

MINUTES
U City Loop Special Business District Board Meeting
Fitz's – 6605 Delmar Blvd.
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Attending Board Members: Jay Trudeau, Mary Gorman, Renau Bozarth, and Michael Alter.

Absent Board Member(s): Dan Wald, Max Sassouni.

Others in Attendance: Mayor Terry Crow, Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp, Becky Ahlvin, Montez Miles, Captain Fredrick Lemons, Captain Brian Isenberg, Jessica Bueler, Carter Stacy, Hany Abounader, John Grizzell, Alison Bozarth, Suzanne Schoomer, Audrey Jones, Mike Giger, JoAnna Schooler, Rachel Siegert, Joe Edwards and Samantha Smugala.

Call to Order: The meeting began at 9:02 a.m. with a quorum.

Public Comments: No public comments

Approval of the Minutes: Mary Gorman made a motion to pass the April 8, 2025 LSBD Board meeting minutes. Micheal Alter seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion to pass the April 8, 2025 LSBD Board meeting minutes carried and passed unanimously.

University City Updates:

- i. **City Hall Updates** – Mayor Terry Crow provided updates on various city projects, including the Subtext Development, City Hall Annex project, business transition plans on Olive Boulevard, and concerns over federal funding for flood mitigation projects.
- ii. **Security Updates** – Captain Brian Isenberg, and newly appointed interim Deputy Chief Fredrick Lemons, discussed ongoing patrols in the Loop, efforts to address homelessness, and improvements in community outreach. Additional bike patrols are scheduled for the summer.

Façade Improvements – Deputy City Manager Brooke Sharp announced that \$60,000 in facade improvements were approved, with five applications funded. New Economic Development Manager Becky Ahlvin was introduced during the meeting to familiarize attendees with her role and upcoming projects.

EV Charging Stations – The city has been awarded \$500,000 for the installation of EV charging stations in Loop parking garage, though the final confirmation of funding is still pending.

Outdoor Dining Barrier Removal – It was announced that outdoor dining barriers are scheduled for removal following letters sent to business owners.

Businesses were given until May 15, 2025, to remove the barriers, after which city crews would begin the process of clearing any remaining installations. Efforts are being made to ensure the barriers are removed before the Loop Mural Festival scheduled for the end of May.

Washington University Update – JoAnna Schooler reported on recent commencement activities featuring Simone Biles and Jennifer Lewis as keynote speakers. Ms. Schooler provided updates on ongoing construction projects, highlighting Salt + Smoke's condo association project and renovations planned for Enigma Tattoo.

East Loop CID Update: Samantha Smugala shared updates on three significant projects in the East Loop. She reported that the East Loop Streetscape project is progressing, with surveys completed and traffic studies currently underway. She also provided a recap of the Cinco de Mayo Taco Crawl, which saw over 60 attendees with participation from eight local businesses. Additionally, Ms. Smugala discussed plans for the upcoming Juneteenth Event at 5900 Delmar, which will feature cultural celebrations, food trucks, and the Race for Reconciliation. Ms. Smugala gave a brief update on the Loop Trolley and the Trolley Passport program.

Treasurers Report: In the absence of Treasurer Dan Wald, Jessica Bueler noted that the LSB's balance as of April 1, 2025, was \$39,419.26, with the month ending at \$41,328.17.

EDRST Projects: LSB Chair Jay Trudeau discussed several projects slated for completion by June 30, 2025. These projects include \$30,000 allocated for advertising, \$15,000 for power washing Delmar Boulevard, and \$15,000 for trash pickup and cleaning. Promotional efforts are planned to support Loop businesses, with initiatives including TV advertisements, Facebook promotions, and consideration of a billboard campaign.

Mannequins Project: Audrey Jones reported on the upcoming "Recycle it, Don't Trash it!" 16th Annual Mannequins Project. She announced that 22 artists have been confirmed to participate, with installations scheduled to begin on May 17, 2025. Ms. Jones shared that the finale will be June 3, 2025 with all the mannequins being moved to the round-a-bout outside of City Hall. Ms. Jones also shared plans for a scavenger hunt to accompany the installations, aimed at increasing community engagement.

Upcoming Loop Events: Jessica Bueler provided details on two major events set to take place in the Loop. The Loop Mural Festival is scheduled for May 30 through June 1, 2025, and will feature four massive murals that will be painted, live art demonstrations and community activities. Ms. Bueler shared that Subtext and Local on Delmar donated \$5,000 to the Loop Mural Festival, and an additional \$2,500 for the printing of a banner around their construction site that promoted the community coloring contest that was promoted by the LSB. Renau Bozarth spoke about the 77 artists participating in the Budding Artist

Event that is set for May 31, 2025, showcasing local artists and their work in various Loop storefronts, along with live music, and a Craft Alliance kids tent.

Old Business: Mary Gorman discussed the process of the St. Louis Walk of Fame Stars and the missing plaque. Michael Alter made a motion to use the remaining \$1,600 of the St. Louis Walk of Fame EDRST funding to use for purchasing a new plaque for Barry Commoner with the condition of securing additional funds needed to cover the difference of the quote. Mary Gorman seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion to use the remaining \$1,600 of the St. Louis Walk of Fame EDRST funding to use for purchasing a new plaque for Barry Commoner with the condition of securing additional funds needed to cover the difference of the quote carried and passed unanimously.

Mary Gorman asked for additional funding for the damaged strings of the Metro Lighting product that are strung across Delmar Blvd. and provided Jay Trudeau with a document from their electricians.

Jay Trudeau spoke about the install of U City in Blooms flower planters with questions about the missing trees and safety concerns about the open tree grates.

New Business: There was no new business.

Public Comments: Hany Abounader spoke about the appearance of the Loop and asked about participating in cleaning up the street with a desire to see more momentum towards improving the streetscape.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Announcements: Jessica Bueler announced that the next LSBF board meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. If you have any business events, sales, promotions, please email jessica@visittheloop.com to be included on the website, social media postings, and weekly email blasts.