

2020

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



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DEVELOPMENT YEARBOOK

2020

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2020

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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INTRODUCTION

For over 30 years, the Downtown Development District (DDD) has worked to initiate, incubate, and support partnerships that develop and enhance the District, using community-driven master plans and economic incentives to aid private-sector and non-profit philanthropic organizations in their development and entrepreneurship efforts. These partnerships have produced unprecedented momentum and excitement for the future of Downtown.

It was a challenging year, but Downtown Baton Rouge welcomed many new developments in 2020. We continue to implement great new improvements for the public, and remain committed to our mission of advancing downtown for the entire community. Downtown establishments are adapting, and have shown tremendous resiliency. We are looking forward to getting back to business stronger than ever!

Progress is escalating in the CBD with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry relocating their headquarters downtown, and Mike Wampold announcing the renovation of the Chase Tower into a new mixed-use development. We gained a new modern public library surrounded by the award-winning public greenspaces of the Central Green. Development is also increasing in Downtown East with the announcements of Elysian III residences and Valencia Park residences. Construction continues at the Water Campus with an office building recently completed and a residential building currently leasing.

Through the pandemic, downtown's greenspaces continue to attract thousands of residents, workers, and visitors; offering safe outdoor recreation and outdoor dining options. In addition to the levee path which now runs from downtown to L'Auberge Casino, the Downtown Greenway adds miles more of pleasant pathways for biking, walking, and running.

We thank those who live, invest, work, shop, and visit downtown for making this possible. We look forward to an exciting 2021!

NEW BUSINESSES



NEW BUSINESSES

DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH, 307 Third Street, is a primary care and walk-in clinic that sets itself apart by offering patients many other services under one roof such as botox, fillers, IV hydration and dentistry.

CAPITOL GROCERY, 701 Spanish Town Road, is a full service grocery store that serves breakfast and lunch. The business has recently changed management and is a frequented neighborhood spot for food and socializing.

OUTSIDE STIMULI, 227 Florida Street, offering indoor plants and working to improve life in Baton Rouge; opened in late 2019. Outside Stimuli began online ordering and contactless pick-ups in 2020.

BATCH 13, 555 Lafayette Street, offers take-out and catering programs, downtown bike delivery, and online ordering through the new Batch 13 app. The menu includes bowls, brioche bun or biscuit sandwiches, and its unique bonut, a concept based off the buttermilk biscuits made famous by Al Copeland, the founder of Copeland's Restaurants and Popeye's Fried Chicken and Biscuits.

THE VINTAGE BR, 333 Laurel Street, is a New Orleans-based coffee and beignet shop. The Vintage's fare also includes breakfast items, flatbreads, sandwiches, charcuterie and cheese boards, wines, and other drinks.

BATON ROUGE GENERAL EMERGENCY ROOM, 3600 Florida Street, reopened the 33-bed emergency room that will treat and assess emergencies of all kinds; from chest pains and broken bones to diabetes and strokes for the Downtown and Mid City residents.

WLFT - TV, 334 Third Street, produces the all new tv station '30 on 3rd'. Dedicated to Downtown Baton Rouge. 30.3 is local event and business news interspersed with national breaking news, weather, sports, plus everything and anything downtown.

GENERAL MARINE SERVICES, serve their customers along the Mississippi River with quality service in the marine transportation industry by providing extraordinary operational performance in safety, logistics, personnel, and economics.

A PERFECT PIECE, 305 France Street, is a women's online clothing boutique specializing in fashion that flatters your figure. They have a fabulous selection of plus size women's clothing.

PELICAN INSTITUTE, 342 Lafayette Street, is a nonpartisan research and educational organization, and the leading voice for free markets in Louisiana.

GEAUX ROUGE RADIO PROGRAM, 929 Government Street, is founded by Baton Rouge native and criminal defense attorney, Franz Borghardt. Geaux Rouge showcases the social, cultural, business, artistic, and culinary scenes of our city through philanthropic events, social media and the Geaux Rouge Radio Show.

PARTNERS TITLE, 402 Fourth Street. Real Estate Attorney Jacques Waguespack and Level Homes Developer Todd Waguespack have joined together to form Partners Title, a full-service real estate title company serving both commercial and residential properties in the Greater Baton Rouge Area.

GEAUX RIDE, 521 N. Third Street Suite A, has taken years of experience to curate the ultimate outdoor adventure. Combining the nostalgic bike rides of your childhood with the latest technologies of today, Geaux Ride Glow Bicycle Tours offers a variety of glow in the dark bicycles, glow in the dark accessories, and custom made event apparel. This excursion is wrapped into an unforgettable hour long bicycle ride through beautiful downtown Baton Rouge powered by the perfect soundtrack.

LIFE STORAGE, 2151 Third Street, is a full service climate control storage facility servicing the downtown area.

LEMOINE COMPANIES, 1200 Brickyard Lane, is one of the most respected full-service general contracting and construction management firms in the Southeast. Lemoine Companies constructs and manages projects ranging from minor interior renovations to some of the most complex commercial, education, healthcare, public and industrial landmarks in the Gulf Region.

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.,1200 Brickyard Lane, provides architectural, engineering, and environmental services. The company offers interior design, power engineering, geotechnical, transportation infrastructure, and geomatics engineering services.

LOUISIANA CYBER COORDINATION CENTER, 1200 Brickyard Lane, is located in the newest building on campus along with engineering, disaster recovery and government agencies. Cybersecurity professionals from the Louisiana National Guard will conduct cyber missions alongside peers from LSU’s applied research affiliate, Stephenson Technologies Corp., and Radiance Technologies, a private defense contractor.

RED STICK SOCIAL, 1509 Government Street, is located in the newly renovated Electric Depot and opened in the spring of 2019. It is a premier entertainment venue and popular social gathering spot featuring bowling and food.

CITY ROOTS COFFEE BAR, 1509 Government Street, is local coffee house with character specializing in small-batch roasting and hand-crafted coffee beverages, including sparkling lattes, nitro-coffees and ice-cream based alternatives. It is the newest vendor located in the Electric Depot.

SWEET SOCIETY, 1509 Government Street, serves up new flavors of Japanese taiyaki ice cream served in a fish-shaped waffle cone. Try traditional flavors like red bean and custard or newfound favorites like nutella. They also feature several refreshing drinks like their Thai Tea and Cosmic Lemonade.

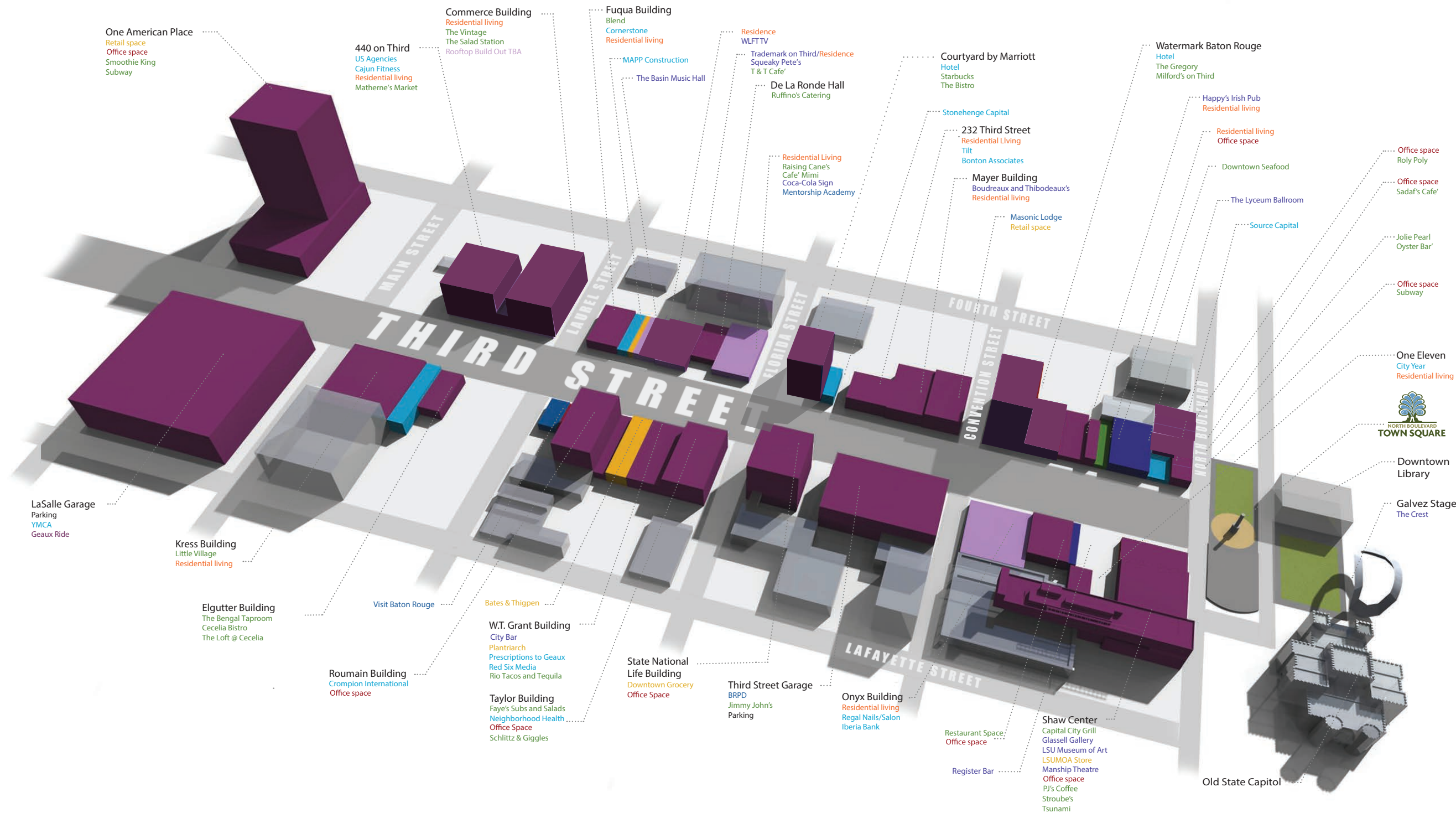
BORU, 1509 Government Street, is serving hand-crafted noodles, made exclusively in-house. A large viewing window allows guests to watch the chefs display their classical training from around the world and impressive mastery of Japanese cuisine.

