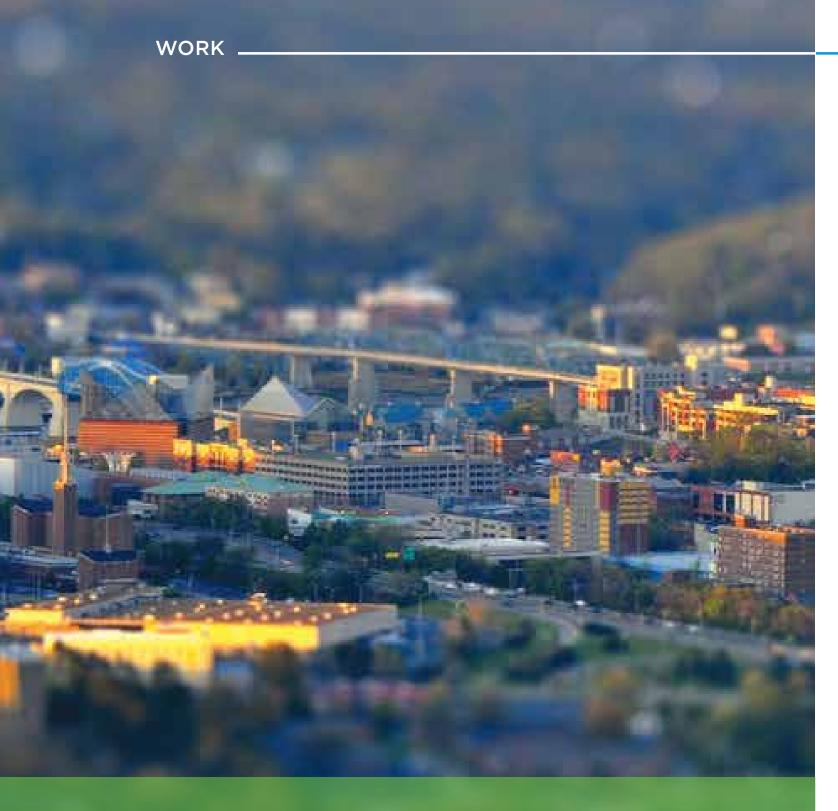
With a focus on 6th Street to 12th and Georgia Avenue to Highway 27 with the addition of Patten Parkway, over 10 focus groups were held with various attendees including downtown property owners, realtors, young professionals, city and county officials and more. The community input session was a two night event that brought over 550 people to the Bessie Smith Cultural Center to envision the future of their downtown.

Initial results from this planning exercise include a redesign of Broad needed rental residential space throughout the district including a new Street with the inclusion of protected bike lanes, decreasing the number structure at 728 Market Street along with repurposing existing office of lanes from six to four, keeping the current level of on street parking, space into residential units. adding greenery and broadening sidewalks. Other suggestions from the charrette include a redesign of Miller Park with a visual connection to Throughout 2014, River City Company will be working with the city and Miller Plaza, restoring a green space and redesign of Patten Parkway, other stakeholders to prioritize findings and develop partnerships to turn adding strategically located parking structures and securing much this plan for our urban core into reality.





