

MidTown, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

BUILD PARTICIPATE COLLABORATE
 CONNECT CO-CHAIR TEAMWORK MINGLE
 BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNER SHARING
 BRIDGING THE GAP COACT ORGANIZE
 TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP JOIN FORCES

MidTown, Inc.

2021



Take a closer look into



A Note from MidTown Inc.'s Leadership

Dear Friends,

We listened. We partnered. We reimagined. We analyzed and strategized for long-term goals and initiatives.

MidTown, Inc. has worked to sustain and enhance the neighborhoods and businesses within MidTown Columbus for eighteen years. We are proud of our unquestionably authentic community—a microcosm-reflecting diversity in every respect right in the heart of Columbus. It is home to newcomers, such as military personnel and their families who fall in love with the area while stationed at Fort Benning, alongside residents whose ancestors date back to the founding of Columbus.

Cherished neighborhoods, parks, schools, and businesses draw people to live, work, study, shop, gather, dine, worship, and play in MidTown. MidTown, Inc. has worked tirelessly to promote, connect, facilitate, partner, and champion this distinctive area full of genuine character and amazing amenities.

Our supporters recognize that a vibrant MidTown is essential to a thriving greater Columbus community. Our annual report reflects the projects and programs we championed in 2021. We, along with the rest of the world, cautiously crept into the year by following health guidelines that required us to limit large group gatherings. Events typically held early in the year weren't possible, but as soon as it became safe, we jumped in with both feet.

The unavoidable pause from the coronavirus gave us the time and space to reexamine our role in and work for MidTown, and to adopt ambitious initiatives to accomplish meaningful change. In 2021 we adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan, seen on page 4 of this report, that included the formation of a comprehensive campaign to fund impactful projects, programs, special events and organizational sustainability. Our Executive Committee invited a stellar group of MidTown residents with leadership, fundraising, and financial expertise to begin work on this endeavor. Our future is bright, and we hope you share our enthusiasm and optimism for this community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julio A. Portillo Jr.".

Julio A. Portillo Jr.
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muffy Schlodensky".

Muffy Schlodensky
2020-2021 Board Chair

BUILD PARTICIPATE COLLABORATE
 CONNECT CO-CHAIR TEAMWORK MINGLE
 BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNER SHARING
 BRIDGING THE GAP COACT ORGANIZE
 TOGETHER JOIN FORCES
 PARTNERSHIP
 IMPROVE MULTIPLY
 BUILD REIMAGINE
 CREATE BOOST STRENGTHEN
 ENHANCE INVIGORATE
 RAISE FORM INNOVATE



MidTown, Inc. hosted Police Chief Freddie Blackmon and Sgt. Angela Florence from the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Unit for lunch and conversation.

MidTown Inc. 5 Year Strategic Plan

Neighborhood Enhancement and Sense of Place

Enliven and strengthen neighborhoods and promote Midtown's distinctive character and convenience

Economic Development

Actively encourage economic development opportunities as a catalyst and facilitator

Business Support

Support and promote Midtown businesses

Organizational Capacity

Sustain the organization to realize our mission through projects and programs

Active Transportation and Connections

Encourage active transportation options, celebrate community places of pride, and work to better connect people and places

Comprehensive Campaign

To support all strategic initiatives, achieve our mission of sustaining and enhancing neighborhoods and business within Midtown and work towards our vision to make Midtown EVEN better

Business in MidTown 2021

The MidTown Business Association works to sustain, promote, and grow business within MidTown Columbus. Their membership unites them as a group through electronic newsletters, print, social media, and televised marketing to encourage loyal support from Columbus residents. We welcomed twelve new members to whom we are grateful for making MidTown their business home.



"I am thankful to be a member of MBA. The MBA does so much to promote Midtown businesses. The association fee is nothing compared to the amount of exposure it provides for our business. We are blessed to be a part of this organization."

-David Benefield

Owner, David Benefield at Highland Hall



"Supporting and promoting the MidTown Business Association just simply makes good sense! As a real estate agent and longtime MidTown resident, advertising in the MidTowner helps promote my business as well as support the programs of the MBA. I love selling where I live....The neighborhoods of MidTown!"

