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DOWNTOWN DISTRICT AWARDS \$25 THOUSAND IN FIRST ROUND OF DISTRICT DOLLARS GRANTS

ST. LOUIS – The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District (Downtown District) announced today the first round of grants designed to support local scale improvements.

The Downtown District awarded seven organizations a total of \$25,000 to fund smaller-scale improvements that will make a difference and build momentum.

"We are excited to support the efforts of our grantees to make Downtown a vibrant and safe community. This first round of grants support a wide range of projects and this is a strong start for *District Dollars,*" said Kelli McCrary, executive director of the Downtown District. Developing a microgrant program to support innovative ideas and accelerate implementation was one recommendation in the <u>Design Downtown STL Neighborhood Plan</u>, and McCrary said the Downtown District is excited to be making it happen for the Downtown community.

"The creative energy spurred by *District Dollars* is doing just what we hoped— making Downtown St. Louis cleaner, safer, and better," McCrary said.

The awards are:

- 1. Citra Fitness & Movement for Archglow Yoga: \$5,000
- 2. Labyrinth Smart Mobility for STL Downtown Link: \$2,500
- 3. Laclede's Landing Neighborhood Association for Parties on the Plaza: \$2,583
- 4. National Blues Museum for Blues on the Block: \$4,951
- 5. Pocketparks for Pizza in the Park: \$2,596
- 6. The Thaxton for Thaxton Security Cameras: \$2,370
- 7. T-REX for Supplemental Exterior Lighting: \$5,000

All projects funded by *District Dollars* must be wholly within the boundaries of the District (see attached map) and be complete within one year of award funding. Additionally, all approved projects aligned with one of the designated impact areas: Public Safety, Public Art/Beautification, and Community Building. More details on the projects awarded can be found at <u>stlcid.org/district-dollars</u>. Questions about *District Dollars* can be sent to <u>grants@stlcid.org</u>.

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DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

About the Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District

The Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District (CID, Downtown District, or District) is a 501(c)(3) independent nonprofit organization dedicated to making Downtown cleaner, safer, and better. For more than 20 years, the District has provided special benefits to Downtown, thanks to property owners within its <u>180-square block area</u> who approved an additional annual assessment. The District approaches its mission through core values of Integrity, Inclusion & Equity, Communication & Collaboration, and Reflective Innovation.

The District is part of a chorus of people and organizations dedicated to a successful and resilient Downtown, each with a role in helping the area. More information at <u>stlcid.org</u>.

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