



A Strategic Plan for Revitalizing Downtown Loveland

Introduction

Downtown Loveland serves as the heart of a City that from its beginnings in 1877 has defined the best of Colorado's entrepreneurial spirit and sense of civic pride. From its agricultural roots in sugar beets and cherry orchards to today's thriving arts community, Downtown Loveland continues to offer diverse day time activities and great nightlife within a family-friendly environment. Today's Downtown offers a wide array of businesses, retail shops, galleries, cafes, breweries and restaurants within walking distance of our historic Rialto Theatre Center.



Downtown business and property owners believe that a strong economic foundation is critical to sustaining a vibrant community respectful of its history, committed to the full inclusion of all its citizens, and strategically positioned to thrive in a globally competitive marketplace. With this background in mind, we have developed the following strategic plan for revitalizing the Downtown as the heart of creative excellence in Northern Colorado.

Our Vision

Our residents enjoy the convenience of shopping, working, and learning in a pedestrian-friendly city-center. Visitors find restaurants, retail shops, and entertainment easily accessible by public transit or private vehicle. The presence of local residents at all hours of the day or night demonstrates the Downtown's commitment to friendly service in a clean, safe environment.



Our Mission

To create a vibrant Downtown that provides a safe, dynamic environment to gather, live, educate, shop, work, and play.

Guiding Principles

This Downtown Plan for Revitalization is driven by the following principles:

1. We are committed to a process driven by community stakeholders and supported by the City of Loveland.
2. We are committed to a long term revitalization strategy (20 yrs.) that combines immediate action to improve communications and marketing with an ongoing responsibility to maintain and improve the downtown infrastructure.
3. We are committed to shaping policies and procedures that provide adequate flexibility for the organization to respond quickly and effectively to changing conditions at the local, state, national, and/or international levels.
4. We are committed to implementing an entrepreneurial environment in which Downtown products and services meet local demands and attract new residents and businesses to the area.
5. We are committed to shaping collaborative public/private partnerships that promote economic growth in ways that honor and sustain strong community values.



Goals

1. To create a sustainable Downtown Development Authority (DDA) within twelve (12) months and determine the feasibility of a Business Improvement District within two (2) years.
2. To create an event and marketing plan in cooperation with the Community Marketing Commission, Loveland Chamber of Commerce and other entities that promotes a unique Downtown brand.
3. To implement key elements of the approved (City of Loveland) infrastructure plan by commencing construction over the next twenty-four (24) months and completing within five years, in ways that complement and preserve the Downtown's historic and cultural heritage.
4. To increase residential and employment density as catalysts for enriching life for residents and visitors alike.
5. To assist emerging and existing businesses in navigating various local, county, and state regulations and taxing policies.



Action Plan



The Downtown Working Group will take the following actions in order to meet the strategic goals listed above.

1. Create a sustainable Downtown Development Authority (DDA) within twelve (12) months and determine the feasibility of a Business Improvement District within two (2) years.

1.1 Establish geographically and economically appropriate boundaries for the Downtown that allow for future residential and employment growth.

- 1.2 Identify and establish a communications process with current business and property owners within the defined geographic boundaries.
- 1.3 Establish multiple communication forums with emphasis on email, social media, and newspaper.
- 1.4 Prepare an organizational structure for a "One Stop" approach to Downtown development.
- 1.5 Based on this strategic plan, develop and present a DDA plan to the Loveland City Council in order to seek an election to create a Downtown Development Authority.

2. Create an event and marketing plan in cooperation with the Community Marketing Commission, Loveland Chamber of Commerce and other entities to promote a unique Downtown brand.

- 2.1 Consolidate existing community business and economic development groups where appropriate to alleviate overlaps and inefficiencies.
- 2.2 Cross-load membership/representation among service and advisory groups to improve communications and effectiveness.
- 2.3 Convene groups of local community and business people to identify existing cultural and economic strengths.
- 2.4 Coordinate events around a common theme/brand that sets the Downtown apart from other local communities.
- 2.5 Build local interest in the Downtown as a catalyst to attracting new residents, businesses, and visitors.



3. Implement key elements of the approved (City of Loveland) infrastructure plan by commencing construction over the next twenty-four (24) months and completing within five years, in ways that complement and preserve the Downtown's historic and cultural heritage.



- 3.1 Create a user-friendly summary with completed and planned infrastructure projects.
- 3.2 Hold small group meetings with residents, business owners, and other interested groups to discuss the implications of each project as well as the links between and among those projects.
- 3.3 Gather community input regarding the balance between economic development and preserving local history and culture.
- 3.4 Create timely, ongoing progress reports via multiple media sources.
- 3.5 Design an operating budget that balances immediate marketing and communication needs with a sustainable infrastructure.

4. Increase residential and employment density as catalysts for enriching life for residents and visitors alike.

- 4.1 Partner with the City of Loveland economic development department to keep abreast of demographic trends and emerging economic opportunities.



4.2 Establish a working relationship with area brokers and developers to highlight business and residential opportunities in the Downtown.

4.3 Establish a working relationship with funding sources and development groups that demonstrate an understanding of and a commitment to sustainable economic growth.

4.4 Create opportunities for a wide variety and type of business and residential uses with an emphasis on encouraging growth of local businesses.

5. Assist emerging and existing businesses in navigating local, county, and state regulations and taxing policies.

- 5.1 Create a proactive partnership with the Loveland Center for Business Development to assist with business development.
- 5.2 Work with city, county, and state agencies to provide ongoing workshops and seminars related to business regulations and tax policies/procedures.
- 5.3 Provide "just-in-time" support/advocacy for business and property owners who need immediate answers or directions.
- 5.4 Provide tips through blogs and other media related to common problems experienced/reported by local business and property owners.
- 5.5 Provide recognition of those individuals or groups who make significant contributions to the success of the Downtown.



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