BONTON ASSOCIATES, 232 Third Street, provides end-to-end civil engineering and consulting services to municipal water infrastructure clients, with design and planning capabilities that support water, wastewater and storm water collection, conveyance, treatment and distribution.

SHAMROCK MARINE EXPANSION, 900 River Road, has been providing safe transportation to the shipping and towing industry for 15 years and counting. The Baton Rouge launch station and facilities have expanded to handle unloading/loading stores from trucks to their boats.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Dining | Offices | Residential | Mixed Use | Mixed Use - In Planning/
Under Construction |
| Institutional | Services | Retail | Entertainment | |



THIRD STREET DIVERSITY

In 1950, Third Street was the heart of not only downtown, but of Baton Rouge. After years of decline, the Third Street corridor has re-emerged as the place to live, work, and play in Baton Rouge. New retailers and developments along Third Street are bringing more residents downtown than ever before, fulfilling a long-term vision for the city's center that's been in the works for more than two decades. Featuring many of the city's best restaurants, music venues, and bars, Third Street is already thriving with nightlife and entertainment options. New investments in residential developments and essential services, such as a grocery store and a pharmacy, are helping to make downtown more livable.

In total, there are more than two dozen startups and small businesses downtown that are owned and operated by young entrepreneurs. This exciting spirit of youthful entrepreneurship is yet another reason why it is a great time to be downtown. New restaurants and bars provide a vast array of entertainment options, while new hotels, retailers and service based businesses provide convenience and shopping opportunities. Third Street was awarded by the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association in 2018 as a 'Great Street.'



ONYX RESIDENCES

Commercial Properties Realty Trust invested approximately \$7 million in the construction of a mixed-use development on the corner of Third Street and Convention Street that introduced an additional 28 residential units downtown. The Onyx Residences, conveniently located just a block away from North Boulevard Town Square, includes both one and two bedroom options that range in size from 600-1,100 square feet. The development offers amenities such as SMART Home technology, fiber-based Internet provided by CenturyLink, DirectTV service, and balconies overlooking the street. The property also includes 5,600 square feet of retail space on the ground level which houses Iberia Bank and Regal Nails.

More information about this project can be found on their website: www.onyxresidences.com.



COMMERCE BUILDING

5th Floor Company, a New Orleans-based firm, acquired the international style Commerce Building in 2013 and hired the nationally-recognized New Orleans architecture firm Eskew Dumez Ripple Architects to engage the downtown community in the programming of the vacant building, previously housed several state offices.

The developers received state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits as well as a U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development loan to finance the \$30 million historical restoration multi-use project. Construction was completed in 2016 on the eight-story, 180,000 square-foot building located on the corner of Laurel and Third Streets. This multi-use building includes 93 residential units, a rooftop pool, fitness center, on-site covered parking, the Vintage Baton Rouge, and Salad Station. The residential units comprised in the building are one, two, and three bedrooms ranging from 603 to 1,500 square feet.

More information on this project is available at www.thecommercebldg.com.



COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

Windsor Aughtry Company, Inc. of Greenville, SC, has completed an approximately 85,000 square-foot, eight-story, 147-room Courtyard by Marriott Hotel at the epicenter of Downtown’s Third Street Corridor. The Downtown Courtyard by Marriott’s specific location at 260 Third Street pays homage to the Hotel Istrouma, Baton Rouge’s first downtown hotel formerly at the same Third Street location.

Designed by Bounds and Gillespie Architects, PLLC, the hotel takes advantage of downtown’s skyline along Third Street and Florida Street, as well as south to LSU, with approximately 35% of the rooms equipped with balconies. The completion of this \$23.6 million investment completes four contiguous blocks of urban streetscape and complements the current commercial diversity of the historic Third Street corridor. It also creates a cohesive urban streetscape and houses downtown’s first Starbucks on the ground level.



WATERMARK BATON ROUGE

Built in 1926 as one of Baton Rouge’s first skyscrapers, the recently renovated building was originally the home of Louisiana National Bank. It was purchased by developer Mike Wampold in the spring of 2014, and converted to an upscale hotel with two restaurants. The 12-story Art Deco building, located on the corner of Convention and Third Street, completed construction in 2016, and converted the office building into a 148-room Marriott Autograph. The Watermark Baton Rouge also features two premier restaurants on the bottom floor. The Gregory, featuring original murals painted by Angela Gregory, offers refreshing culinary takes on Louisiana classics, while Milford’s on Third, a New York-style deli focuses on local and family tradition.



440 ON THIRD

In 2015, Developers David Weinstein and Dyke Nelson renovated the old Capital One Bank Building at the corner of Third Street and Main Street, now known as 440 on Third. The approximately \$12 million project was converted into a multi-use facility with 65 residential units, offices, and ground floor retail. The apartments include one and two bedroom options and have available on site parking. Commercial tenants include USAgencies, Cajun Fitness, and the full-service grocery store Matherne’s Market. The development also includes 28 parking spaces dedicated to supermarket patrons which are accessed from Fourth Street.



THE HERON DOWNTOWN

John O. Hearin, a local developer and downtown property owner, has completed construction on a 142-unit apartment complex called The Heron Downtown. Located on Sixth Street between Florida and Convention Street, the development is a six-story building with one and two bedroom units. The first two floors of the development are comprised of garage space with approximately 250 spaces for residents and guests. Approximately 3,000 square feet of commercial space is located on the ground floor with the remaining upper floors comprised of residential units.

The apartments at The Heron Downtown have natural hues that calm the senses and allow residents to unwind at ease. Spacious, sunlit floor plans boast wood grain floors; kitchens are elegantly outfitted with energy efficient appliances and imported granite countertops. All apartments feature private covered balconies, large walk-in closets, and in-unit washers and dryers. Other amenities include a clubhouse, swimming pool, landscaped courtyards, and access to the adjacent BREC Convention Street Park.

More information about this project can be found on their website: www.herondowntown.com.



IBM & 525 LAFAYETTE

A partnership between former Governor Bobby Jindal, former LED Secretary Stephen Moret, East Baton Rouge City-Parish, and BRAC attracted IBM to locate downtown and increase the economic viability of Baton Rouge. Complementing this unique partnership is the commitment from Louisiana State University (LSU) to increase Computer Science-related graduates, along with riverfront property improvements from The Baton Rouge Area Foundation and Commercial Properties Realty Trust. The riverfront property, which was formerly the home of the Baton Rouge Advocate, contains the IBM facility as well as 85 residential units within a residential complex known as 525 Lafayette. IBM began occupying the office tower in the spring of 2015 and currently employs around 800 people. Other tenants include Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers Headquarters, Fishman Haygood Law Firm and Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

IBM has amplified the downtown development stage, another returning riverfront property to commerce.

More information about this project can be found on their websites: www.ibmloisiana.com/jobs/ & www.525lafayette.com



CHASE SOUTH TOWER

In 2018, Mike Wampold, a local developer with several projects located throughout Baton Rouge, announced his plans to purchase and renovate the Chase South Tower located at 451 Florida Street the Chase South Tower is located in the heart of the Central Business District and was originally built in the 1960s, making the building eligible for Historic Tax Credits to assist with the renovation costs.

Chase South Tower is a 333,000 square-foot office building that Wampold plans to convert to a mixed-use development with retail, residential, and office space. The development is expected to bring an additional 140-150 residential units to downtown's Central Business District. Current plans include a variety of apartment sizes ranging from one-bedroom to large three-bedroom units with rental rates expect to be \$1.60 to \$2 per square foot. Amenities will include a rooftop pool and a health club/fitness center. Renovation to the upper 10 stories into luxury apartments is expected to begin in 2021.



BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES

The Belvedere Townhomes are four riverfront luxury townhomes on Main and Lafayette Streets, located adjacent to 525 Lafayette. Approximately \$8.5 million was invested in the construction of these high-end townhomes that offer additional living options to Downtown Baton Rouge residents. The townhomes sit on a quarter-acre lot, are four stories, and range in size from 3,500 to 5,000 square feet. All four units were pre-sold.



THE ELIAS

The Elias is a \$3-million multifamily housing project located in the historic Beauregard Town neighborhood on the corner of Napoleon and America Streets. The development includes 25 one and two bedroom apartment units with garages on the ground floor that are designed to complement the exterior aesthetic of the existing neighborhood.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Landscape Architect Joseph Furr is completing a streetscape improvement project for First Presbyterian Church, at 736 North Boulevard. The improvements will enhance the visual aesthetics and easy of mobility around the property. Also included in the project is additional security fencing and walls with automated gates. The project is expected to be complete in early 2021.



CARY SAURAGE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER

In 2019, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge (ACGBR) acquired the “Triangle Building” on St. Ferdinand Street that formerly housed the District Attorney’s office. ACGBR began renovating the space this year to include a community art space, recording studio, rehearsal spaces, artist workshops, roof top patio, and gallery with a total estimated cost of \$2.6 million.

The ACGBR is currently located in the historic firehouse at 427 Laurel Street. Once the building is renovated, the move will allow the Arts Council to be a resource center for the arts, centrally located in the heart of downtown. Conceptual plans and renderings of the renovation have been completed by Ritter Maher Architects to promote the fund raising campaign. This building is under renovation and is expected to be completed in summer 2021.



210 LAUREL STREET

Developer Prescott Bailey purchased the building at 210 Laurel Street in the summer of 2015 for \$432,000 from the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police. Local architect Norman Chenevert designed the three-story building with a total project cost of \$2 million. The first two floors are for office and retail use with the top floor housing a residential condominium that has unobstructed views of the Mississippi river. The building is fully leased with CARBO Landscape Architecture occupying the ground floor space and Emergent Method occupying the second floor. The Lemoine Company oversaw the construction of the modern building comprised of a combination of steel panels and fiber cement panels.



ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. James Episcopal Church is a welcoming downtown congregation with a mission to serve Christ through worship, fellowship, education, and outreach. The church opened in 1844 as the first Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge and the fourth in Louisiana. The St. James Episcopal Day School began in 1950, educating students in pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. In 2019 and 2020, the school renovated a building on the corner of 5th and Florida to house a 2-3 year old preschool. A covered drop off area was also constructed as part of the project. During the COVID 19 lock down of 2020 the church moved forward with plans to renovate and upgrade major components of the church on 4th Street.



LABI

Louisiana Business and Industry (LABI) serves its broad membership by working towards the singular goal of fostering a climate for economic growth through consistently championing the principles of the free enterprise system. LABI sets the standard for advocacy, providing policymakers with the information and perspective necessary to advance sound public policy that supports strong economic growth. LABI is Louisiana's official state chapter for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

LABI began its organization downtown in 1975 at the old Heidelberg/Capitol House Hotel, currently known as the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. For the past few years, LABI has focused efforts on moving back downtown to increase business access to the state legislature. In the fall of 2019, LABI announced moving its headquarters downtown to 500 Main Street. The building's extensive upgrades were designed by Eskew Dumez Ripple of New Orleans and constructed by Faulk & Meek of Baton Rouge. The renovations were completed in 2020.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Since the first worship service held in the First United Methodist Church sanctuary on Easter Sunday in 1926, four generations of families have gathered at 930 North Boulevard to worship. The First United Methodist Church has recently renovated their sanctuary using approximately \$3.5 million in member donations to include a new chancel, flooring, acoustics, lighting, organ, and a sprinkler system for the entire building. The renovations were completed earlier this year and include a new entrance with an elevator on the east side of the church at T.J. Jemison Boulevard.



BATON ROUGE AREA CHAMBER

564 Laurel Street has been the home of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) for over 50 years and has been a part of the organization's identity. However, its previous condition was in need of updating and repairs. The recently renovated facility, designed by WHLC Architecture, now houses the Center for Economic Development. The Center for Economic Development is a modern business center located in the heart of downtown, and a hub where entrepreneurs from the private sector can gather to determine growth plans and new innovations. It is a center where visionaries can meet to brainstorm, problem solve and chart new directions for business in the region.



RIVER CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY

The vision for the new River Center Library began in 2004 with an allocated \$19 million to demolish the original, outdated structure and replace it with a new, modern library. A joint venture of Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture (WHLC) of Baton Rouge and Schwartz/Silver Architects of Boston was established to carry out the design of this state of the art facility.

The new downtown library is the centerpiece of North Boulevard Town Square and the Central Green - a place where our City's civic and cultural attractions come together. Its four floors encompass approximately 50,000 square feet of dynamic spaces for student, families, and professionals, as well as more technology and conveniences to cater to the surrounding community. The library features several meeting rooms and a spectacular roof top terrace with green wall and views of the surrounding city skyline. Buquet & LeBlanc were awarded the construction contract that began in late 2016. The library was completed in the summer of 2020.



500 LAUREL STREET

Originally built in the 1950s as the Union Federal Savings & Loan Building by renowned Louisiana architect A. Hays Town, this building was renovated in 2016 by developers Dyke Nelson and David Weinstein. The \$4.5 million renovation consists of Class A office space, currently serving as Business First Bank's headquarters. State and federal historic tax credits provided financial assistance to complete the interior and exterior renovation of this historic downtown building.



RIVER CENTER THEATRE

Post Architects, a local architectural firm, and the New Orleans based firm HMS Architects were chosen in early 2016 to redesign the existing River Center Theatre with a renovation budget of \$19 million. The original theatre was built in 1977 and has had little improvements to the facility since that time, making it part of the strategic plan developed for the larger River Center complex. Funding for the project originates from state sales tax rebate funds and construction is expected to be complete by spring 2021. Improvements to infrastructure related items and reconfiguration of the interior seating, lobby, and theatre areas are part of the project scope.



RIVERBOAT VISITS

The 2020 riverboat schedule was released by Visit Baton Rouge, and there were over 140 stops planned at the downtown riverfront dock prior to the COVID-19 restrictions The riverboats are expected to return to a full schedule in 2021. Each boat carries approximately 300 tourists, that are offered bus and walking tours of Baton Rouge when they arrive in the city. The number of riverboat cruises calling on Baton Rouge is expected to increase in the next couple of years, with Viking Cruise Lines starting its long-awaited Mississippi River service in August 2022.



THE WATER CAMPUS

The Water Campus is a reflection of the vision for the redevelopment of the Mississippi Riverfront, illustrated in the recommendations of Baton Rouge’s master plans. This unique development has been orchestrated through a collaboration between the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAf), the City of Baton Rouge, The Water Institute of the Gulf, Louisiana State University, and other coastal research institutions.

The Water Campus is the economic and cultural southern anchor of downtown, strengthening the connection to LSU. The 30 acre campus is located on the Mississippi River near the old Municipal Dock and the I-10 bridge and houses The Water Institute of the Gulf, an independent applied research organization focused on developing scientific coastal restoration solutions. Campus facilities, totaling more than \$50 million in private and public investments, contain the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority’s offices, LSU Center for River Studies, and the Center for Coastal & Deltaic Solutions. A multi-tenant office building on Brickyard Lane and a residential development have recently been completed.



200 WATER STREET

The Water Campus’ newest development is 200 Water Street, a twenty-unit loft-style apartment building located in the heart of the Water Campus and overlooking the Main Square. One and two bedroom luxury apartments are located conveniently to the levee bike path and just minutes to the heart of downtown and LSU. This residential development has an urban living feel in a coastal research campus setting. Tours of the building and leasing began in late 2020.



SHAMROCK MARINE

Shamrock Marine has opened its new headquarters just upriver from the I-10 bridge on the Mississippi River. The headquarters building is an abandoned tugboat wheel house re-purposed into the Shamrock Marine offices. In addition, the marine transportation company is expanding with plans including a new 430-foot dock on the Mississippi River and a day passenger boat. Owner Duncan Armentor’s expansion is to provide additional space for docking to clients. The expansion has gotten the attention of the passenger boat companies that stop in Baton Rouge, who will use the dock as well. Armentor also intends to buy a day passenger boat to dock in Baton Rouge before the end of the year. The boat, to be called Queen of Baton Rouge, will provide day trips along the Mississippi River.



HOLLYWOOD CASINO IMPROVEMENTS

Hollywood Casino has plans to begin construction on their new landside casino in early 2021. The casino looks to spend between \$21 million and \$25 million to expand its existing pavilion an additional 42,000 square feet for a total of over 100,000 square feet. The riverboat's 850 slot machines and 12 table games plan to move into the new 30,000-square-foot casino in the first quarter of 2022. The riverboat is expected to remain open during construction of the new facility and the landside move means the casino can sell or lease its gambling boat to free up dock space, which will be used by cruise boats traveling the river. Plans include adding a sports bar & grill venue with 250 seats alongside a Shaquille O'Neal Big Chicken Restaurant.