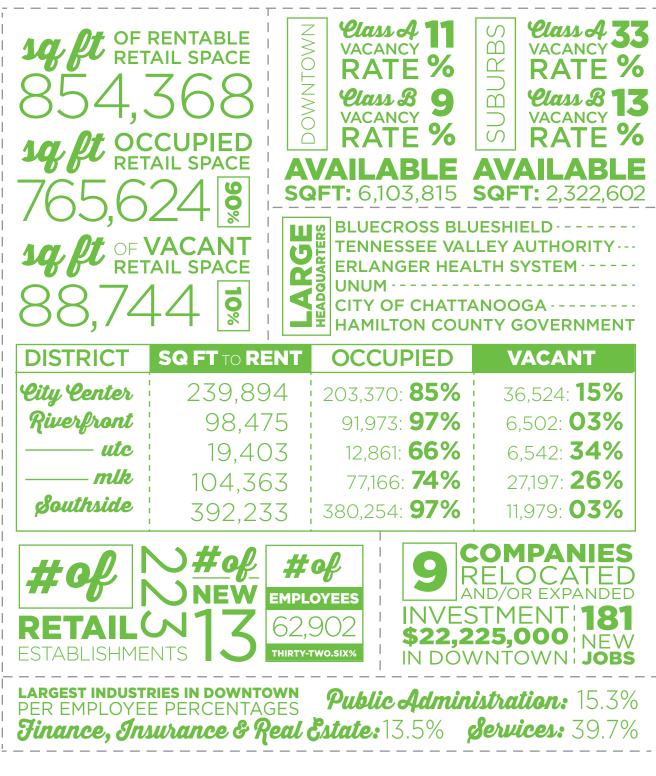




# DOWNTOWN Works



**BUSINESS** Data





### WORK

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Acting as the central focus and development project for River C Company in 2013, The Block broke ground at the former Bijou Thea on the 200 block of Broad Street in January with two tenants open business by the end of the year: High Point Climbing and Fitness a Rock/Creek.

High Point Climbing and Fitness is a state-of-the-art 23,000 square climbing and bouldering gym. From beginner to advanced walls to t top roping room, lead climbing pit and two boulder areas, ther climbing for all levels offered at High Point.

Rock/Creek is a local outdoor goods retailer, and their 4,300 square boutique style store at The Block is their fourth storefront in Chattan



WORK

Late in 2013, Chattanooga Coffee Company announced they would be opening a Chattz Coffee at The Block in 2014 along with an open-air kiosk of visitor information sponsored by the Chattanooga Convention and Visitor's Bureau in the CARTA electric shuttle breezeway.

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### WORK

### **CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE**

River City Company was proud to work with the CIM to make th

### **MAIN & MARKET APARTMENTS**

At the intersection of Main and Market Streets, the Union Gospe Mission Property will be transformed into a crucial mixed use develop ment in 2014. With the announcement of a 60 unit apartment develop ment with 13,000 square feet for first floor retail space known as Main n Chattanooga's Southside

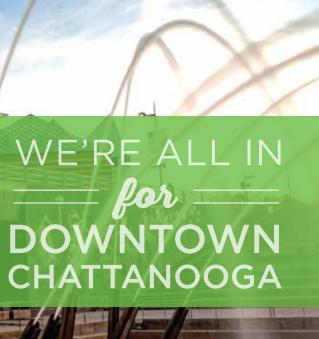


### **RETAIL & MERCHANT SUPPORT**

As a component of River City operations to support and recruit retail and businesses to our downtown footprint, 2013 started off with the completion of our Project: PopUp program. The first ever retail incubation program in the Southeast, Project: PopUp gained ample support, attention and praise both locally and nationally. Although the program was intended to last six months, several of the budding entrepreneurs signed long term leases testing out their concepts for a year or more. The program gave these small business owners the opportunity to see if a career in retail was their desired path. At the end of 2013, one of the Project: PopUp tenants decided to stay as a long-term occupant.

Because of the attention the program brought to the site as a whole, CitiPark has become a retail center full of different offerings. Today there are new restaurants, a new salon, a new cosmetic store and office in large part due to Project: PopUp that drew attention to the once overlooked site. It has also leveraged many conversations with

### WORK



neighboring partners to work on their ground floor retail efforts.

River City Company assisted in the recruitment of Tupelo Honey Café to Warehouse Row, Chicken Salad Chick to the former Miller Brothers Building, Chattanooga Coffee Company to The Block and Taqueria Jalisco to Miller Plaza.

