



NEWSLETTER DOWNTOWN PEORIA

JANUARY 2019 EDITION

www.downtownpeoria.us

What is... “The Blue Bench”?





The DDC would like to thank our founding members and many sponsors for their generous contributions!

DDC Action

DDC Activities

Happy New Year – from the DDC Board of Directors! The Board has approved the 2019 fiscal budget. We would like to begin the year by thanking our founding members and many sponsors for their generous contributions. With your help, we are in a great position to make 2019 our best year yet with positive developments and updates in Downtown Peoria. If you have not yet sent your 2018 contribution, it's not too late. Through many, much can and will be accomplished!

Downtown Development

New Development

Warehouse District

Great things continue to develop in the Warehouse District!

In addition to the two properties we reported on last month on SW Washington Street, we have it on good authority that at least three to five additional properties will soon be under contract for development. We look forward to bringing you news in the next few months of significant growth and development for several mixed-use, residential and commercial properties in the Warehouse District, along with parking to accommodate all.

Peoria Innovation Hub

OSF HealthCare, the University of Illinois System, Illinois Central College, and the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council are joining forces to develop a Peoria Innovation Hub. Having already identified space in the Thomas Building at 201 SW Adams Street that was recently vacated by Illinois Central College, the hub will be dedicated to finding solutions to improve the wellness of underserved populations, and advance systems related to food, farming, and transportation – specifically autonomous mobility. The Peoria Innovation Hub will be part of the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN), a statewide initiative led by the U of I System to foster the breakthrough research discovery and entrepreneurship that drives progress, job creation and economic growth. Located within Peoria's federally designated Opportunity Zone, the Peoria Innovation Hub will offer tax benefits allowing potential business startups to leverage incentives to attract early stage and venture capital. A Peoria Innovation Hub of the Illinois Innovation Network will have enormous economic potential for the Peoria region.



The DDC is always working on developing Peoria's Downtown! Be sure to stay tuned for more development news in the Warehouse District!



The Peoria Innovation Hub will be located at 201 SW Adams Street in Downtown Peoria.

*Save
the Date!*

January 24, 2019 | 11am

**RIBBON
CUTTING**

**Venue Chisca
and**

**Heaven on Earth
Design Studio**

1009 SW Washington
Downtown Peoria's
Warehouse District

"It's fulfilling to see this mission — with its own facility in Peoria — come closer to reality after so much hard work. It is exciting to know our innovators and entrepreneurs could have access to some of the greatest minds in our country," said state Sen. Chuck Weaver, R-Peoria. "OSF, as one of our region's fundamental economic drivers, deserves high praise for stepping up to champion this initiative." To read more about this exciting new venture, visit www.osfhealthcare.org.

New Business

Venue Chisca & Heaven on Earth Design Studio

Join us at our press conference/ribbon cutting on Thursday, January 24, 2019, 11:00 a.m., at 1009 SW Washington Street as we celebrate the grand opening of Venue Chisca & Heaven on Earth. We are excited to welcome the new banquet facility and design studio to the Warehouse District. Owner Michelle Spurgeon promises you an event of a lifetime that will create lasting memories. To plan your special event, visit the web site at <https://heavenearthfloraldesigns.com/venue-chisca/>.

First Ascent Climbing Gym

LOCALLY GROWN: First Ascent, an indoor climbing gym at 927 SW Washington St., Peoria, was founded in 2013 by a group of Chicago climbers with one simple mission: to serve and grow the local climbing community. They partnered with local Peoria climbers to bring First Ascent Peoria to life since they believe in investing in the communities in which their facilities are rooted.

WORLD CLASS: Their facilities provide a fantastic experience for all ages (including youth), whether you're new to climbing or you've been climbing for years. Come enjoy incredible climbing terrain with climbs set for all ability levels, a full suite of yoga and fitness classes, state-of-the-art fitness equipment, and the instruction you need to climb higher.

COMMUNITY FOCUSED: First Ascent is home to a strong, diverse, welcoming community. They make it their number one priority to serve their community with great events and a warm and welcoming atmosphere. *"We are very excited and happy to welcome First Ascent to the Warehouse District! This is another great opportunity for a healthy start to the new year in Downtown Peoria,"* said Michael Freiling, DDC President/CEO.