LOUISIANA LICENSING BOARD FOR CONTRACTORS

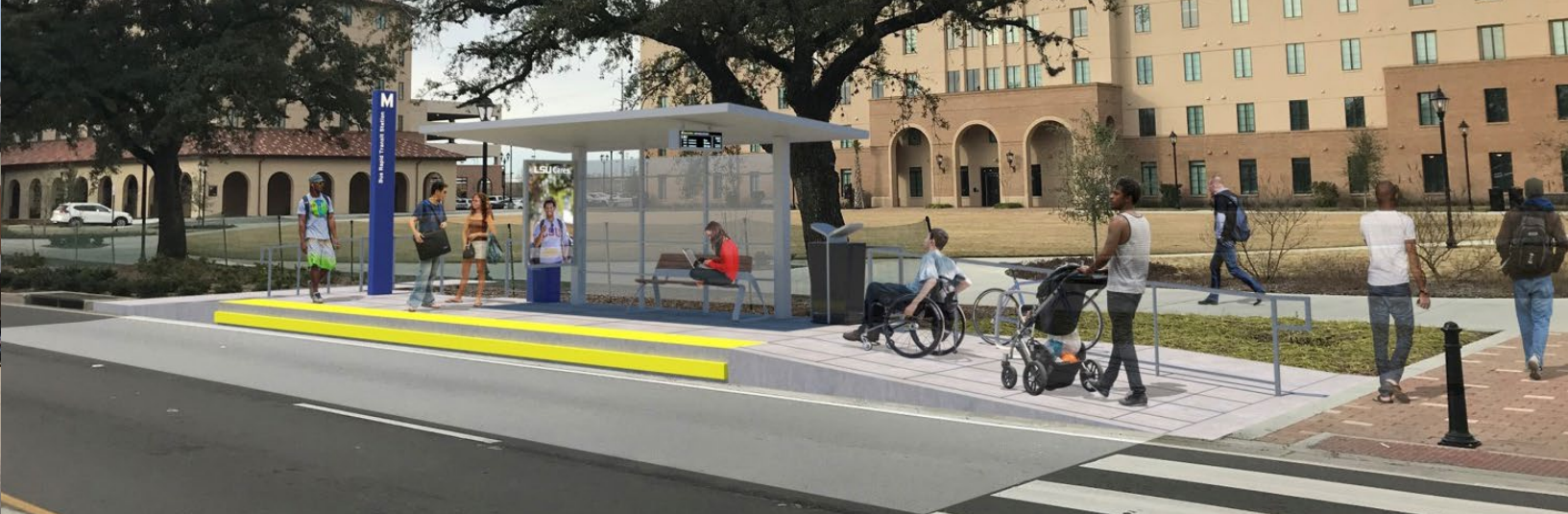
The Louisiana State Licensing Board (LSLBC) was created in 1956 by Act 233 of the Legislature (La. R.S. 37:2150-2192). The mission and purpose of this agency is the protection of the general public from incompetent and fraudulent acts of a contractor, while promoting the integrity of the construction industry.

The LCLBC constructed its new downtown headquarters at the corner of 6th and North Street, which was previously a surface parking lot. Designed by Remson Haley Herpin Architects, the approximately \$6 million, 28,000 square-foot building improves the downtown pedestrian experience by returning a previous surface parking into commerce. The development is located adjacent to the Louisiana Associated General Contractors office on the corner of 7th Street and Laurel Street.



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

A \$1.6 million renovation of the Louisiana Associated General Contractors offices located on the corner of 7th Street and Laurel Street was completed in 2019. Located adjacent to the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, the two organizations will share an adjoining parking lot. The Louisiana Associated General Contractors is the only statewide, full-service construction trade association representing nearly 800 general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and service firms throughout the country. The association promotes skill, responsibility, and integrity through construction, and serves to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work, or travel in Louisiana.



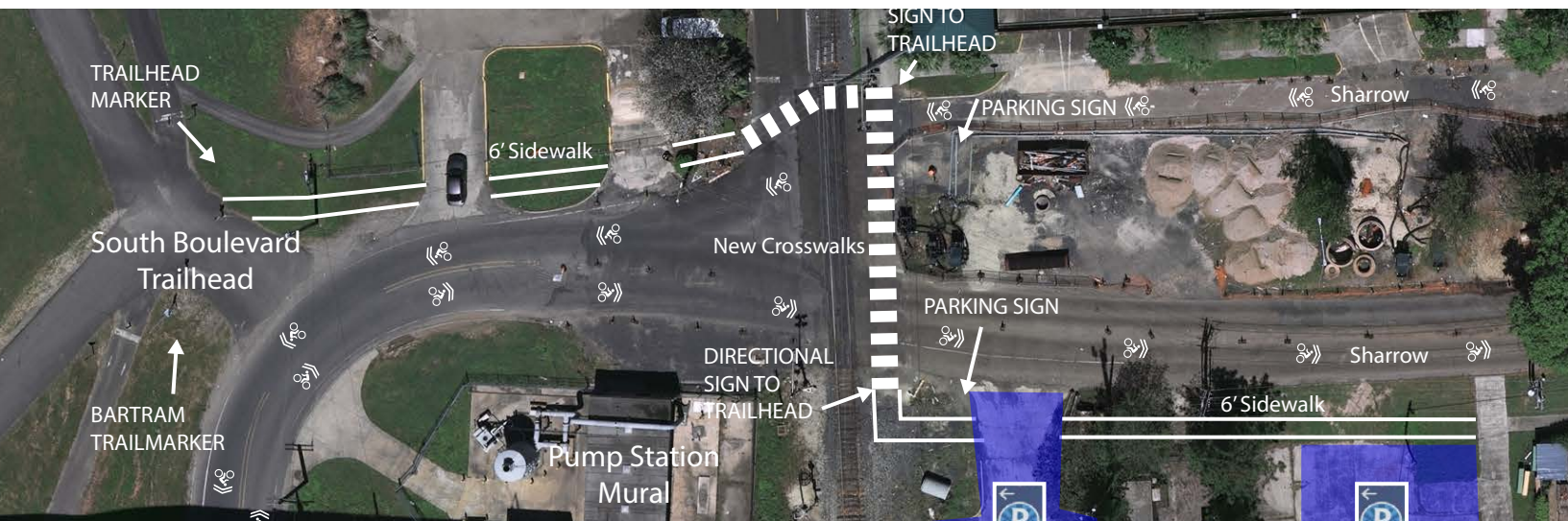
BUS RAPID TRANSIT

A bus rapid transit (BRT) project connecting Plank Road to Nicholson Drive with stops in North Baton Rouge, downtown, and LSU was awarded \$15 million in federal grant funding through the Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. BRT delivers fast, reliable, comfortable, and cost effective service. The design and engineering work is expected to begin in 2021 and HNTB Corporation will lead the efforts with oversight by the City-Parish and CATS. The BRT line will feature 22 station pairs with real time arrival information and level boarding. A new transfer center is also planned along Airline Highway.



SPENCER CALAHAN LAW OFFICES

Baton Rouge attorney Spencer Calahan recently completed a five-story, \$11-million downtown office complex. The office complex, located at the intersection of St. Louis Street and South Boulevard, is prominently visible from I-10 and Mississippi River Bridge and features a helipad, covered terrace, two levels of parking, and three floors of office space.



SOUTH BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS

The Downtown Development District and the East Baton Rouge City-Parish Transportation & Drainage Department have developed a plan to increase bicycle and pedestrian user safety at the intersection of South Boulevard and River Road. A current lack of sidewalks and crosswalks at this intersection creates unsafe conditions for users accessing the Mississippi River Levee Trail from South Boulevard, and for users of the levee trail wishing to exit on the South Boulevard Trailhead and explore the southern end of downtown. Six-foot wide sidewalks, large crosswalk markings, and bicycle sharrows are expected to be installed in 2021.



LINCOLN HOTEL

The historic Hotel Lincoln, which hosted African-American guests in Baton Rouge during the period of segregation in the south, was purchased in 2017 by developer Anthony Kimble. Famous African-American musicians including Nat King Cole, James Brown, and Aretha Franklin stayed at the hotel in its heyday. The 12,000 square-foot building has been abandoned since the 1980s, but the developer plans to convert the building into apartments with a ground floor restaurant. The building was placed on the National Historic Register in August of 2018, qualifying it for state and federal historic building tax credits to help finance the redevelopment.

ELECTRIC DEPOT

Construction has been completed on Phase I of the redevelopment of the site previous occupied by Entergy on Government Street. Build Baton Rouge (formerly the East Baton Rouge Redevelopment Authority) secured ownership of the property and remediated the existing buildings through brownfields remediation grant funding. Build Baton Rouge contracted with Weinstein Nelson Development to lead the redevelopment efforts of this \$20 million project.

