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Local & State Media

PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMUNITY KICKOFF OCT. 18 FOR DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Downtown Missoula Partnership (DMP) will kick-off the Community Visioning process to update the Downtown Master Plan on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018 from 5:30-7 pm at the Wilma Theater (131 S. Higgins). All community members are invited to the presentation, which will be the first of many occasions Missoulians can offer input during the year-long planning process that will redefine the future of Downtown Missoula.

The DMP has enlisted Dover, Kohl & Partners (DK&P) to guide the Missoula community through a reassessment of the 2009 Downtown Master Plan and the development of a new strategic plan to serve as the primary guiding tool for the public and private sectors. With more than 30 years of urban planning experience and multiple awards from the American Planning Association (APA) and the Congress for New Urbanism, DK&P has assembled a team of experienced professionals in the areas of urban planning, historic preservation, economic development, parking and transportation, parks, housing and public engagement to build a robust and innovative Master Plan that builds on Downtown's authentic place.

Representatives from DK&P and their sub-consultants will make their first visit to Missoula October 17-19, 2018 and will immerse themselves in learning about the Heart of Missoula, named America's Great Neighborhood in 2017 by the APA. Jason King, Principal and Senior Director of DK&P, will serve as the principal project director, and Meredith Bergstrom will serve as the program manager. The team will tour Downtown Missoula, meet with city and Downtown leadership, and host the Community Kick-Off Presentation at the Wilma Theater. They will also meet with more than a dozen stakeholder groups in a variety of areas, including business development, parks, parking, education, transportation, housing, arts, development, and more. People attending the kick off meeting will have the opportunity to interact with the consultants and provide invaluable feedback.

"It is an exciting time for our community as we assemble together for this very important visioning for our future," said Tim France, owner of Worden's Market and President of the Downtown Business Improvement District Board of Directors. "Downtown is the Heart of Missoula, and everyone who lives here is vested in this place. It is what defines us and sets us apart from anywhere USA. Our community's engagement in updating the strategic plan for Downtown is essential and valued, as we continue to build on this vibrant city center for centuries to come. We want to fill every seat in the Wilma on Oct. 18 and learn firsthand what the community wants Downtown Missoula to be 10 years from now."

For more information, visit <u>www.missouladowntown.com</u>, email <u>info@missouladowntown.com</u>, or follow MissoulaDowntown on Facebook.

Downtown Missoula: Connecting Our Community!

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