-Ruthie Curtis

Bickerstaff Parham Real Estate



"My dad opened the Columbus School of Art in Midtown in 1950 so it is only fitting that my business would be in Midtown. I opened Highland Hall Restoration of Fine Art in 1978; it continues as Gloria Mani Fine Art. Midtown is the place to be! Feels like home."

-Gloria Mani

Owner, Gloria Mani Fine Art

BUILD PARTICIPATE COLLABORATE
CONNECT CO-CHAIR TEAMWORK MINGLE
BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNER SHARING
BRIDGING THE GAP COACT ORGANIZE
TOGETHER JOIN FORCES
PARTNERSHIP

INITIATE HOST COMPLETE
CREATE RAISE
ENHANCE CONTINUE
INTRODUCE ORGANIZE

IMPROVE MULTIPLY
BUILD REIMAGINE
CREATE BOOST STRENGTHEN
ENHANCE INVIGORATE
RAISE FORM INNOVATE

MidTown Initiatives

2021

Solidified a partnership with Turn Around Columbus and the G.W. Carver Victory Garden and Farm We hosted a Gardening Supplies and Work Clothing Drive for volunteers and nearby school students to use to assist in and learn about farming. We borrowed heavy equipment, provided volunteers to grade and till garden plots, and loaded and delivered mulch to prepare the ground for planting.

Held the Third Annual Clean MidTown In April, 2021, volunteers collected litter in several MidTown neighborhoods, including Carver Heights, Weracoba-St. Elmo, and Wildwood Circle-Hillcrest.

Partnered with Bicycle Columbus, Columbus Police Department, Jarfly, and the River Valley Regional Commission We rode our 8th annual MidTown Bike Around to showcase the bike-ability of our area with a low intensity ride suitable for all ages, followed with food, fellowship and fun at one of MidTown's favorite watering holes.

Advocated for MidTown businesses and MidTown living The MidTown Business Association promoted member businesses through creative videos aired on social media and television, bi-monthly newsletters reaching over 4000 permission based contacts, and posts to social media outlets. We initiated MBA Business Spotlights and MBA Member Testimonials in our social media platforms to promote the businesses and the benefits of MBA membership.

Continued our work to develop a Children's Bicycle Park We finalized a conceptual plan, and continued to explore potential locations, grant funds, project partners and required permits.

Hosted the 10 th Annual MidTown Mingle We celebrated the 10 th anniversary of our beloved MidTown Mingle after skipping a year due to the pandemic. The event was held at Lakebottom Park, where a record-breaking 850 party goers gathered to enjoy a beautiful evening of great food, music, and mingling with friends and neighbors.

Improved and Revamped our Technology We improved our donor management software and redesigned our website for greater donor security, mobile friendly access, and more in-depth information about our organization and the MidTown community, including an event calendar which is also shared on social media.

Improved communication with our supporters We began distributing an additional electronic newsletter, The MidTown Momentum, that includes project updates, upcoming event information and articles featuring MidTown residents or businesses that, in a myriad of different ways, make MidTown EVEN better.



East Highland Clean Event L-R: Councilman John House, Linda Robinson, Judy Tucker, Rep. Calvin Smyre, Adrian Chester, Julio Portillo.



Executive Director, Julio Portillo and board member Pete Berry, unloading and spreading mulch at the Victory Garden.



We love MidTown at Christmas! Pictured here is the Sarling Fountain decorated for the season, bringing Christmas cheer to all.