Now known as the “Electric Depot” the unique mixed-use site is located just in Downtown East, an area recently incorporated into the Downtown Development District. The site is also strategically located east of the Kansas City Railway at 14th Street, and is expected to become a catalyst for development in the heavily traveled area between Mid City and downtown, as well a stop on the planned New Orleans to Baton Rouge Commuter Rail. The development is anchored by Red Stick Social, with several other tenants including restaurants, retail, and offices. Included in the first phase are 16 apartments ranging from 650 to 900 square feet.



KIMBLE PROPERTIES

A local investor Anthony Kimble who specializes in Downtown East & Mid City redevelopments has purchased property on Government and Julia Streets. Kimble purchased property at 1440 Government St. and 1419 Julia St. and plans to build 12 to 14 multifamily housing units on the Julia Street site, which is made up of three lots. Once those units are developed, Kimble will redevelop the 1440 Government Street site, a 27,500-square-foot building that is currently zoned for retail and office.



ELYSIAN PROPERTIES

Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, the lead developer on the mixed income Elysian I and II residential complexes on Spanish Town Road between 11th Street and 13th Street, have begun construction on the Elysian III. The Elysian III will bring 42 additional units to Downtown East with 50% of units affordable and 50% market rate. The Elysian III joins several planned or underway residential units in the Downtown East area, bringing additional residents to the city's core.



COUNCIL ON AGING-SENIOR HOUSING

The Lotus Village senior housing development located in Downtown East has been approved for \$10 million in Piggyback Resilient Mixed-Income (PRIME) funding, according to The East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBRCA). The Lotus Village is planned residential rental housing designed for the senior population of EBR Parish. The facility will have 116 new Aging in Place Units, a geriatric healthcare facility, an open-air market, recreation therapy gym, and a walking path.



VALENCIA PARK

Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corporation, a subsidiary of Volunteers for America Southeast Louisiana, is developing a 122-unit apartment complex intended to house veterans in need of affordable housing. The 2.56 acre project site is bordered by Spanish Town Road, 14th Street, Gayosa Street, and 15th Street. The project is projected to cost \$22 million and has received a \$5.7 million Community Development Block Grant from the Louisiana Housing Corporation. Plans for the development include a community space, and outdoor pavilion, and improved walkways. Chenevert Architects, along with Humphreys & Partners Architects is designing the project and construction began in late 2020.



GOTCHA BIKE SHARE

In 2015, Baton Rouge received a technical assistance grant from the EPA's Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program to investigate the feasibility and logistics of a bike share program, a transportation program ideal for short distance trips providing users the ability to rent and return a bicycle to and from stations strategically placed throughout the city. In November 2018, the Baton Rouge Bike Share Business and Implementation Plan was completed and spurred the implementation of Bike Share in downtown, Louisiana State University, and Southern University in 2019. Gotcha Bike Share was awarded the contract with the City-Parish and currently has approximately 500 bikes and 50 stations installed across the city. Subsequent phases are planned to expand into Mid City and the Health District.



BEAUREGARD TOWN HISTORIC SURVEY

Beauregard Town, one of two historic neighborhoods downtown, is currently conducting a historic survey of the buildings and homes in the neighborhood through a grant acquired by the EBR City-Parish Planning Commission. The neighborhood was designated a national historic district in 1980, and is updating the survey to determine the possibility of becoming a local historic district. If the neighborhood pursues local historic district designation, it would join two other local districts in EBR Parish, Spanish Town and Drehr Place. The Beauregard Town National Historic District historical survey has been completed, and a draft of the design guidelines compiled. These guidelines are being reviewed by the state's Division of Historic Preservation for accuracy and appropriateness.



PASSENGER RAIL

A passenger rail from Baton Rouge to New Orleans is currently being explored as an option for future mass transit intended to decrease congestion between the two cities. Two stations are currently being considered in the Baton Rouge area including Downtown East and the Health District. HNTB is currently studying the locations and determining overall cost, projected to be between \$260 million and \$400 million. Commercial buildings used for residential, retail, and/or office use, as well as loops for CATS services and bike-sharing and pedestrian routes are also being discussed as long-term outcomes of the project. Other stops are also being planned in Gonzales, LaPlace, and New Orleans.



DOWNTOWN EAST HISTORIC DISTRICT

Dyke Nelson, a local architect and developer, has worked to establish a new historic district in the Downtown East area. The approximate boundaries of the district are I-110, North Boulevard, Park Boulevard, and Terrace Street, with some areas adjacent to these borders excluded. As an established historic district, property owners can receive federal tax credits to assist in renovating approved structures. Nelson has developed several other downtown and Mid City properties including 440 on Third, 500 Laurel, and the Electric Depot.



BREC SPORTS ACADEMY

BREC is exploring the possibility of improving Memorial Stadium and its surrounding site, as well as a new home for the Sports Academy currently located on Laurel Street. WHLC Architecture was hired to study the area and develop conceptual designs showcasing the possibility of such improvements. A recreation center is proposed as part of the development that will include basketball courts, an elevated track, fitness center, lobby, boxing ring, and several program spaces. Its proposed location near the I-110 corridor would provide an opportunity for the facility to become a community focal point. BREC plans to develop a master plan for the area in 2021.



NORTH 14TH STREET PARK

BREC's North 14th Street Park is currently finishing renovations that include new/repared windows and doors, painting, fencing, and a reconfigured basketball court. A exterior mural is also being explored as part of the project. The renovation cost is approximately \$130,000. The park is located in Downtown East near the railroad track featuring a recreation center with a boxing ring and workout equipment.

DDD PROJECTS



MARKETING & ATTRACTION

In order to most effectively market the complete Downtown Baton Rouge experience to visitors, residents, and workers; the Downtown Development District has launched a new website. The contents of the website include: Discover Downtown, Live Here, Do Business, and Get Around. The TILT-designed website was updated in late 2019. The new website focuses on a new, innovative design, as well as making information more easily accessible to different users.

In addition to the website, the Downtown Development District creates a yearly Development Toolkit to provide developers and investors key market data and statistics about the downtown area and activities. The toolkit outlines numerous permitting processes, provides important contact information, and gives a snapshot into current downtown demographics. All available local and state economic incentives are also outlined within the document that is available on our website and in our complete marketing packets. In addition, the DDD has welcome guides including Attractions and Festivals, Residential, Business, and Parking.

THE CENTRAL GREEN

Over several years, DDD has worked to connect numerous civic and cultural institutions near the River Center and City Hall campuses through a unified system of greenspaces known collectively as the Central Green. In total, the Central Green boasts over 11 acres of accessible, contiguous public greenspace. The Central Green has become a premier regional destination, hosting hundreds of annual events on the lush greenspaces, ranging from large concert series that attract thousands of attendees to small informal gatherings.

The realization of the Central Green began as a primary recommendation of the community-driven master plan, Plan Baton Rouge II. The planning team, led by Chan Krieger Sieniewicz Urban Design and Planning and Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architecture, recommended removing barriers, prioritizing accessibility, increasing tree canopy and permeable surfaces, and creating a series of outdoor “living rooms” surrounded by a variety of cultural destinations. The subsequent implementation of the plan focused on removing concrete, changing surrounding road systems to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles, and replacing hardscape surfaces with expansive green spaces. North Boulevard Town Square, Repentance Park, City Hall Plaza, and Riverfront Plaza are all components of the Central Green. The Central Green has become the unifying connective tissue linking our civic and cultural attractions together. The International Downtown Association has informed the DDD that the project, Central Green: Connecting Community with Commerce & Culture has been selected for the Award of Excellence within the 2020 Achievement Awards Application - Planning, Design and Infrastructure category.



REPENTANCE PARK

Repentance Park, a component of Plan Baton Rouge II's Central Green concept, was designed to provide a venue for large events and serve as a component of the southern anchor of the Arts & Entertainment District. It was designed by Reed Hilderbrand, Reich Associates, and Susan Turner Associates with the goal of connecting the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum, River Road, Old State Capitol, River Center, City Hall, Galvez Plaza, and Town Square. A dramatic landform carefully transitions users between the drastically different elevations at the eastern and western edges of the site. Daily activities and popular events such as the Blues Festival have utilized the open, flexible space since its opening.

Repentance Park has added a new energy to the area and provides improved accessibility for pedestrians visiting the City Hall and the River Center campus. Over 750 interactive fountain jets were installed in the space to provide a family-friendly atmosphere that initiates child play and adult enjoyment. Construction for the \$3.5 million project was completed in April 2013 by Group Industries. With a budget of approximately \$187,000, the park's greenspace was also extended west in 2016, shortening the crosswalk length across to and from Repentance Park and the Louisiana Art & Science Museum.



NORTH BOULEVARD TOWN SQUARE

Whether gathered together for a large parish-wide event or stopping to relax in the middle of a hectic day, residents of Baton Rouge have an amazing place to be – North Boulevard Town Square, the Heart of Baton Rouge. North Boulevard Town Square, located in the Arts & Entertainment District, has been a focal point, continuously displaying significant community events to users of the space. Over 250 annual special events have utilized the space while inquiries and requests continue to be placed daily. Town Square has received multiple state, national, and international awards since its opening.

