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FEATURED

DBA banquet draws crowd, highlights business success

By AUSTIN MONTGOMERY Staff Writer

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The Downtown Beloit Association celebrated another successful year of growth at its annual banquet Thursday night at La Casa Grande. This year's theme was "There's No Place Like Downtown Beloit."

Austin Montgomery/Beloit Daily News

BELOIT—There's no place like downtown Beloit.

That was the message as the Downtown Beloit Association celebrated another successful year for the city's core Thursday night with the annual banquet at La Casa Grande, complete with a Wizard of Oz theme.

In 2019, downtown Beloit added 10 new businesses along with six properties being sold and three seeing renovations, annual report figures show.

DBA Chair Stephanie Knueppel called 2019 “an amazing year.”

“It’s exciting to celebrate the longevity of some of our long-standing businesses while also welcoming new interesting opportunities to our downtown community.



In total, downtown Beloit is now made up of 175 businesses. In 2019, the DBA reported 205,273 attendees over the course of 50 events.

The Beloit Farmers Market saw an average of over 10,000 daily visitors and sales were estimated over \$900,000 that brought in an estimated \$1.9 million in downtown spending—an increase of more than 5% compared to 2018. Street Dance drew 3,500 attendees, an increase of 15% from 2018.

Sponsorships also grew in 2019 to \$121,000 in revenue for the organization’s slate of events.

“We’re looking forward to seeing our vision for the next five years unfold and keeping downtown Beloit the wonderful, unique place it is,” Knueppel said.

2019 Awards

Best New Business: Pig Iron Pub & Grub

Best Business Success Story: Bryden Motors

Best Facade Rehabilitation Over \$15,000: Jeff and Sue Johnson, 310 State Street

Best Interior Renovation Under \$50,000: Medical Grade Aesthetics

Best Interior Renovation over \$50,000: Re/Max Ignite

Best Upper Floor Development: Jeff and Sue Johnson, 310 State Street

Best Storefront Display: Beloit Family Eye Care

Volunteer of the Year: Malinda Obershaw

Chairman's Award: Peter Fronk

Austin Montgomery