MidTown Program Partners and Special Thanks

- 2 WR Architects
- A.J. McClung YMCA
- John Anker
- Antioch Baptist Church
- Bo Bartlett
- Ralph Betz
- Bicycle Columbus
- Bloomers
- Trey Carmack
- Chattahoochee Valley Libraries
- Chick-fil-A
- Coalition for Sound Growth
- Colormac 2
- Columbus Consolidated Government:
 - Building Inspections & Code Enforcement
 - Engineering Department
 - Skip Henderson, Mayor
 - Office of the City Manager and Deputy City Managers
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning and Zoning Department
 - Public Works
- Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Columbus Museum
- Columbus Police
- Columbus State University:
 - Hannah Israel
 - The Leadership Institute
 - Dr. Amanda Rees
- Columbus Water Works
- Community Foundation of The Chattahoochee Valley
- Company C Academy of Dance
- Country Club of Columbus
- Betsy Covington
- Rick Covington
- Anne Daniels
- David Benefield
- Dragonfly Trails
- Emily Flournoy
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church
- Chris Harman
- Help Save Hilton
- Mr. and Mrs. Ken Henson, Jr.
- Historic Columbus Foundation
- Image By Design
- Housing Authority of Columbus Georgia
- IAM International
- Jarfly
- Kimi Farms
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- Keep Columbus Beautiful
- MidTown Neighborhood Associations
- Mr. B's Liquor, Beer, and Wine
- William Morgan and Steve Morse
- Muscogee County School District
- Overflo Ministries
- River Valley Regional Commission
- The Rotary Club of Columbus
- Safe Kids Columbus
- The Speakeasy
- The Honorable Teresa P. and Trip Tomlinson
- Trees Columbus
- Turn Around Columbus
- VSA Security Systems
- Uptown Columbus
- Wildwood Gardens
- Len Williams
- The Wynn House
- Wynnnton Road United Methodist
- Zoe's Pediatrics

BUILD PARTICIPATE COLLABORATE
CONNECT CO-CHAIR TEAMWORK MINGLE
BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNER SHARING
BRIDGING THE GAP COACT ORGANIZE
TOGETHER JOIN FORCES
PARTNERSHIP

INITIATE HOST COMPLETE
CREATE RAISE
ENHANCE CONTINUE
INTRODUCE ORGANIZE

Hand
In
Hand

IMPROVE MULTIPLY
BUILD REIMAGINE
CREATE BOOST STRENGTHEN
ENHANCE INVIGORATE
RAISE FORM INNOVATE

MidTown Partnerships 2021

MidTown, Inc. met the pastor of International Alliance Ministries in March of 2021 to discuss the best and highest use for a parcel the church leased on the corner of Wynnton Road and Forest Avenue. Rev. Lyndon Townsend and his team decided on the location after noticing the dramatic improvements at that intersection, thanks to the Wynnton Streetscape project. They shared their idea to use the space as a thrift shop and café for income to fund the church's ministry programs. We all agreed that the building façade and landscaping needed a great deal of improvement to further enhance that highly visible intersection. MidTown, Inc. subsequently approached Emily Flournoy, an architect with 2WR, who earlier in the year had offered pro bono design assistance in celebration of the firm's 20-year anniversary. Emily's tremendous creativity resulted in a handsome design for the property with low cost, impactful improvements.



IAM representatives, MidTown staff, and Emily Flournoy of 2WR Partners meet to discuss the project.

“A single storefront can transform a street. A loveable building can lift a whole neighborhood. We have seen this and know that no one is coming to do it for us. If we want to live in places that our kids love coming home to, we’ve got work to do.”

From the “About” section on the Incremental Development website.

With funding from the Knight Foundation, MidTown, Inc. served as a small laboratory for the work of The Incremental Development Alliance in 2016 and 2017.

Partnering Hand In Hand With International Alliance Ministries

The church hosted a festive ribbon cutting on July 17, 2021. Thanks to collaboration and teamwork, we can proudly point to a more vibrant, reactivated corner in the heart of MidTown -King of Kings Korner- that hosts food trucks on the weekends, gathers to watch NFL football on Thursdays, and most recently opened a small food bank to help those in need. The church officially adopted the pocket park and takes meticulous care of the landscaping, regularly picks up litter, and truly treats it as its own. We could not be any prouder of our partnership with Rev. Townsend and his incredible team, who share a common vision for MidTown and our Columbus community. It perfectly illustrates the importance of partnerships to accomplish meaningful improvements when working with our small budget.

