

DBA HOSTS BANNER CONTEST

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BELOIT — Downtown Beloit's lamp posts will be sporting some new banners this summer. The Downtown Beloit Association (DBA) is hosting a banner contest. The winning banners, and possibly other good-looking banners, will be hung on the lamp posts downtown, according to DBA Promotions Coordinator Crystal Cribbs.

"It's was a nice way to get the community involved in what we do downtown," Cribbs said. "We are really excited to see what comes of it."

The DBA started offering free banners to decorate a couple weeks ago. It sent out an email to artists, arts clubs, crafters, businesses and more. As of Monday, over 30 people had picked up free banners to decorate. The deadline to turn the banners in is Friday.

All banners which are turned in will be sold as part of ArtWalk on the night of May 12. The banners will sell for \$75 each.

Those interested in buying banners can purchase them on May 12, but won't be able to take them home until 9 p.m., or on the following days.

Earlier in the day, Cribbs explained, the DBA will be taking high quality photos of the banners for submission to a company for reproduction. The banners will go on the lamp posts sometime this summer.

There will be two winners, first place and the people's choice.

"We are leaving it up to the design committee to decide how many banners they want to put up. While there will only be two winners, there could be more banners up. It depends what we get back," Cribbs said.

Cribbs said other communities have had success with banner contests. The DBA received grant money from Visit Beloit to make the contest possible.