### **ADVOCATING FOR DOWNTOWN CHATTANOOGA**

Over the year, River City Company met with over 200 groups to advocate for downtown. Whether it's meeting with a potential developer to discuss residential demand in our downtown, working with a fellow nonprofit to assist in the execution of a mutually beneficial event or meeting another city group to tell the Chattanooga story, River City Company advocates for downtown priorities and continues to be the storytellers of the continued revitalization of our urban area.



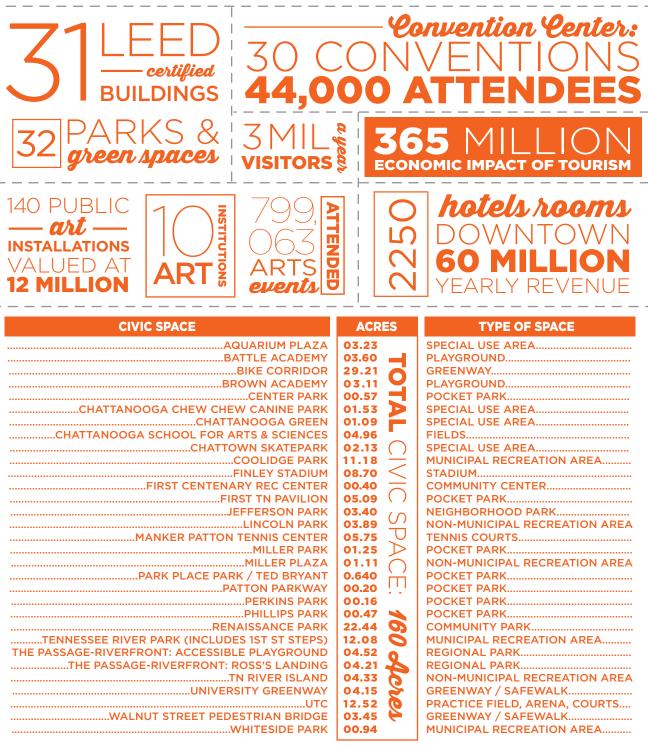
PLAY -

The transformation of Chattanooga's riverfront, with major enhancer to the Tempessee Aquarium, the Hunter Museum of American Art and Creative Discovery Museum, occurred because of the generosity of the to the 21st Century Waterfront Tust. Led by the City of ga, and without the use of the city's general funds, t

# DOWNTOWN Plays

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### **CLEAN AND GREEN**

With the largest cleanup to date, 750 volunteers descended upon downtown in April and collected 1500 bags of trash in 6 downtown districts and 7 neighborhoods along with several special projects including building a community garden at the 21st Century Child Development and Learning Center. VW of Chattanooga was the main sponsor of the event. ServPro of Chattanooga, CNE, The Kiwanis Club of way.org and LifeKraze now Spire partnered to make Clean and Green 2013 the most successful cleanup to date.

of a city are created by how the community programs its spaces. River City Company focuses on animating Downtown Chattanooga with programs throughout the year that create excitement, ownership and participation in our urban center





PLAY CHATTANOOGA What gives it a buzz and a unique sense of place? A lot of the intangibles **FRESH ON FRIDAYS** In its third year, Fresh on Fridays ran from April to October with over 1,000 participants throughout the season of cooking demonstrations, yoga classes, chalk art murals, chair massages, UTC pep rallies and more. The Fresh on Fridays program continues to be a great activator and crowd pleaser for Fridays downtown in Miller Plaza.





PLAY

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### PARK(ING) DAY

Taking the reins in coordinating the sixth annual Park(ing) Day, River City Company was excited to coordinate this international urban space reimagination event. With the largest amount of participants to date, 45 mini-parks were created in parallel parking spaces throughout downtown on September 20th with an array of activities animating the streets. Painters, dancers, blacksmiths, chefs, yoga instructors and more lined the streets, and we look forward to expanding this program in 2014.