BEFORE



AFTER





Top Left: 2021 Mingle Committee. Danielle Ernst, Bitsy Dedwylder, Sara Carver, Stacy Pease, Carolyn Bettin, Julio Portillo, Cathryn Pease, Jennie Hannay, Crystal Trawick, & Brittany Perkins **Top Right:** Crowd enjoying the MidTown Mingle all night long! **Bottom Left:** MBA members Daphne and Cedric Hill, Vicky and John Partin **Bottom Middle:** MidTown residents Palmer Colson, Lane White, and Campbell Bleke **Bottom Right:** Lowry and Ann Reid, Madden and Sally Hatcher, Maudie and Bill Huff

2021 MidTown Mingle Sponsors

MIDTOWN SPONSOR



NEIGHBORHOOD SPONSOR



A Global Payments Company

STREET SPONSORS



John Francis
Flournoy, Sr.

Jennifer Gates Flournoy

SYNOVUS®

the bank of here

FRIEND SPONSORS



Liberty™



MINGLE PARTNERS

David P. Antekeier, M.D.
Brasfield & Gorrie
Columbus State University
Country Club of Columbus
Dragonfly Trails
S.M. Ellis Company, Inc.
Elizabeth Fry & Dupont Kirven
Foundation
Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

Dr. and Mrs. Scott Hannay
Jackson-Burgin Foundation
Helen and B.R. Johnson
Lockwood Partners
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Martin, II
PMB Broadcasting
Royal Restrooms
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Schley
Storage Xtra

Melissa Thomas, Realtor
Two Men and A Truck
Mary Varner Real Estate Group
Waddell Haskin & Green Realty
The Wade Companies
Wildwood Gardens/Chris Harman

MINGLE PATRONS

ASP Pool & Spa
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Bettin
Rennie Bickerstaff
Trey Carmack
Carver Contracting Company
Columbus Family Dentistry
Columbus Affordable Housing
Services
Company C, Academy of Dance
Crawford & Brown Law Firm, LLP
Daniel Appliance Co.
Ferguson Enterprises
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Fober
Mr. and Mrs. R. Walker Garrett

Grogan & Grogan
Kerry and Donna Hand
Neal H. Howard Associates, P.C.
Hughston Clinic
Jan-Pro Cleaning Services
Jarrell Pediatric Dentistry
Brock Jones, Inc.
Kinetic Credit Union
Knox Pest Control
Marsh McLennan Agency
McRae Engineering
Midtown Coffee House
Outdoor Events
Obgyn Specialists of Columbus

Mr. and Mrs. R. Chris Peebles
Pet Cremation Services
Ragan Insurance Agency, Inc.
Ritch Electric Company
Robinson Grimes & Company, P.C.
Dr. and Mrs. Andy Roddenbery
Muffy and Fred Schladensky
Margaret B. Smith
Ann and John Tuggle
The Bottle Shop
Two Sisters Gallery
Vernon Pediatrics
Wildwood Rugs

FEATURED ARTIST

Maudie Huff

2021 Contributors

MidTown, Inc. is not a membership organization and our annual operations, projects, and programs are sustained by a single annual fundraising event- The MidTown Mingle- and by sponsorships, grants, bequests and generous annual contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations. We are grateful to all who invest in the Core Community and support the mission of MidTown, Inc.

LEGACY

Aflac

ADVOCATES (\$10,000 and up)

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford J. Swift, III
TSYS Global Payments
Mrs. Emily Fletcher Williams

BUILDERS (\$5,000-9,999)

South Arts, Inc.

ENTREPRENEURS (\$1,000-2,499)

Ankerpak, LLC.
Dr. and Mrs. David P. Antekeier
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Burdeshaw
Dr. and Mrs. R. Scott Hannay
The Jackson-Burgin Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Martin II
Mr. E. Warner Neal, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Ramsay, Jr.
Richard and Helen Robbins Family Foundation
Thornton Jordan Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Turner, Jr.

