

Erie Downtown Partnership
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, January 30, 2015

ERIE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Erie, Pa.—The Erie Downtown Partnership (EDP) will hold two public meetings on February 4, 2015 to inform residents, businesses, and media representatives about the implementation of the Downtown Master Plan and to seek input and thoughts from participants. CMK Planning, LLC, of North East, Pennsylvania, the selected vendor for phase two of the Plan, will also be participating.

These meetings will be held at 8:30 AM and 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 in the UPMC Health Plan Training/Community Room located inside the Boston Store at 100 Boston Store Place, Erie, PA. The public is welcome to attend either one of these meetings.

John Buchna, EDP chief executive officer, said, “Our vision for a vibrant and growing downtown is taking shape. The project is underway and we are making progress in our planning efforts. It is crucial that local consumers, business owners, workers, and residents know that their input is important and will continue to influence our strategy, goals, and plans.”

“We have completed phase one of the plan—strategic analysis—and now CMK Planning will work with us to begin phase two—identifying foundational accomplishments, supporting ongoing projects, identifying and prioritizing strategic initiatives and new projects, enhancing collaborative partnerships and implementing changes to foster business opportunities and support existing businesses downtown,” added Buchna.

“Our team provides both a local knowledge of the Erie area and an outsider’s unprejudiced and objective view of what could happen based on local, regional, and national market trends,” said Charlene M. Kerr, Project Manager and owner of CMK Planning. “Our work here in Little Italy and in other states and regions, provides us with a broad understanding of what has been successful.”

Public input sessions and online surveys for those who cannot attend will help EDP focus on immediate needs. Check local media and www.eriedowntown.com/masterplan for more details. The Downtown Master Plan was funded in-part by The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), which injected \$25,000 into the plan revision. The project aligns with DCED’s mission to foster opportunities for businesses to grow and for communities to succeed and thrive in a global economy.

The Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) invested \$12,500 into the project as part of its 2013 Mission Main Street Grants program. Established to develop Erie County’s commercial corridors, Mission Main Street Grants serve to buttress those distinct geographic districts, known as “main streets,” that incubate and host small businesses, special events, historic structures, and central parks. In accordance with Mission Main Street Grants guidelines, EDP committed \$12,500 of matching funds to updating the plan.

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A nonprofit organization, the Erie Downtown Partnership is dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Erie by improving its image, business climate, physical environment, and design. The EDP district extends from Presque Isle Bay to the north to the 14th Street railway bridge to the south and stretches west to east from Sassafras Street to Holland Street.

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