Spring 2019 Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District Property Owners’ Meeting

The Spring 2019 CID Property Owners’ Meeting of the Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District (CID) met at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 in the Carnegie Room on the third floor of Central Library, 1301 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103. Sixteen members of the community attended the meeting.

Ms. Kelley, President and CEO of Downtown STL, Inc. (the organization that manages the CID) welcomed attendees. She then introduced Ms. Meridith McKinley, of Via Partnership, the organization working with the Regional Arts Commission, Explore St. Louis, and Downtown STL, Inc. on the Downtown STL Public Art Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to advance the vision that public art will support building a dense, inclusive and culturally vibrant downtown that is a vital anchor to the entire region and will:

- Provide the vision, leadership and capacity necessary to develop and lead public art projects;
- Partner with other Downtown stakeholders to launch and manage projects; and
- Act as a resource for developers, property owners, arts and community organizations and artists wishing to initiate their own public art projects.

The project has been named InSite2020 and invites artists to share and develop ideas for site-specific, temporary, public artworks in the Downtown core that impact how we see Downtown — from the actual physical character, to different views and sightlines, to our views or perceptions of what this area is and can be — encouraging exploration, curiosity, and a new way of seeing. The awarding of art commissions will take place in October 2019, and all works of art must be in place from May 1 to May 31, 2020 but may remain in place for up to one year.

Ms. Kelley thanked Ms. McKinley for her time and efforts with the project and then turned the presentation to the FY 20 CID Budget. She shared basic information and history about the CID noting that it is comprised of a 180-square block area located in the center of Downtown and was established in January 2000 by property owners who were committed to providing a cleaner, safer, and more attractive environment. The purpose is to protect existing assets, attract new investments, and create a more vibrant business, residential, entertainment and hospitable community. The CID assessment is based on square footage and the funds are used to supplement City services, not replace them. The CID assessment rate will not see an increase in fiscal year 2020.

Ms. Kelley explained that the CID Management Plan is the framework for providing services within the District. The budget is broken into 3 major buckets: 65% to Security, Maintenance & Beautification, 30% to Marketing & Economic Development, and the remaining 5% to an Opportunity Fund (this must be used for one of the two major buckets but allows for consideration of unexpected opportunities).

The mission of Security & Maintenance is to supplement city services in safety & beautification and in support of catalyzing economic development. The mission of Economic Development & Marketing is to be a catalyst for economic development, residential growth and place-making.

Meeting concluded at 7:05 p.m.