

# BUSINESS WELCOME PACKET



**Welcome to Downtown Renton.  
We're excited you're here!**

This Business Welcome Packet was created with you in mind. It contains information about the Renton Downtown Partnership and supportive resources throughout our region to help you along your journey as a business owner.

If you have any questions, concerns or want to get involved contact the Renton Downtown Partnership– we're here to help your business succeed!

## Cugini Florist & Fine Gifts

Owner,  
Arique Jacques

**"I believe in the heartbeat of Downtown Renton. I believe in Renton's people & purposes and I'm excited to see the success of every business and entrepreneur putting their heart, sweat and tears into this community! Shop small to support your local businesses, shop local to support your neighbors and shop with a purpose to keep brick & mortar businesses alive! We love you and welcome you!"**



# Organization Profile

## Our Vision

Downtown Renton is a growing community that residents and visitors embrace as a historically significant and diverse destination, full of thriving, unique businesses, art, and experiences.

## Our Mission

The mission of the Renton Downtown Partnership (RDP) is to cultivate a vibrant social, cultural and economic center by bringing together the community, non- profits and city center stakeholders while celebrating the unique historic character of Renton's Downtown.



# The Staff



**CHRISTIAN SWITZER**  
Executive Director



**KIM UNTI**  
Operations Assistant

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jennifer Thompson**  
President

**Sue Bollinger**  
Vice President

**Jenna Gilbreath**  
Secretary

**Wes Henry**  
Interim Treasurer

**Jessie Kotarski** City  
of Renton Ex Officio

**Danielle Smith**  
Renton Chamber of  
Commerce Ex Officio

**Amber Saxby**

**Cameron Wong**

**Kenneth Rogers**

**Lachlan Huck**

**Mary Hansen**

## Macadon's

Owner,  
Michael Huynh

I opened a business in Downtown Renton because of the overwhelming support and determination from the Renton Chamber of Commerce. I met with Ashley and Diane Dobson from the Chamber, and we instantly connected. They loved our brand and wanted us to be a part of the community, so they got us connected with our landlord and the rest is history!

What I like about having a business in Downtown Renton is the sense of community. We get so much support from neighboring business owners as well as residents from around the area. The Renton Downtown Partnership and The Renton Chamber of Commerce is always hosting events to engage the community to come shop at the local stores.





# Committees



## Promotion

positions the downtown or commercial district as the center of the community and hub of economic activity, while creating a positive image that showcases a community's unique characteristics.

Chair: Jessie Kotarski



## Organization

involves creating a strong foundation for a sustainable revitalization effort, including cultivating partnerships, community involvement, and resources for the district.

Chair: Jennifer Thompson



## Economic Vitality

focuses on capital, incentives, and other economic and financial tools to assist new and existing businesses, catalyze property development, and create a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and innovators that drive local economies.

Chair: Sue Bollinger



## Design

supports a community's transformation by enhancing the physical and visual assets that set the commercial district apart.

Chair: Elaine Stachowiak

# Projects/Events

PROMOTION	ORGANIZATION	ECONOMIC VITALITY	DESIGN
Bar Crawls	Volunteer Training Plan	Entrepreneur Workshops and Pitch Competition	Flower Baskets
Beer Garden	Fundraising	Ignite Meetings	Park(ing) Day
Wine Walk	Main Street America National Accreditation	Historic Walking Tours	Mural
Olde Fashioned Halloween		Quarterly Clean Ups	Art Tour
Gobble Wobble		Pop-Up Shops Program	Historic Resources Tour
Santa House		Possibilities Tour	Façade Grant
Small Business Saturday			

## Liberty Cafe

Owner,  
Deb Natelson

When asked why she likes to have her business in downtown Renton, Deb said, "It's the people! Without a doubt. Seattle may have its 'chill' but Renton has always offered me a warm reception.

I have maintained a business in DTR for almost 30 years (Jet City Espresso and Liberty Cafe) ...From day one, Rentonites welcomed me with open arms and were always incredibly supportive and encouraging. My businesses have faced many challenges over the years such as the recession, relocation of Boeing headquarters and other nearby businesses, as well as the pandemic, but we have persevered so long, due to the unwavering support of Renton residents, employees, and visitors to our fair city."

Liberty Cafe

# How Can the Renton Downtown Partnership Help You?

**Signage:** Need help with new or replacement business signage? Check out our informational flyer! Sign-Help-Flyer-4.13.22.pdf (rentondowntown.com)

