

# February 2017

- Spotlight: 5th House Consulting
- Downtown Award Winners!
- Big Sky Documentary Film Festival This Month



**President's Column  
by Aimee McQuilkin**  
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Winter has returned. I find myself once again leaving my snow-covered car in the driveway and taking the Mountain Line Downtown for work. As I wait, I try not to look at my phone in my pocket, but instead up at the snowy flanks of Mt. Jumbo, putting my elk eyes on as I scan the dots on the landscape for those dots I assure myself are giant creatures and not trees. I spot them, holding vigil over our sweet valley, in their thick winter coats as they forage for food. Their presence reassures me.

Started as a trading post over a century ago, Missoula's Downtown still exists today as the bustling center of commerce for our city. As I flip through the Missoulian on the warm bus ride, I reflect back on the many changes that have affected Downtown over the past year: way-finding signage is finally going into place, we're getting used to the modern parking meters, the coming together of a new Missoula College. In fact, Downtown Missoula is expected to see \$750 million in total investment over the next 3-5 years, bringing 900 new residential units, more parking structures, and thousands of square feet of modern ground floor retail space. Much more change is to come.

The existential question those of us who care about Downtown have had to ask ourselves since 1870, how do we evolve with the changing times and still maintain our unique character? How do we find that perfectly balanced mix of businesses that leads to a sustainable shopping/living/visiting district amidst all this change. Where will people live? Where will they park?

I'm sure Higgins and Worden asked these questions just as McCarthy, Engen and Buchanan do today.

As Obama said in his farewell address last month, we are a nation that embraces change. We don't fear it. MDA members, join me in keeping those well said words at our forefront as we usher in a new year. We like to joke that Missoulians don't do well with change. Let's prove that joke wrong.

Do you find yourself worried about the inevitable changes to our Downtown? Lace up your shoes and carve out time to get involved and participate.

You gotta eat lunch, right? Attend a monthly membership luncheon.

Do you like the River City Roots Fest? Join the committee and help plan it.

Hungry for human interaction after making and checking emails at your desk all day? Volunteer to pour beer at Downtown Tonight on a beautiful summertime Thursday. Say yes to participating in the Roots Hangover Sale or a Parade of Lights activity.

Reach out to your neighbors on your block. Do not invest in your fears, invest in each other instead. Unity is what dispels fear and makes us powerful. Fortunately, the MDA is here to foster such unity.

I am honored to have had a chance to be the president of the Missoula Downtown Association board. My knowledge of and respect of this organization that Missoula is lucky to have in its court, has grown immensely. To get to better know a staff who works so hard and a bevy of volunteers that make all of MDA's events run smoothly and professionally has been a joy.

Just like the Mt. Jumbo Elk herd, the Missoula Downtown Association holds vigil over our sweet valley. Their presence reassures me. ■



MissoulaDowntown.com

## **MDA Board & Staff** **President**

Aimee McQuilkin..... Betty's Divine

### **Past President**

Heidi Starrett ..... Missoula Independent

### **VP of Advocacy**

Anders Brooker..... Runner's Edge

### **VP of Marketing & Events**

Mario Schulzke ..... University of Montana

### **VP of Master Plan Implementation**

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### **VP of Membership**

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### **Board of Directors**

Trent Baker ..... Datsopoulos, MacDonald, & Lind  
Larry Brehm..... A.I.A., Architect, PLLC  
Lynda Brown..... Brown HR Consulting  
Dan Cederberg ..... Cederberg Law Offices, P.C.  
Emily Costello ..... Treasure State Bank  
Matt Ellis ..... Missoula Osprey/Uptown Diner  
Anne Guest ..(Ret.) Missoula Parking Commission  
John Horner ..... First Interstate Bank  
Kim Klages-Johns ..... MSO Hub  
Diane Lanning..... Providence/St. Patrick Hospital  
Scott MacIntyre..... Badlander/GPA ATM  
Brooke Redpath.....METLE  
Chad Strickland ..... Liquid Planet

### **Ex Officio Members**

Rod Austin..... Missoula Parking Commission  
Corey Aldridge..... Mountain Line  
Shane Stack..... MT Dept. of Transportation  
James Grunke ..... Missoula Economic Partnership

### **Downtown Partnership Staff**

Linda McCarthy ..... Executive Director  
Leidy Wagener..... Membership & Events Director  
Kristen Sackett ..... Marketing & Events Director  
Robert Giblin..... Finance & Administration Director  
Madeleine Hoyt ...Customer Service Coordinator  
Will Greenway ..... Community Development  
Sarah Ferguson ..... Operations Coordinator

## February Socials!

This month marks the first socials of 2017 and we're excited to bring you another year of networking, thoughtful discussion and some great food and drink! This year we will be focusing on our Luncheons and Downtown on Taps. We've got some great programs coming your way and we hope to see you at these monthly events.

