



## Strengthening Downtown Kalispell — Together

Dear Members,

We are excited to share an important step forward for downtown Kalispell and our business community.

The Boards of the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce and the Kalispell Downtown Association have unanimously agreed to move forward with a unified approach that brings the Downtown Association's work into alignment with **Downtown Kalispell Forward**, an initiative of the Kalispell Chamber. Ultimately, this alignment will strengthen coordination, expand capacity, and build on the momentum already underway in the heart of our community.

This decision reflects a shared belief that downtown vitality and business success are deeply connected — and that a more coordinated structure will allow us to better serve businesses, activate public spaces, and advance a strong, vibrant downtown that benefits all of Kalispell.

### **What this means**

- Downtown Kalispell Forward will continue as the community's platform for downtown placemaking, business engagement, events, and revitalization efforts.
- Downtown businesses will gain stronger connections to advocacy, workforce initiatives, and regional economic development resources.
- KDA assets will be transferred to the Kalispell Chamber Foundation to continue and grow the Kalispell Downtown Forward initiative.
- Members will benefit from expanded marketing reach, streamlined communication, and deeper collaboration opportunities.
- Downtown priorities will remain front and center, supported by dedicated leadership and coordinated strategy as one of the Chamber's 4 strategic plan pillars.

The Downtown Kalispell Association enters this next chapter from a position of financial stability, with no outstanding debt and available resources in place. The Association's board made this decision thoughtfully and unanimously, recognizing that aligning efforts will provide the infrastructure and partnerships needed for long-term sustainability and impact.

For decades, Kalispell Downtown Association volunteers, leaders, and members have played a vital role in shaping the character and energy of downtown Kalispell. Their commitment laid the groundwork for the progress we see today and made this next chapter possible.

As downtown continues to evolve, this unified approach ensures that work will continue with greater capacity, stronger partnerships, and a shared vision for the future.

This transition will occur over the coming months with a focus on continuity, collaboration, and clear communication. You will continue to receive updates and opportunities to stay engaged as Downtown Kalispell Forward advances.

At its core, this step is simple:

**It's not about changing downtown — it's about strengthening it.**

We are grateful for your continued investment in our business community and your role in shaping the future of Downtown Kalispell.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With appreciation and excitement,

**Lorraine Clarno, President/CEO**

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

**Elma Giavasis, President**

Downtown Kalispell Association