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Rochester Downtown Partnership Encourages Community Participation in Survey

Rochester, NY– The Rochester Downtown Partnership (RDP) is looking for public input and engagement via an information-gathering survey as part of its continued efforts to create a potential Business Improvement District (BID) for downtown Rochester and newly created downtown ROC the Riverway spaces.

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/downtown-rochester-survey> in English, and <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Cuestionario-de-experiencia-en-el-centro-de-Rochester-2022> in Spanish through November 30. All community members are encouraged to participate. Participants have the option of providing their email address for a chance to win a gift certificate to a downtown business of their choice.

This survey is one of many tools in the RDP's ongoing efforts to gather community feedback for the development of a BID. The RDP is conducting a collaborative, layered, and multi-year process to discover what a potential BID could provide for downtown businesses, residents, workers, and visitors.

The survey, which was launched on September 9, 2022, has already garnered hundreds of responses, including what community members are hoping to see in downtown, such as:

- "More housing! A full grocery store. More businesses that operate at all hours."
- "More dining options, safe activities, quiet space."
- "I'd love to walk between neighborhoods in Rochester."

In an effort to make community engagement in the BID formation process as robust and accessible as possible, the RDP is also offering open office hours and downtown walking tours, or "WalkShops," which have to date drawn 50+ participants. The public is encouraged to join the next WalkShop, leaving from City Hall on Wednesday, 11/9 from 9-10 AM. The RDP's next office hours will be held at The Commissary (inside the Mercantile on Main at 250 E Main St.) on Thursday, 11/17 from 12-1 PM and 5-6 PM.

"We are very excited to see the influx of responses, tangible feedback, and creative solutions from the Rochester community. Your engagement is essential to this process—a BID for downtown Rochester must be flexible and responsive to what downtown residents, workers, business owners, and visitors want in their downtown. I hope you'll join in by taking the survey and attending our upcoming WalkShop and office hours," says Galin Brooks, Executive Director of RDP.

Feedback can also be provided via email to rddc@rddc.org. An informational presentation to City Council on the BID effort, along with other project-related documents, are accessible online:

<https://www.rochesterdowntownpartnership.org/resources>

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About the Rochester Downtown Partnership:

Established in 2021, The Rochester Downtown Partnership, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, is a public-private partnership between RDDC, Finger Lakes Empire State Development, City of Rochester, and ROC2025. This partnership is jumpstarting a new, collaborative way of managing downtown and ROC the Riverway.