First Ascent will open their bouldering area on January 12, 2019, to the public while their rope climbing area is still under construction. Fitness equipment will be available, and the yoga class schedule will be ramped up throughout the month of January. Pre-opening members will have early access to the bouldering area before it is open to the public. Be sure to follow them on Facebook and for more information visit their website at <https://firstascentclimbing.com/peoria/peoria-opening-timeline/>.

First Ascent has been offering hard hat tours of their incredible new climbing and fitness facility! For more information, visit www.firstascentclimbing.com/peoria.

First Ascent will open bouldering area on January 12, 2019!



Stay tuned for more news about the exciting new entertainment venue in Peoria's Warehouse District!



Lindsay Roberts Kale & Joe Kale sharing a moment on their wedding day on the "Blue Bench" in the Warehouse District!



*Peoria Riverfront Winter Market
Saturday, Jan. 26, 9am-1pm
Peoria Riverfront Museum*

Gone Axe Throwing

At their last meeting of the year, the City Council approved the Warehouse District's newest upcoming attraction, Gone Axe Throwing, which might open for business in March along Washington Street. The business also would include a small restaurant. But the main attraction is to be several cage-like lanes where patrons can throw axes at a target. The public ax-throwing experience is becoming more common in and around big cities. Co-owners Sara Fickes and Matthew Ruder said ax throwing at their establishment, like the others, is to be monitored rigorously. A coach is to shepherd each group. A two-drink maximum will be enforced at Gone Axe Throwing, according to Fickes and Ruder. The only alcoholic libations to be served are beer and wine. Fickes and Ruder also own Gone in 60 Escape Games in the Warehouse District.

Downtown Activities

The Blue Bench Project

What's cool in the Warehouse District? A new phenomenon of people taking photos! The "Blue Bench Project", often referred to only as the "Blue Bench", has its own Facebook page where photographers share their downtown photos taken in front of historical buildings in the Warehouse District. Angie Walker, a downtown Peoria resident, says *"Living down there now, I see it daily -- some outside my front door, photographers shooting photos of kids, families, wedding parties, proms, models, vehicles, instruments, and the historic buildings themselves..."*

The Blue Bench Project is how all the photographers find the hot spot. This is an example of how nostalgia spurs innovation, where old meets new and becomes transformed into phenomenal art! For a look at the Blue Bench, check out their Facebook page [@Peoria's Blue Bench Project](#).

Riverfront Winter Market

Saturday, January 26, 9am - 1pm
Peoria Riverfront Museum
222 SW Washington St., Peoria

Save the date for the Peoria Riverfront Winter Market to be held this year at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. The market will feature winter produce, local meats, eggs, breads and baked goods. Soup mixes, desserts, popcorn and dried herbs. There will also be live music to enjoy, coffee, local pottery, jewelry, wood items and much more! For more information contact Sharon Gramm at (309) 671-5555 or by email at info@peoriariverfront.com.

Activities Downtown Peoria January 2019

Art & Pottery classes

Brew Pubs & Dining

Contemporary Art Center:

Exhibits, Salsa Dancing

5 Spot Live Music,

Whisper & Shout Open Mic Poetry

& so much more... see website!

Escape Games

First Friday Gallery Tours

Frosty 5K Run

Howlin' on the Water

J. Draper Glass Blowing Classes

Live Music Venues

Obed & Isaacs - Paint Night

Peoria Civic Center:

Bob Seger

Peoria Rivermen Hockey games

The Fab Four

& so much more... see website!

Peoria Riverfront Museum:

Giant Screen 3D Movie Theater

Dome Planetarium Shows

Rodin: Cast in Bronze

Tiffany: Collection of Don Shay

Golden Age of Disney

& so much more... see website!

Riverfront Winter Market

Spirit of Peoria Cruises

State and Water - Winterlude

World on Wheels - Segway Tours

Yoga and Exercise Classes

Zagster - City Cycle Bike Share

*Visit our website for more activity links at
www.downtownpeoria.us.*

Live, Work & Play in Peoria

Downtown Peoria is an exciting, inviting place to live, work, and play! The Downtown Development Corp. of Peoria (DDC) is your go-to source for up-to-date development in the downtown. In the coming months, we will highlight downtown destinations and activities to nourish your body, mind, and soul. The DDC web site is a great resource for those interested in doing a development project in historic downtown Peoria. Visit our web site often to stay up to date on new development, downtown living options, and enriching activities. As a subscriber to our monthly newsletter, you will receive special "shoutout" notifications so that you don't miss important happenings. Subscribe today if you haven't already at www.downtownpeoria.us/newsletter.