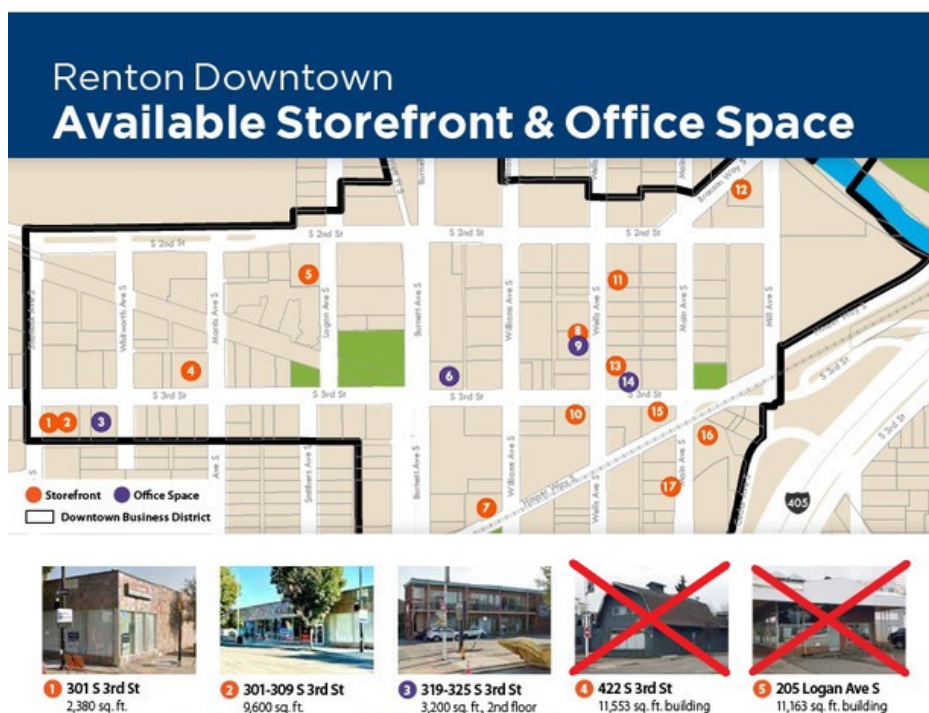
**Promotion:** Have an upcoming event or a special you would like to promote? We would love to spread the word through our social media and email newsletters! Reach out to us at RDP@rentondowntown.com.

**IGNITE! Meetings:** Our Economic Vitality Committee holds IGNITE! meetings about every other month that features guest speakers on topics related to small businesses.

**Online Business Profiles:** Get help claiming and editing your Google or Yelp business profile. Email Sue Bollinger, Economic Vitality Committee Chair at vp@rentondowntown.com.

**Get the Look Guide:** Read our guide on how to create a safe, welcoming space that will attract customers and boost sales! Get the Look! Guide\_v2 (rentondowntown.com)

### Site selection example:



## New Zen Japanese Restaurant

Owner,  
Yumiko Miyake

**When asked  
why she likes  
being in  
downtown  
Renton, Yumi  
said, "It is a  
small and tight  
diverse  
community  
that strives. "**



# When do you need to contact City Hall?

The City of Renton Economic Development staff is available to provide information about permits, land use applications and other department requirements, including information related to the following:

- » **Signs** – Most signs require sign permits; please check with staff to see if you will need a permit.
- » **Building Permits** – Generally needed to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, change the occupancy or intensity of use of a building or structure or electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.
- » **Retail Food Establishment Permit** – This license is required and issued by King County for all facilities selling, serving and preparing food.
- » **Liquor License** – This license is required and issued by State of Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board.
- » **Special Event Permit** – This license allows businesses and organizations to host a public event, and is issued by the City of Renton.
- » **Home Business** – The rules governing a home business can be found in the City's Municipal Code, please review the code before applying for a business license.
- » **City Utility** – The City of Renton Utility Billing division provides customer service, billing and revenue collections for water, sewer, surface water, and a pass through charge for King County Sewer Treatment.
- » **Pre-Lease Program** – The Pre-Lease program is a resource for business owners who want to lease or buy commercial space, property owners wanting to renovate/redevelop commercial space locating in the City of Renton. Staff from relevant city departments will meet with you in the new space, conduct a walk through, and provide comments and answer questions.

**Visit [whyrenton.com](http://whyrenton.com) or  
Contact (425) 430-6591 or [thrive@rentonwa.gov](mailto:thrive@rentonwa.gov)  
for more information.**

# Business Resources

The following organizations provide a variety of advising and support services to help your business prosper:



Supporting local businesses in Renton and ensuring they have what they need to be successful is our top priority. Through this dedicated support approach, the city aims to develop economic activity in the city and strengthen Renton's tax base while providing a top-notch quality of life for residents.



Improves business and economic conditions, and offers members leadership development, networking opportunities, advocacy, and resources to promote business prosperity.



Helps address the needs of small businesses, and offers free counseling for businesses looking for new ways to grow.



Provides a plethora of resources on starting a business, growing an established business, applying to a loan program, discovering research grants, and more.

## GHY Bikes

Owner,  
Aaron Johnson

**When asked why he chose downtown Renton to open his bike shop, he replied, Downtown Renton is the center of the Puget Sound area! You can't get more convenient than that!"**

**ghy.  
bikes**



## 4 Sisters Holistic Remedies

Owner,  
Jennifer Leverton

**When asked why she chose downtown Renton to open her business, she said, "I don't think there is a better place to be! We are in the Seattle area but not 'in Seattle'. This community is the most supportive business community anywhere!"**



Hosts live small business webinars that are free to attend, offers free business advice, and provides a business mentor program



Empowers individuals with limited resources (immigrants, people of color, single parents, women) to improve their lives through small business ownership

## STARTUP425

Expands entrepreneurship opportunities across Eastside communities by providing access to tools that experienced workers, students, and entrepreneurs need to go from idea to working business



OneEastside SPARK coordinates regional partners to maximize resources and focus on small business and nonprofit recovery and resiliency. We provide responsive programming and tools to address key areas of need amongst organizations in East King County as they evolve.



Offers training classes for entrepreneurs, microloans, and small business financing to qualified businesses, and coaching for small businesses that includes marketing, management, finance, and strategic planning



Business Survey



Sponsorship and Donation Opportunities



[director@rentondowntown.com](mailto:director@rentondowntown.com)



(971) 599-1667



[rentondowntown.com](http://rentondowntown.com)