North Boulevard Town Square Phase I and the redesign of Galvez Plaza, design by was completed in the spring of 2012. The \$7.3 million development was designed by the joint venture design team Brown+Danos Land Design and Joseph Furr Design Studio and constructed by Arrighi Construction, LLC. Phase II includes corridor improvements along St. Phillip Street and North Boulevard, with ongoing beacon programming, event logistics, and landscape maintenance managed by the DDD. Construction of North Boulevard Town Square Phase II was completed at the end on 2019 and additional signage was installed in the summer of 2020.



Photo credit: Mark Bienvenu

THE CREST

The Crest, a \$1 million engineering and sculptural icon, is the result of joint effort by Trahan Architects, Covalent Logic, the Downtown Development District, and the Mayor's Office. The Crest connects North Boulevard Town Square and the City Hall campus while also functioning as a support for electrical systems required for concerts. The suspended truss system is able to be disassembled when not in use. The Crest was completed in September 2013 and has since received three prestigious contractor awards and one public space award from the International Downtown Association.

As part of the Riverfront Master Plan, Plan Baton Rouge II, and North Boulevard Town Square, a special-event stage was created to provide a venue for large events in the heart of downtown. This project furthers implementation of Plan Baton Rouge II, building upon the Central Green concept - a unified system of greenspaces linking the area's cultural attractions with the City Hall and River Center Campuses. Additional lighting for the Crest was coordinated with the City Hall Plaza project in 2018.

CITY HALL PLAZA

The renovation of City Hall Plaza removed underutilized and unwelcoming hardscapes in the plaza and replaced them with a large green lawn and shade trees. The redesign provides better circulation throughout the City Hall and River Center Campuses, and allows the Galvez Stage to be used from both sides. The project was designed by Reed Hilderbrand with sub-consultants Reich Associates, Trahan Architects, Forte and Tablada, WHLC Architects, Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company LLC., Assaf Simoneaux Tauzin & Associates, Inc., Water Management Consultants and Testing, Inc., and Lam Partners, Inc.

The finished space improves ADA accessibility, covers the opening above the parking north of The Crest stage, and features an open greenspace that allows views and access from both sides of the stage. City Hall was also incorporated into the City Hall Master Plan by extending a floating "porch" into the greenspace and closer to The Crest stage. Construction was complete in the spring of 2018 and the space has received four local and state awards since its opening.



DESOTO PARK NATURE TRAIL

The 20-acre footprint of the batture area historically known as ‘DeSoto Park’ presents a range of eco-tourism and recreational opportunities as a natural celebration of the Mississippi River and the batture wildlife habitats that it creates. By constructing simple hiking trails with interpretive and wayfinding signage, a new riverfront attraction can be created and used for nature exploration, bird watching, bike riding, photography, picnicking, wildlife and plant educational programs, and other nature based activities. The park will provide visitors with an opportunity to experience the river’s edge in its natural state. Pedestrian access via the existing City-Parish right-of-way over the CN Railroad at North Street, as well as public parking at the Welcome Center, offers some of the infrastructure needed for safe access to the park space.

The DDD has begun the conceptual work toward the development of this trail system and other improvements, though a sustainable model for the management of this riverfront attraction will be necessary to achieve long-term success. The DDD will seek partnerships that can emerge between various entities such as the City of Baton Rouge, State of Louisiana, BREC, and local/regional naturalist and trail seeking groups.



RIVERFRONT PLAZA

Originally built in 1984, Riverfront Plaza is a classic water garden style public space, a signature of the era in which it was designed. The plaza offers an ADA accessible entry to the riverfront near the dock, but was in need of renovation to rectify numerous maintenance items neglected for a number of years. Approximately \$750,000 was appropriated for this project from the state sales tax rebate funding dedicated to Riverfront Master Plan improvements.

CARBO Landscape Architecture redesigned the areas within and adjacent to the plaza and dock area to improve aesthetics while decreasing regular maintenance needs, and further defining individual spaces within the gardens that can be used for events and/or riverboat reception. Some of the enhancements include upgraded event space, new plantings, ‘no-mow’ wildflower planting areas, additional security and decorative lighting, educational and welcome signage, sound system, updated irrigation, concrete repairs, and ADA and bicycle accessibility improvements. Phase II is underway with additional landscaping, shade structures, and future plans call for an fitness station.



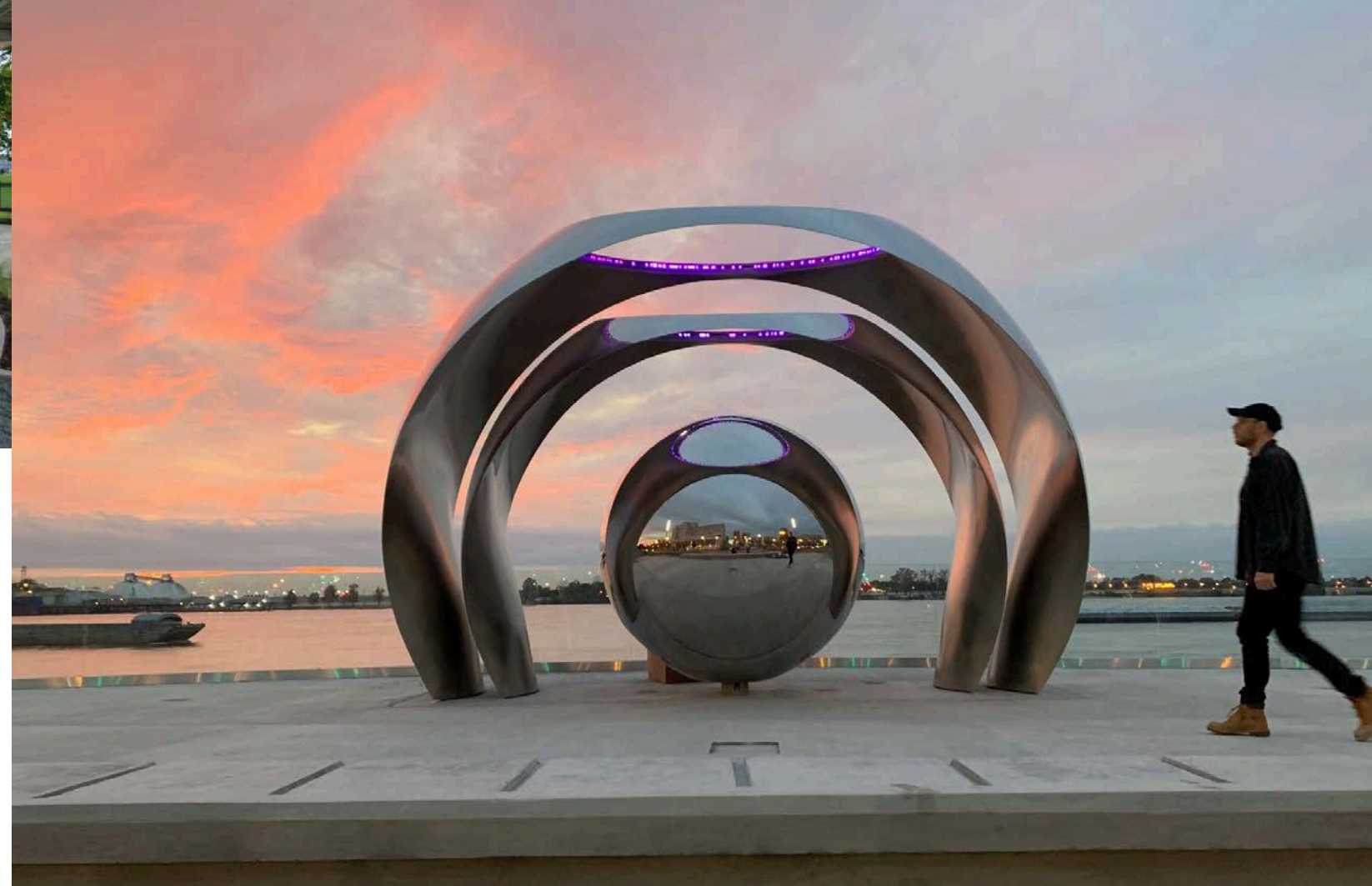
YAZOO PLAZA

The pedestrian and bicyclist portion of the Florida Riverfront Access project on the east side of the LASM building connects to the redesigned Yazoo Plaza by Suzanne Turner Associates at the northern end of LASM. In addition to being a new urban greenspace, Yazoo Plaza seamlessly connects North Boulevard Town Square, Repentance Park, and the multi-use path along River Road. Surrounded by a grove of trees in a park-like setting, the plaza provides a space for visitors to relax and enjoy the surrounding downtown views. The project is located at the intersection of North Boulevard and River Road and includes low maintenance plant materials, seating areas, and hardscape paths. Bistro tables and chairs were placed in the flexible space for users to enjoy in 2017 and upgraded lighting is expected to be added to the space in 2021.



RIVERFRONT DOCK SHADE SAILS

Post Architects designed a shade structure that covers approximately 3,000 square feet of the Riverfront Dock, at a cost of approximately \$160,000. The tensile shade structure provides shade and rain protection for downtown riverfront patrons, providing a pleasant site for small events and gatherings to celebrate and enjoy the Mississippi River. The translucent panels are illuminated with LED lighting at night, creating an exciting attraction that not only accommodates users, but also showcases Baton Rouge's riverfront to travelers on the I-10 bridge.