Social Media

If social media is more your thing, follow The Downtown Development Corporation of Peoria (DDC) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. *We like to be followed!*

Awards and Recognition

Downtown Peoria in National Register of Historic Places

According to a December 19th article in the Peoria Journal Star, much of Peoria's Downtown has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The designation for the Downtown Peoria Historic District, a 17-block swath of Downtown, is crucial for developers looking to access historic tax credits to renovate buildings there for new uses. *"This distinction provides developers with the opportunity to take advantage of tax credits that can rehab our historic properties for today's market and provide new development, attractions, and amenities to an area that is already seeing investment nearby in the Warehouse District,"* Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis said in a prepared statement. The district is roughly bounded by North William Kumpf Boulevard, Perry Avenue and Fulton, Fayette and Water streets. Properties in the district also already qualify for state historic tax credits because they are in the River Edge Redevelopment Zone.

The national historic designation for the district is different from a similar application still being pursued that would allow a subsidiary of OSF Health-Care access to tax credits for the rehabilitation of the health care organization's new headquarters to be located at 124 SW Adams St. OSF officials have said that designation is crucial to their ability to begin substantial work on the \$90 million project.



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NEWSLETTER DOWNTOWN PEORIA

DDC Monthly Report for January 2019 Cumulative Total From July 1, 2014 - December 31, 2018

Residential Units		# of Units	Project Type	# of Projects	DDC Finances	
Completed		163	Development	38	Budget	
Under Construction		32	Completed	18	Fundraising:	\$ 346,150
Announced		275	Under Construction	7	Current Receipts	\$ 296,050
Exploring		100	Permitted	0	% of Budgeted Receipts	85.5%
Residential Units Total		<u>570</u>	Hired Professionals	0		
			Property Acquired	7		
			Negotiations Under Way	2		
			Gathering Information	6		
			Total Dev.	<u>40</u>		
			Infrastructure	6		
			Property Acquisition	1		
			Public Art	1		
			Public Parks	1		
			Projects Active Total	<u>42</u>		
			Projects Abandoned Total	<u>53</u>		
			Projects Assisted Grand Total	<u>95</u>		
Business Start-up/Relocation					DDC Activities	
Completed		25			Media	
Announced		7			Articles/Media/Interviews	166
Exploring		6			Press Conferences	15
Business Start-up/Relocation Total		<u>38</u>			Other	
					Confidential Project Assistance	12
					Building Code Amendments	
					Lobbying for Extension of State Historic Tax Credits	
					Public Engagement/Planning Effort by the City	
					2016 Housing Study	
					2016 Parking Study	
					IL-HTC/RERZ Extension	
					2018 Housing Study	
Permits						
Last 12 months						
Issued Comm. Const. This Year		29				
Est. Value Comm. Const. This Year		\$13,588,000				
* All Const. Permits Issued This Year		143				
# Estimated Value This Year		\$22,013,550				
Since 2014						
Issued Comm. Const. since 2014		144				
Est. Value Comm. Const. Since 2014		\$60,218,576				
* All Const. Permits Issued Since 2014		800				
# Estimated Value Since 2014		\$87,781,886				
Developers Assisted			Mixed-Use Projects Under Construction		Commercial Development Under Construction	
Developers Active			Project Name	# of Units	Project Name	
Local		25	Neon Hotel	6	First Ascent Climbing	1
Out of Town		8	Winkler Market & Apts.	26	Winkler Market	1
Developers Active Total		<u>33</u>			Chase Block	1
Developers Inactive		111			Four Points by Sheraton	1
Developers Assisted Grand Total		<u>144</u>			The Block	1
			Total Units UC	<u>32</u>	Total Projects	<u>5</u>

* All Const. Permits Include: Comm. Const., Demolition, Elect., Erosion, Gen. Building, HVAC, Plumbing, Parking, Irrigation, H2O Heater, etc.

All Const. Permits Estimated Values: Not all activity has an estimated value assigned to it **therefore this is only a partial amount**

CONTACT US

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DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION *of Peoria*

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF PEORIA CONGRATULATES VENUE CHISCA ON OPENING THEIR WEDDING VENUE!

Venue Chisca, located at 1009 SW Washington St., is a new event and wedding venue in Peoria's Warehouse District that features a beautiful mix of southern industrial architecture and clean line urban warehouse styles.

For more information call 309-691-5330; email jaheavenonearth@aol.com or visit their website at www.heavenonearthfloraldesigns.com/venue-chisca.

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