

Community & Economic Development Brief for Administration



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December 11, 2023

First Anniversary Edition!

Report Purpose

Weekly at-a-glance report prepared for City Administration from the Community & Economic Development Department.

Airport

- On December 8, Saunders Construction began work on a \$1.65 million renovation project on the terminal building. This work is critical to prepare for the startup flights with Breeze Airlines in late February. The first day was mostly the selective demolition of several areas. The Bickering Sisters Restaurant will remain open during the construction.

Arts, Culture, Events – Union Station

ACE

- Hosting entertainment on the Amphitheater Christmas Village stage four nights a week through December 23.
- The Corner is having a killer start of the month in sales due to the Christmas Village and our tasty hot chocolate!
- Working with community partners on the ACE event calendar for 2024.
- Working on upcoming programming for 2024.

Arts

- The Arts Grants 2024/25 cycle officially opened last week and will close January 12.
 - Two Arts Grant Workshops will be held on Monday, December 11, at 10:00 and 6:00 pm via Zoom.
- RFQ artist call for the Marshall White Center has been released nationally and will close January 31.
- The Community Art Show awards were held Dec. 6. Seven local artists were awarded honorariums in the categories of: Best in Show, Audience Choice, Artist Choice, ACE Award, Union Station Award, and two Juror's Choice awards.
- The Winter Solstice event to see the snowflake shadow to be held at the Water Cycle Sculpture in the High Adventure Park is at solar noon (12:24 pm) on December 21 (weather dependent). Cookies and hot cocoa will be served.

Union Station Museums & Operations

- Coordinating with community partners on the Multicultural Holiday Festival to be held December 22. Six holidays that are celebrated in Ogden will be participating in the event.
- Facilitated a loan partnership with the Syracuse Regional Museum of several railroad objects from our collection's storage. Selected items will be displayed in the Syracuse Regional Museum for one year.
- Working with the Museum of Utah to loan objects representing Ogden's history to the museum for its opening in 2026.
- Preparing two RAMP grants for museum event programming and to help fund the Union Station Centennial event.
- Hosted the Amy Armstrong Training Symposium – a Utah firefighter training that had 101 firefighters in attendance.
- Hosted the Ogden City Public Works holiday party, Craft Lake City – a two-day community Holiday Market, and five additional private holiday parties.
- Prepping for our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on December 19. Four different award categories and all 20 of our volunteers will be presented with an award.

Building Services

- Code Services: We have been honored to assist our excellent teams associated with the Christmas Village and all events.
- Building Services: The Chief Building Official job is mainly behind the scenes and in front of three computer screens. However, during the last year the position has been front and center at many public meetings, media releases, public notices, and a whole lot of scrutiny. The difficulty in applying the thousands of Codes in all aspects to Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, and especially the Existing Building Codes can be exhausting and daunting. We would like to publicly thank Steve Patrick for his great work in his position and just say – *keep on keeping on!*

Business & Economic Development – Business Information Center

- Met/reviewed pipeline of downtown projects – discussed scheduling, potential impacts, business mitigation strategies.
- Planning a response to a Request for Lease Proposals for the Forest Service Northern Utah Aviation Center.
- Met with Weber County to coordinate on redevelopment and economic development projects.
- Met with EDCUtah to finalize the agenda for the Project Osprey site visit this Tuesday (Dec. 12) – an aerospace and defense company looking for significant manufacturing space with airport runway access.
- Walked through the Kemp Center as part of Project Osprey site visit preparations.
- Met with Black Pine development to tour their newly finished building at the Ogden Business Exchange and discussed other development opportunities.
- As follow-up to the recent Project Daphne site visit, connected company with Black Pine regarding a potential site option.
- Met to discuss and plan the upcoming "You MAKE Ogden" public engagement meeting on January 24 and decided to promote and highlight the potential streetscape improvements for 25th Street.
- Created a [social media post](#) detailing the concept plans by Design Workshop for the future Union Station Neighborhood. The posts have been the most shared social media posts for the [MAKE Ogden pages](#) to date.
- Staff participated in the Social Media Strategies Summit for Government with hundreds of other government agencies from around the country and Canada. The virtual seminar highlighted the best practices for informing and interacting with the communities through social media platforms.
- Continuing to promote [Ogden City Loan Programs](#).
- Received two new Technical Assistance (TA) projects and updating the TA program checklist/file structure for efficiency.
- Working with several businesses on Loan Modifications to update terms and payments.
- Continuing to work on job creation requirements for loan borrowers.

Community Development

- Renovation/Resale Program: 1127 23rd is complete and under contract to sell at the end of December. 833 Kershaw is complete and listed for sale. 949 24th, 2866 Quincy and 450 30th are currently under construction.
- New Home/Infill Construction Program: New home sold at 2363 Jackson Avenue.
- New home to be built at 2809 Jackson awarded to start construction, with permit under review. Architecture for Sycamore Cove development underway. Permit under review for first section of townhomes at Towns at 24th.
- "Own in Ogden" Down-Payment Assistance: 17 loans funded in FY24; 43 applications received; 9 under review.
- Home Exterior Loan Program (HELP): 24 loans completed in FY24; 7 projects are underway; and no loans are being processed (budgeted FY24 funds allocated). Applications will be accepted again in Spring 2024.
- Volunteer Partnership Grants: 13 grants completed for My Hometown Initiative projects. My Hometown Initiative projects are estimated to resume in May 2024.
- Tenant based rental assistance program now available through Ogden Housing Authority for homeless applicants.



Planning

- The Planning Commission held their regular meeting on December 6 and the commission:
 - Approved the final group dwelling plan for Liberty Cove, a 72-unit duplex project at 105-236 W. North Street;
 - Recommended approval of rezoning the property at 218 Chester Street from R-1-6 to R-2;
 - Found that the Weber Housing Authority's 32-unit supportive housing project and office project at 2325 Madison Avenue is not consistent with the general plan;
 - Recommended against a vacation of Cahoon Street just west of B Avenue; and
 - Recommended creation of a new flex industrial/commercial zone, with the intent to rezone the property at 3300 South (just south of the airport) to this designation.
- Staff is engaging UDOT to create a plan for improvements to Wall Avenue through Ogden. UDOT has grant money available for the city to hire a consultant for the plan.
- The city received two proposals to create the new general plan. Staff are evaluating these proposals.

Redevelopment and Other CED Activities

- Successfully issued/sold the [WonderBlock](#) TIF/sales tax bonds last week, and we expect to issue the parking structure lease revenue bonds this week!