### **CENTER PARK AND MOVIES AT CENTER PARK**

With a rebranding and repurposed use as a pocket park at 728 Market Street, Center Park became a space of commerce and enjoyment in 2013. The Food Truck Court of the Chattanooga Street Food Project found a home here, and there are now 10 mobile vendors in Chattanooga. This was also a site of programming and events throughout the year including our September movie series. Movies at Center Park, previously known as Movies at the 700 Block, spanned over four weeks bringing over 350 attendees. Cult classic films drew in families, students and young professionals downtown to enjoy dinner, drinks, a local band to open and a movie under the stars.

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Launched in June, Your Dream Lives Downtown showcased the opportunities that are in our downtown for people to build their businesses, their homes and their passions. The four part video series aired throughout our region on local and cable television stations, after key acts at Riverbend and audio played on area radio stations. The Your Dream Lives Downtown logo graced fans at Nightfall, billboards leading into downtown and on vacant storefront window clings to encourage people to see their dreams in these spaces.

With the idea to target those that were not currently living out their dreams downtown, Your Dream Lives Downtown appeared in local magazines, chalk art murals, a bus wrap, downtown street wide chalking of the logo and video projections at night off downtown buildings to generate a grassroots buzz for the campaign. To engage the community in their dream sharing, we requested individuals' dreams for downtown via social media in exchange for an opportunity to win a downtown prize package worth over \$1500.

As an extension of the Your Dream Lives Downtown campaign, River City with the help of the Chattanooga State Media Club have produced district videos that spotlight an individual who lives, works and plays in each district to educate the community on the location, happenings and people that call downtown's six districts home. The NorthShore, City Center and UTC/MLK have been released and spotlight the following respectively: a young family of four, a tech entrepreneur and the student government president. The remaining districts of the Riverfront, Bluff View and Southside will be featured in 2014

# **Contributors**

### Partners and Supporters

Benwood Foundation Lyndhurst Foundation Maclellan Foundation City of Chattanooga Hamilton County Government Berry & Hunt Bike Chattanooga BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee Capital Mark Bank and Trust CARTA Chambliss, Bahner and Stophel Chattanooga Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise Chattanooga Presents Chattanooga Public Library Chattanooga Times Free Press City Center Merchants Association Coker Tire Cornerstone Bancshares Foundation Downtown Council Chamber of Commerce EPB First Tennessee Foundation greenlspaces

Fletcher Bright Hutton Company Jim Berry Company Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant Group, Inc.



Tom Griscom, Chairman Consultant and Former Executive, Editor & Publisher Chattanooga Times Free Press

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Unum

Joe Graham Commissioner - District 6 Hamilton County Board of Commissioners

Yusuf Hakeem Councilman - District 9 Chattanooga City Council Chairman

Ron Harr President/CEO Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce

### SUPPORT

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CapitalMark

Outdoor Chattanooga Public Art Chattanooga Republic Parking System Sulzberger Foundation SunTrust Foundation The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Vision Hospitality Group Volkswagen Chattanooga Walden Security

### Downtown Beautification Supporters

BB&T Huffaker and Trimble

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### Media Partners

Chattanooga Times Free Press Comcast EPB Friends of the Festival WGOW Chattanooga Lookouts WDFF WTVC Sound Force Entertainment Chattanooga State Media Club

Consultant & Former CEO/President Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant Group, Inc.

SmartFurniture.com and Delegator.com

Steve Jett CARTA Board Chairman & Attorney Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel

Mitch Patel President & CEO Vision Hospitality Group, Inc.

Dana Perry President and Managing Shareholder Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel

**Jimar Sanders** Attorney Miller & Martin, PLLC

**Britton Stansell** General Manager Republic Parking System

Miller Welborn Partner Lamp Post Group





rivercitycompany.com | @RiverCityCo | @DowntownCHA | 423.265.3700 facebook.com/rivercitycompany | facebook.com/chattanoogadowntown

{ 850 Market Street, 2nd Floor Miller Plaza, Chattanooga, TN 37402 }