The plans for this month's **Luncheon** have changed a bit, so please watch for details about our upcoming luncheon on Valentine's Day (Tuesday, February 14 from 11:30am-1pm) in our e-communications!

**Downtown on Tap** will be held at Berkshire Hathaway (314 N Higgins Ave) on Thursday, February 28 from 5-7pm. Those in attendance will learn why helping Missoulians get in the right home or business space is Berkshire's passion. Hosted by real estate agents, Matt Mellott and David Miller at their Downtown location, there will be beer from Bayern Brewing, delicious appetizers and a celebration of why we choose to live and do business in this great community.

### The Emperor's New Clothes Performed One Day Only!

The Missoula Children's Theatre presents a new version of a timeless tale, based on the stories of Hans Christian Andersen. Starring local children, The Emperor's New Clothes is live on stage at the MCT Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, February 18th at 3 & 5PM. [www.MCTinc.org](http://www.MCTinc.org) for tickets and more information.

**MISSOULA**  
**CHILDREN'S**  
**THEATRE**

A PRODUCTION OF MCT, INC.



## Downtown Award Winners Announced!

The MDA recognized Downtown community members who were nominated for 2016 Downtown Awards at their Annual Banquet at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The banquet theme was "Ch-ch-Changes", celebrating the bright future of Missoula and all of the new projects taking place in the next five years. Entertainment provided by "The Home Shopping Girls" gave a hilarious look at the changes Missoula has seen recently and will see in the future while a speech by outgoing MDA President, Aimee McQuilken reflected on her time serving as president and all the MDA does to keep enhancing the vibrancy of Downtown.

The Downtown Award Winners are:

- **Downtown Committee Member of the Year:** Melissa Wagener, Badlander Catering
- **Downtown Board Member of the Year:** Lynda Brown, Human Resource Management Consulting
- **Downtown Employee of the Year:** Jeff Vanderstouw, Missoula Parking Commission
- **Downtown Volunteer of the Year:** Joe Beatty, Montana Massage Clinic
- **Downtown Business of the Year:** The Wilma Theatre
- **Downtowner of the Year:** Tom Benson, ARTS Missoula

Thank you to all who attended and to the Holiday Inn Downtown for hosting and providing the wonderful dinner. ■

## Downtown Missoula Partnership Welcomes New Director of Giving

The Downtown Missoula Partnership has hired Karen Snow to serve as the Director of Giving.

With a long career in sales, marketing, operations, and project management, Snow has spent most of her career in the private sector, working most recently for ABC Fox Montana, Missoula Broadcasting Company, and Bob Ward & Son's.

She has been a long-standing volunteer for multiple non-profit organizations throughout Missoula, including the DUI Task Force, Habitat for Humanity, Buckle Up Montana, Safe Kids Missoula, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, and the Missoula Downtown Foundation.

Snow was named the Missoula Downtown Volunteer of the Year for 2015. She spent all of 2016 doing only volunteer and service work as her own personal "Year of Giving". This endeavor inspired her desire to return to the workforce in the non-profit sector.

She has served on the Missoula Downtown Foundation Board of Directors for two years, and was recently elected President of the Board. Given her new role as a staff member, she will vacate her position on the board, and a new president will be elected at the next meeting.

A native of Bozeman, Mont., Snow has a B.A. in Communications & Public Relations from Montana State University.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as a staff member for the Downtown Missoula Partnership," said Snow. "I am inspired by the efforts to build support for the Missoula Downtown Foundation. I look forward to having a more active, hands-on role in leading and nurturing a vibrant Downtown as a place where people gather to shop, play, live and work."

Snow can be reached via phone (406-542-4238) or email ([Karen@missouladowntown.com](mailto:Karen@missouladowntown.com)).



## 5th House Consulting Aims to Empower Organizations and Individuals

**New Member Spotlight**  
By Sarah Ferguson

*Downtown Missoula Partnership*

5th House Consulting was founded in 2010 by Rachel Goen, MSW, LCSW to help nonprofits, businesses, and government agencies create positive change. This year they expanded and brought on a Project Manager, Erin Steuer, to support their growth.

What matters most to the people behind 5th House is social impact, positive change, building community and creating clear visions and goals. Goen makes it clear she wants to help organizations with a social purpose understand, measure, communicate and improve their outcomes.

"We believe in assisting teams to work together more effectively, and in empowering individuals to develop their professional and personal development skills," says Goen.

At 5th House, their "soft skills" are also "hard skills". They harness the power of building supportive systems, ask the right questions, and help organizations really listen to

the answers they are getting.

In the end, it's really about bringing all of their knowledge bases together to create a stronger community. Change is never easy—and 5th House Consulting is working to help move people towards change, whether it's through productive meetings, designing effective assessments or evaluations, running focus groups, collecting data through surveys, or implementing processes for group or personal transformation.