RIVERFRONT ACCESS & ROTARY SCULPTURE

The Florida Street Riverfront Access point was completed in 2015 and provides a bicycle and ADA compliant access point to the riverfront at Florida Street and River Road. The \$1.1 million project was designed in house by DPW with input from Susan Turner Associates, WHLC Architects, Reed Hildebrand, and Reich Associates. A multi-use path along River Road connects LASM and Town Square to the new access point, better linking downtown to the Mississippi River and LSU via the levee bike path. The new access point is a safe and welcoming amenity for tourists and residents, and has already attracted various groups of people and performers for large and small events. Crosswalk improvements along River Road were also included for the intersections of North Boulevard, Convention Street, and Florida Street.

The Florida Riverfront Access Point is one of several redesign projects aimed at connecting downtown to the Mississippi River and accommodating the increasing amount of bicycle and pedestrian activity. The Rotary Club of Baton Rouge chose this site for the location of its Centennial Project, utilizing privately raised funds to construct a pinnacle sculpture piece marking the Rotary's centennial anniversary. World renowned artist Po Shu Wang was selected to design a sculpture visible from the Mississippi River Bridge with the largest sphere standing 14 feet tall. A sensor, located in the Mississippi River, measures the speed of the current and the height of the river and converts the data frequencies to a singing sound within the sculpture. In 2020, the International Downtown Association recognized the DDD for the Sing the River sculpture project with a Best Practice Award for its professional urban place management principles.



DOWNTOWN GREENWAY

The Downtown Greenway is a pedestrian and bicycling corridor that links residential neighborhoods to downtown parks, businesses, and cultural attractions utilizing the existing BREC parks, interstate infrastructure, and public rights-of-way. The creation of the greenway is also intended to spur new investments and redevelopment in the city's core. Planning for the Downtown Greenway was made possible by funding from the EPA's Greening America's Capitals program and Capital Area Finance Authority. An additional \$3 million in grant funding was secured to design and build early phases. Design Workshop was selected to complete the final design.

Construction was completed on the first components of the Downtown Greenway in 2015 at BREC's Expressway Park and the Myrtle Street Connector to the Lincoln Theatre. The North Boulevard section was completed in 2016 and features a separated 10' bicycle path and 5' pedestrian garden path, median crossings, specialty pavement, curb ramps, seating areas, lighting, sculpture, water fountains, bicycle racks, and lush landscaping. Construction on the T.J. Jemison / East Boulevard portion of the Downtown Greenway was completed in the beginning of 2020 and includes bicycle and pedestrian paths, lighting, and landscaping from Expressway Park to North Boulevard.





NORTH BOULEVARD PROMENADE

Construction was completed in 2016 on the North Boulevard Promenade section of the Downtown Greenway from Fourth Street to Ninth Street, and features separated bicycle and pedestrian paths, new lighting, landscaping, benches, and signage. The block between Ninth Street and East Boulevard, was completed in 2020 in conjunction with the East Boulevard/TJ Jemison Boulevard section of the Downtown Greenway, which now seamlessly connects Expressway Park to River Road.

GREENWAY WAYFINDING

The DDD has installed several types of wayfinding signage along this pathway, including the recent installation of wayfinding signage along the North Boulevard Promenade and East Boulevard sections of the Downtown Greenway. These signs include directional messages for the pedestrian and bicyclist as well as detailed “You Are Here” maps at critical points along the route. In 2020, the DDD also improved the riverfront wayfinding by highlighting the nearby cultural and civic attractions. These sign include directions and maps for the numerous daily visitors on the Mississippi River Levee.

Lastly, the Levee Loop is another set of marked trails along the riverfront promenade; a .5 mile and 1.5 mile circuit aimed at promoting health, community use, and active interaction with the Mississippi River. Signs with calorie burn information are located along the loops, and call out some of the major features users can expect to see along the routes.



EAST BOULEVARD / TJ JEMISON BOULEVARD

The second phase of the 2.75 mile Downtown Greenway includes East Boulevard/TJ Jemison Boulevard. This phase of the Downtown Greenway connects the recently constructed Phase One portions along North Boulevard to Expressway Park. The project features a 10' foot wide bicycle and pedestrian path as well as new lighting, shade trees, landscaping, trash receptacles, benches, and entry signage. Construction was completed in early 2020.



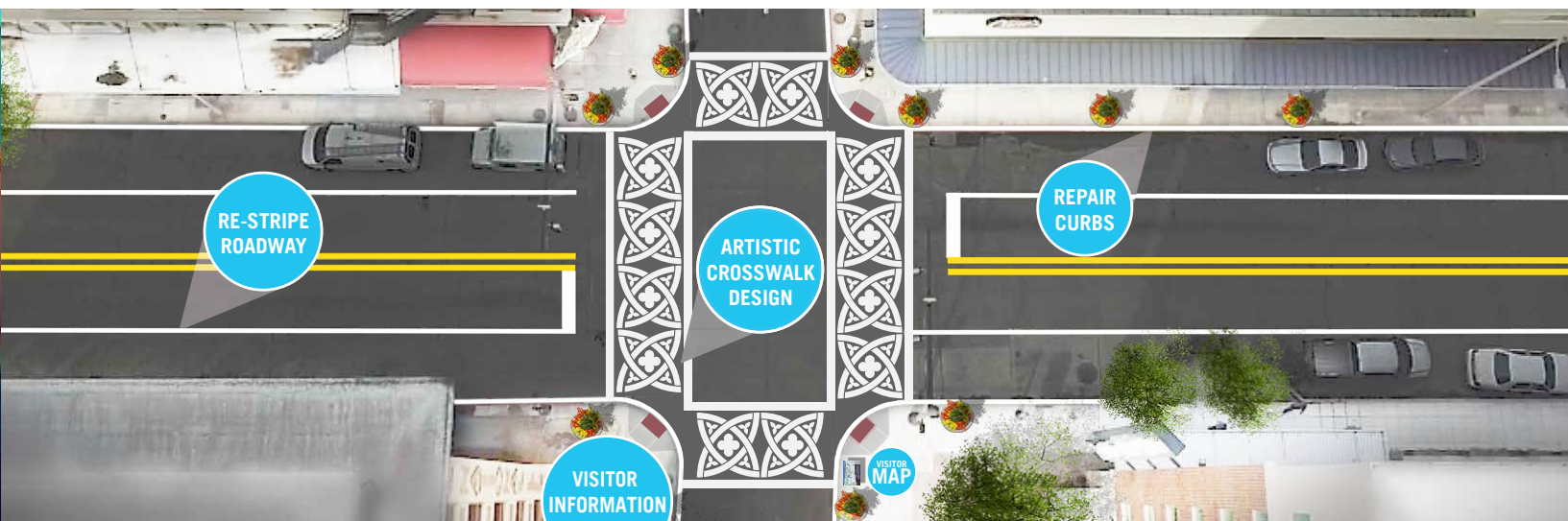
LOUISIANA AVENUE CONNECTION

The Downtown Development District has proposed additional design and infrastructure improvements at Louisiana Avenue, connecting the Downtown Greenway to the Government Street bike lanes via Louisiana Avenue and Eddie Robinson Sr. Drive. The Louisiana Avenue Connector will connect currently disjointed sidewalks, bicycle sharrows, ADA compliant crosswalk improvements, wayfinding signage, and streetscape amenities to create a pleasant and safe traveling experience for bicyclists and pedestrians. The DDD has secured grant funding from the Transportation Alternatives Program and is pending grant approval from the Safe Routes to Public Places Program to implement the project.



RIVERFRONT MURALS

As part of many recent improvements to the riverfront, three murals were installed in 2019. One mural was installed as part of a partnership between the DDD and Visit Baton Rouge, located on the pedestrian stairs at Riverfront Plaza. The second mural was installed on a riverfront wall adjacent to the levee; it is entitled 'Chromatic Currents' and abstractly depicts the flowing nature of the Mississippi River. The third mural was installed on a parking lot retaining wall along Lafayette Street between Laurel and Main Street. All three murals have become popular backdrops for photos. The murals, painted by the artist Marc Fresh, were a partnership between the DDD and Walls Project.



GATEWAY & PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

The DDD is moving forward with plans to improve the existing, 500 free parking spaces under I-110. These parking areas are underutilized, so DDD plans to install security lighting and wayfinding to make them safer and more accessible. The improved parking areas will provide a safe, convenient, and free parking option for downtown workers and visitors. Additional decorative lighting is planned for the gateway areas entering downtown. To fund this project, the DDD has applied for Community Development Block Grant funds that will be leveraged with local funds reserved for gateway improvements. The design phase will begin in January 2021.

