Downtown Kansas City, Kansas
Quality of Life Plan
Update 2016 - 2018

Our Mission
Downtown Shareholders of Kansas City, Kansas, Inc. (DTS-KCK) is a community-led organization promoting economic development, housing choice, wellness, and cultural and social opportunities in Downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Its mission is to preserve and enhance the urban vitality of Downtown KCK. “We envision an inclusive and safe downtown with locally owned businesses, mixed-income housing, and vibrant public spaces celebrating our rich cultural heritage.”

NeighborhoodsNOW Accelerated
After 10 years of a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy in Kansas City, LISC and its colleagues have come to understand four essential elements that are needed, in tandem, to accelerate progress: 1) Organized neighborhood leadership and collective efficacy; 2) Capital from multiple sources, which can be deployed in the target area; 3) Internal capacity and/or partnerships to do physical real estate development; 4) Alignment with the strategies and leadership of city government.

This 2016-2018 Quality of Life Plan invites stakeholders associated with each of these success factors to play an active role in fulfilling this neighborhood’s three key goals. By working together to cultivate and sustain the capacity for implementation, we can create a place where people lead lives filled with opportunity.
Organized For Success

DTS-KCK is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2006. DTS-KCK employs two executive staff, and is governed by community stakeholders through an elected Board of Directors. DTS-KCK was established out of a desire by downtown businesses and organizations to bring new housing and businesses opportunities to KCK’s urban core. To achieve these goals, one of the organization’s principal duties is to serve as an administrative agent for downtown’s Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID). Established in 2008, the SSMID funds cleaning and security programs that help make downtown a safe and attractive place to live and work. DTS-KCK also administers a variety of small business attraction and retention programs, public space and building improvement programs, and public festivals and events.

Key civic partners in these efforts include the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, the KCK Chamber of Commerce, the KCK Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Kansas City Kansas Board of Public Utilities, and many other area institutions and neighborhood associations. Greater Kansas City LISC is also a key partner, and has invested $1.2 million in Downtown KCK since 2006 to support economic and social revitalization programs and to build the capacity of DTS-KCK to steward its Quality of Life Plans.

1. A clean, safe and attractive Downtown KCK

- Moderate commercial vacancy rate
- Limited retail services
- Need to improve perception of Downtown KCK

2. Foster small business growth

- Moderate commercial vacancy rate
- Limited retail services
- Limited capital
- Need to increase economic opportunities for KCK residents

3. Increase housing choices

- Housing demand exceeds existing supply
- Limited staff development capacity

GOALS

- Increase housing choices
- Foster small business growth
- A clean, safe and attractive Downtown KCK

STRATEGIES

- Renew Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (SSMID)
- Establish new landscaping program
- Expand SSMID-funded marketing program
- Extend and expand “pop-up” small-business incubator program
- Extend and expand small-business grant and incentives program
- Create a strategic plan for Downtown KCK marketing, branding & retail recruitment
- Produce and disseminate Downtown KCK urban design guidelines
- Reduce student homelessness
- Facilitate development of market-rate, workforce, and/or low-income housing product
- Explore Historic District designation to facilitate residential adaptive reuse
- Conduct partner outreach
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MILESTONES

- Renewal approved by UG Board of Commissioners
- SSMID ten-year renewal period begins
- Secure capital for planning and construction
- Secure UG and neighborhood stakeholder approvals
- Install improvements
- Implement maintenance program
- Complete grant applications
- Secure implementation grant
- Create project workplan & retain professional services
- Implement program
- Identify and secure pop-up locations
- Market for and secure participants
- Raise capital for YR1 program expansion
- Raise capital for YR2 program expansion
- Draft program policies and project workplan
- Market for and secure participants
- Raise capital for YR1 program expansion
- Raise capital for YR2 program expansion
- Draft scope of work
- Secure funding & release RFP for professional services
- Evaluate respondents and short list
- Complete survey and guideline documentation
- Secure funding for printing & materials distribution
- Publish and distribute guideline document
- Conduct partner outreach
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- Conduct partner outreach

IMPLEMENTATION STAKEHOLDERS

- Neighborhood Organization
- Capital
- Development Capacity
- Political Will

- Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, Advisory Board • Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District • LISC • Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce • Kim Wilson Housing • Wyandotte Economic Development Council
- Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, Advisory Board • Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District • LISC • Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce • Wyandotte Economic Development Council • Unified Government Department of Urban Planning & Land Use
- Unified Government Board of Commissioners • Unified Government Department of Urban Planning & Land Use
- Unified Government Board of Commissioners • Unified Government Department of Public Works • Unified Government (Hollywood Casino Grant) • Mayor’s Office, Kansas City, Kansas • Wyandotte Economic Development Council • Unified Government Department of Urban Planning & Land Use

IMPLICATIONS

- TIMING
- IMPLEMENTATION STAKEHOLDERS