

WASHINGTON HARBOR DISTRICT A L L A N C E

Meg Howdy Executive Director mhowdy@whda.org Washington Harbor District Alliance (WHDA) is a non-profit organization focused on economic development in the downtown historic business district located on the water in Washington, NC. WHDA continues to be integral in Washington's Revitalization and Reinvestment strategy for the Harbor District assisting the City of Washington with projects such as Festival Park, Maritime Center, and cohesive signage including the Wayfinding Project.

VISION

For Washington to be a charming, historic community with an inclusive, pedestrian friendly Harbor District where a diversity of small businesses and owners can flourish economically as a Central Business District On The Water.

MISSION

The mission of the Washington Harbor District Alliance (WHDA) is to recruit and support businesses in the Central Business District while building partnerships that encourage preservation and promote the Harbor District as an inclusive, professional, commercial, cultural and residential community on the water.



MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The National Main Street Center was established as a program of the <u>National Trust for Historic Preservation</u> in 1980 as a way <u>to address the myriad issues facing older and historic downtowns during that time</u>. Working with a nationwide network of coordinating programs and local communities, Main Street has helped over 2,000 communities across the country bring economic vitality back downtown, while celebrating their historic character, and bringing communities together.

Six states and thirty communities were selected to start the program.

NC was one of the original states

The First NC Communities to Participate:

- 1. Salisbury
- 2. New Bern
- 3. Shelby
- 4. Tarboro
- 5. Washington







VISION: OUR ASPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE



Everyone has access to an inclusive and resilient Main Street – a place that has a thriving local economy, is distinctive and rich in character, and features welcoming spaces and diverse businesses for residents and visitors alike.

MISSION: OUR PURPOSE AS AN ORGANIZATION

Main Street America leads a collaborative movement with partners and grassroots leaders that advances shared prosperity, creates resilient economies, and improves quality of life through place-based economic development and community preservation in downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts across the country.



Main Street Four Point Approach®

Organization:

Building human and financial resources through public/private partnerships to achieve a common vision

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Vitality:

Strengthening the existing economic assets; expanding and diversifying the economic base.

Promotion:

Selling a positive image of downtown based on the authentic creative assets of the community



Design:

Improving the physical aspects of downtown.





THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MAIN STREET IN NORTH CAROLINA

2021 Annual Report: January-December 2021 Activity

N.C. Department of Commerce, NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center

The NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center works in regions, counties, cities, towns, downtown districts and in designated North Carolina Main Street communities, to inspire placemaking through building asset-based economic development strategies that achieve measurable results such as investment, business growth, and jobs.

Machelle Sanders, Secretary of Commerce | Kenny Flowers, Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Development
Elizabeth H. Parham, Director, NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center

Total NC Main Street and NC Small Town Main Street Statistical Data

FY 2020-2021

NC Main Street and Small Town Main Street communities collectively generated the largest single year of total public and private investment since the inception of the program in 1980.

\$453,839,965
PUBLIC/PRIVATE INVESTMENT

267
BUILDINGS REHABILITATED

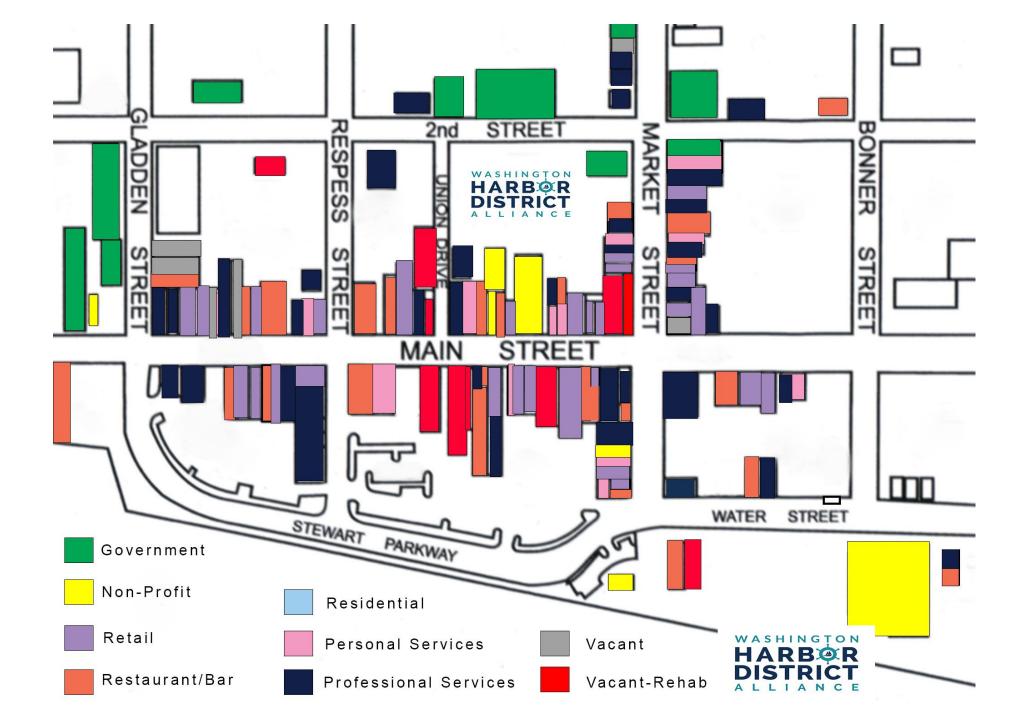
411
FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS

381
BUSINESSES NET GAIN

1,829
JOBS NET FTE & PTE GAIN

101,194 VOLUNTEER HOURS (VALUED AT \$2,629,021)





















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