THIRD & FLORIDA ST. INTERSECTION

The intersection of Florida Street and Third Street is perhaps the most prominent intersection in the Arts & Entertainment District. Both corridors are vibrant urban streets with a healthy mix of shops, restaurants, hotels, and apartments. Most recently, the Courtyard Marriott was constructed at this intersection in a previous surface parking lot. The DDD and the City Parish partnered to enhance this intersection with an artistic crosswalk application implemented in the beginning of 2020. Other recent improvements to this intersection include potted plants and downtown marketing/visitor information on the State National Life building.



RIVER ROAD BIKE & PEDESTRIAN PATHS

Recent major developments along River Road including IBM/525 Lafayette currently lack safe accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. Several projects have recently been construction or are currently underway that bring these amenities to River Road and connect the developments to the surrounding destinations and businesses.

Duplantis Design Group planned and designed the pedestrian path on the east side of River Road between Florida Street and the State Office Buildings to the north and integrated with the recently installed streetscape adjacent to the IBM complex. These improvements will include street trees, sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian signals. Bike and pedestrian paths extending north of the Riverfront Access Point at Florida Street on the west side of River Road were constructed in 2018. This project also included road improvements to River Road as part of DOTD’s Road Transfer Program, which turned over operation and maintenance of River Road to the City-Parish. The east side of River Road is expected to begin construction in 2021.



DESIGN RESOURCE CENTER

The Design Resource Center’s mission is to unite the design community with the public by creating a common ground for students, professionals, residents, and business owners to engage one another in design discussions focused on the promotion of commerce and culture in Downtown Baton Rouge. The center ultimately informs citizens on the direction of Baton Rouge as outlined in Plan Baton Rouge II, Future BR and other adopted master plans.

Students from the LSU School of Landscape Architecture and Architecture, Southern University, Mentorship Academy, and Rhode Island School of Design have utilized the space to showcase and discuss project ideas for Downtown Baton Rouge. Professional organizations including the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association, Louisiana Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects, Louisiana Chapter of American Institute of Architects, Baton Rouge Chapter of the Urban Land Institute, and many others have also used the space for design discussion and educational meetings.



DOWNTOWN MAINTENANCE

Several downtown maintenance committees and groups were established to focus on several goals. The Ordinance Subcommittee updated the sidewalk café ordinance in 2016 and the Central Business District waste ordinance in 2018 to promote ADA accessibility as well as clean, sanitary streetscape conditions. The Education Subcommittee has developed several campaigns that award citizens and businesses that embody exemplary maintenance and anti-litter principles. The Enforcement Subcommittee works directly with DPW representatives to review the City-Parish's 3-1-1 citizen complaint and request system. The Volunteer Subcommittee identifies volunteer and funding opportunities to aid in these efforts. Recently there has been efforts by downtown residents and volunteers to clean up the Capitol Lakes area. Over a 12 month period, volunteers cleaned the lake 9 times pulling out 460 bags. Plans are to install litter catching booms at critical drainage points.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Downtown residents and guests enjoy over 1,500 annual events including parades, races, and large events such as the popular Live After Five concert series. Many of these events take place in the recently implemented public greenspaces, North Boulevard Town Square, City Hall Plaza, and Repentance Park. The Downtown Development District strategically implemented these spaces as downtown master plan recommendations in order to spur investment and provide a constant stream of attractions and activity.

In addition to implementing these unique public spaces, the DDD also manages all aspects of these greenspaces such as the beacon programming, assistance with event logistics, and maintaining the landscape in order to enhance the public's downtown experience. The DDD, functioning as a liaison between event coordinators and City-Parish departments, also reviews event applications and assists in required permitting processes. Event information is also available and marketed through various DDD outlets including emails, social media, the North Boulevard Town Square Media Beacon, and website calendars. The Special Event Procedures and Guidelines Handbook, available online or in our office, was developed and is maintained as an overview to the logistics and processes in event coordination. While many of 2020's events were canceled or postponed due COVID-19, event organizers are optimistic about a robust series of downtown events in 2021.

For more information on the event related resources provided by the DDD, visit www.downtownbatonrouge.org.



PARKING STRATEGY

In 2016, the Metropolitan Council approved \$100,000 to hire Fregonese and Associates to expand upon the parking analysis study conducted in 2014 by AECOM. Baton Rouge has about 1,800 public parking spaces downtown and another 2,700 private parking spaces, but is not currently collecting their expected revenue. Of those 1,800 public spaces, 970 are on the street and 540 are metered. The consultant recommended hiring a parking management company to oversee the ticketing, operations, and management of a comprehensive parking program downtown. LAZ Parking was selected in 2019 to manage the River Center Parking Garages as the consultants suggested as part of the parking study. The study also suggested upgrading the city's outdated parking meters with modern machines that accepted credit card and phone payments. Implementation of the new meters is expected in 2021.

RECOGNITION



10 YEARS OF ORGANIZATION & PROJECT RECOGNITION

- 2020** Central Green - International Downtown Association – Award of Excellence, Connecting Community with Commerce and Culture
Central Green - Boston Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects – Merit Award, Design
Rotary Sculpture - International Downtown Association – Best Practice, Professional Urban Place Management Principles
- 2019** Davis Rhorer - LA Chapter of the American Planning Association, Partners in Planning
City Hall Plaza - Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. National Chapter, Excellence in Construction Pyramid Award
Downtown Greenway - LA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, President's Award of Excellence
City Hall Plaza - LA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, Honor Award
- 2018** Power of Implementation Award to Davis Rhorer by the Center for Planning Excellence.
City Hall Plaza – Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Pelican Chapter, Excellence Award
City Hall Plaza - Baton Rouge Growth Coalition – Good Growth Award
Historic Third Street - LA Chapter of the American Planning Association, Great Street
Central Green - LA Chapter of the American Planning Association, Implementation
- 2017** Certificate of Commendation for 30 years of Leadership from the EBR Office of Mayor President
Yazoo Plaza at The Louisiana Art & Science Museum - LA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, Merit Award
- 2016** River Road Project – Baton Rouge Growth Coalition – Good Growth Award
DDD Toolkit – International Downtown Association – Merit Award, Marketing
- 2015** River Road Project – LA Chapter of the American Planning Association, Louisiana Great Places
River Road Project – International Downtown Association – merit Award, Public Spaces
- 2014** The Crest – National Engineering News Record “Best of the Best” Landscape/Urban Development Category
Repentance Park - LA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, Merit Award
The Crest at Galvez Plaza – Engineering News-Record, LA & TX Region – Best Project, Landscape/hardscape/Urban Design
The Crest at Galvez Plaza – International Downtown Association – Merit Award, Public Spaces
The Crest & Repentance Park - Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Pelican Chapter
The Crest & Repentance Park - Associated Builders and Contractors, Eagle Award (national)
The Crest - The Associated General Contractors of America (national)
The Crest at Galvez Plaza - Baton Rouge Growth Coalition Good Growth
North Boulevard Town Square – LA Chapter of the American Planning Association – Louisiana Great Places
- 2013** Repentance Park – International Downtown Association, Public Spaces
Downtown Development District 25 Years – International Downtown Association, Leadership & Management
North Boulevard Town Square – LA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, Honor Award
- 2012** North Boulevard Town Square – ENR TX/LA, Best Hardscape Urban Development Project
North Boulevard Town Square - The United States Conference of Mayors, Merit Award, City Livability
North Boulevard Town Square – International Downtown Association Merit Award, Public Spaces
North Boulevard Town Square – Baton Rouge Growth Coalition Good Growth, People's Choice Award
North Boulevard Town Square – Associated Builders & Contractors, Excellence in Construction
North Boulevard Town Square – LA Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture, Planning
North Boulevard Town Square – Municipal Association for Economic Development
- 2011** Downtown Greenway – International Downtown Association, Planning

SPECIAL THANKS

SPECIAL THANKS

We remain dedicated to the development and promotion of Downtown Baton Rouge as we move forward into 2021. We thank all of the countless individuals who support our mission and cause, enabling Downtown Baton Rouge to grow and develop into a place to live, work, and play. They include private developers, public agencies, and non-profit organizations. We are extremely grateful for the partnerships that make such extraordinary projects happen. Special thanks to Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and the Metropolitan Council for the continued support of the DDD's vision.

Honorable Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

Chief Administrative Officer Darryl Gissel

East Baton Rouge City-Parish Metropolitan Council

Trae Welch	District One
Chauna Banks	District Two
Chandler Loupe	District Three
Scott Wilson, Pro Tempore	District Four
Erika Greene	District Five
Donna-Collins Lewis	District Six
LaMont Cole	District Seven
Denise Amoroso	District Eight
Dwight Hudson	District Nine
Tara Wicker	District Ten
Matt Watson	District Eleven
Jennifer Racca	District Twelve

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Melanie C. Montanaro	Vice Chairwoman
Eric Dexter	Treasurer
Erin Monroe Wesley	Secretary
Prescott Bailey	
Madeline Brown	
Jude Melville	

DDD Staff

Davis Rhorer	Executive Director
Gabriel Vicknair	Assistant Executive Director
Casey Tate	Development Project Director
Ryan Benton	Development Project Director
Ute Cress	Administrative Assistant
Ashton Breeding	Intern