Goen wants people to know, when you work with 5th House Consulting, you get to follow your passion. You get to interact with great people across the state working to improve the health outcomes and natural environment of Montana and you get real solutions to move your organization forward in a meaningful way. ■



## Five Downtowners Join the MDA Board of Directors

Last month's Annual Meeting of the MDA saw the ratification of five new Downtown professionals to serve on the Board of Directors. Each brings unique perspective, skillset, and experience to the board.

Katie Ghen Simpson is the owner of Bathing Beauties Beads at 501 S. Higgins. With a lifelong passion for beading, she bought the store in 2014 after working there for 17 years. Originally from Philadelphia, she followed her high school sweetheart to Montana and earned her B.A. in business administration and marketing from UM. She will serve on the MDA's Membership and Parade of Lights committees. She also serves as Vice President of the Hip Strip Society. She is married to Neil Simpson.

Paige Livingston is the owner of One Eleven Boutique at 111 N. Higgins. She bought the store in 2010 after managing the business for nearly a year. A native of Missoula, Livingston managed a fine dining restaurant in Portland before returning home. She previously served on the Mayor's Downtown Advisory Commission in 2015-16 and will serve on the MDA's Retail and Festival of Trees committees. Livingston recently got engaged to Randolph Chitwood.

Bob McGowan is the Student Services Associate at Rocky Mountain School of Photography (RMSP) at 216 N. Higgins. Originally from Southern California, he came to Missoula to attend RMSP and is now in his 12th year as an employee. He has a 20-year career in retail management, but this is his first soiree into non-profit service. McGowan has served on the Downtown Tonight Committee for several years, and he was the 2014 Downtown Volunteer of the Year.

Tom Snyder is the owner of Five on Black at 325 N. Higgins, which opened in 2013, and at 3850 S. Reserve. He has also opened restaurants in Bozeman, Denver, and Boulder, Colo. A native Missoulian, he holds a B.S. in Business Finance from UM and won

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## Downtown Gift Card Sales Continue to Increase

### 2016 Downtown Gift Card Sales

Total Number of Cards Sold.....6,062

Total Amount of Card Sales.....\$242,808

Total Amount of Redemptions.....\$205,162

Total Cards Sold at the MSO Hub.....504

Total Sales at MSO Hub.....\$20,271



### Save The Date!

The Missoula Downtown Foundation's Annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament is Sunday, March 5, 2017.

*Watch for early bird registration deals and details!*



**(board cont.)**

the UM Business Plan Competition in 2011. He also serves on the Providence St. Patrick Hospital Foundation Board and will serve on the MDA Advocacy Committee. Tom is married to Lauren, and they have a baby daughter named Clarke.

Ben Wright is the Director of Client Services at the Montana Idaho Community Development Corporation at 229 East Main. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has a B.S. in Physics from Shippensburg University and an MBA from Penn State. He is married to Stephanie, they have a three-year-old son, Henry, and are expecting their second child in February 2017.

Stepping down from the MDA Board of Directors this year are Rick Eneas of Montana CDC, who has served as the board treasurer for the last six years; Chad Strickland of Liquid Planet, who has been a board member for two years; and Julie McFarland-Tomasik of AAA Mountain West, who has served on the MDA Board since 2008. We are indebted to their service. ■

*Please submit  
member shout outs by the  
18th of each month to  
info@missouladowntown.com*

## Shout Outs

Surprise your Valentine with a romantic date on **Friday, February 10 at 7pm and join Taste Buds Kitchen**. You'll learn the secret to making the perfect pizza dough. Knead, roll and shape your dough to create your own perfect pizza - drawing on inspiration from classic pizza staples. Participants also pick up a few bonus skills as you create delicious Donut Bites, drizzled with a home-made Chocolate Sauce. Bring your loved one and share a special evening in the kitchen! Register early as this workshop offers limited space for 8 couples. BYOB. \$75 per couple.

**The Missoula YMCA** will be the beneficiary of the **KettleHouse's February 15 Community UNite event**. For every pint sold between 5:00-8:00 p.m., The Y will receive \$.50. Proceeds benefit the Missoula Y's 2017 Annual Support Campaign. Missoulians are invited to enjoy a good brew and good company while supporting a great cause.

**The Montana Food Bank Network presents THE TASTE on Friday, March 3 at Neptune Aviation from 6 – 9pm**. Over 100 different tastes will be served by 30 of the area's top chefs, restaurants, breweries, distilleries & wineries. This is a unique event that celebrates local food & beverages, live & local music, a silent auction, & a one-of-a-kind raffle that everyone wins! Volunteer positions are open at [mfbnevents.org/thetaste](http://mfbnevents.org/thetaste). Tickets are \$45 in advance and available at [mfbnevents.org/thetaste](http://mfbnevents.org/thetaste). For more information contact Cassidy at the Montana Food Bank Network at 406.215.1774 or at [cgreen@mfbn.org](mailto:cgreen@mfbn.org).