PLANNERS (\$500-\$999)

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Berry
Ms. Nancy Burgin
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Courville
Joann Holt Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Justin Krieg
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. McKenna
Ms. Bennie Newroth
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ogie
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon F. Pease

SFC and Mrs. Victor Pennington
Dr. and Mrs. William Roundtree
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schladensky
Representative Calvin Smyre
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Wade III
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Ward III
Dr. and Mrs. Sidney Yarbrough

SUSTAINERS (\$250-\$499)

Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield Athey
Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Brewer
Mr. Craig Burgess
Mr. James W. Goodwin, III
Mr. and Mrs. Brock Jones
Ms. Lillian P. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Knox
Mr. and Mrs. Jack J. Pease III
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Peebles
Mr. and Mrs. Justin L. Pierson
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Roddenbery
Dr. and Mrs. Cecil F. Whitaker, Jr.

FRIENDS (\$100-\$249)

Mr. Cameron Bean
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Bridges
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Burgin
Mr. and Mrs. John Calhoun
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. David, Jr.
Jane Durden Etheridge
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Flory
Mr. and Mrs. George Flowers
Mary Jane Galer
Ms. Mattie Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald F. Hale
Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Johnston

Mrs. Erwin D. Key
Mr. and Mrs. Neal B. Littlejohn
Drs. James P. McHenry & Cheryl Yatsko
Dr. W. Shain Schley
Ms. Athavia J. Senior
Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Staples
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Thayer
Mr. Brian Waters
Mr. and Mrs. Willie Wells

NEIGHBORS

Mr. and Mrs. W. Mizell Alexander
Mrs. Thomas B. Buck, III
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Carpenter
Ms. Rebecca P. Duggan
Nancy Arrington Flournoy
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Fober
Ms. Peggy Gindville
B. Seth Harp, Jr.
Hinson Galleries, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Livingston
Reggie Luther
Lynn Maughon
Shirley Moon
Ms. Kathy Riley
Ms. Gwendolyn Ruff
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan D. Stewart
Ms. Judy Tucker


GIFTS IN HONOR

Mr. and Mrs. Brad Bowden
Mrs. Erwin D. Key

Bess Dedwylder
Hinson Galleries, Inc.
Mrs. Erwin D. Key
Mr. and Mrs. Neal B. Littlejohn


Ellie Fober
Mr. and Mrs. George Flowers

Betty Johnson
Lynn Maughon



proudly supports

Midtown, Inc.



Z190466 Individual coverage is underwritten by American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus. Worldwide Headquarters | 1932 Wynnton Road | Columbus, Georgia 31909. EXP 4/20

The Aflac duck keeps a watchful eye over MidTown from the international headquarters on Wynnton Road. We are grateful for the continued support from this homegrown Fortune 200 Company.



2021 Statement of Financial Position

2021 Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$487,531.41
Contributions receivable	\$ 19,610.00
Fixed assets	\$ 1,868.17
Total Assets	\$507,021.41

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	\$ 4,442.67
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 33,005.75
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$491,657.00
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$507,021.41

Contact our office for a complete copy of the financial statements reviewed by Cedar Hill CPAs and Advisors

MidTown, Inc. Board of Directors 2021

Kim Antekeier

Physician Recruiter,
Piedmont Hospital

Cameron Bean (President Elect)
Executive Director of Development,
Columbus State University

Pete Berry
President, VSA Security Systems

Craig Burgess
General Counsel, Columbus State University

Nancy Burgin
Owner, Days Gone By Properties, LLC
Small Scale Developer

Will Burgin
President, Jackson-Burgin Development

Andrew Carpenter
Civil Words not War

Ellie Fober
Community volunteer

Mattie Hall
Civic Leader

Jennie Hannay
Civic leader

Lillian “Pat” Jones
Civic Leader

Sean Knox
Co-President, Knox Pest Control

Jim Livingston (Vice President)
Executive Director, River Valley Regional Commission

Matt Massey (Vice President)
Chief Executive Officer, Horizon Diagnostics

Chuck McDaniel (Treasurer)
Vice President, Business Banking, Synovus

Thomas McKenna
Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Aflac

Blake Melton
Vice President, Senior Wealth Strategist
Synovus Family Asset Management

Bennie Newroth (Director Emeritus)
Director of Governmental Relations (retired)
Columbus Regional Health

Gordy Pease
Owner, ASP of Columbus

Virginia Peebles, Director Emeritus
Retired Executive Director, Historic Columbus

Olivia Pennington (Secretary)
Sales Manager, WRBL

Tyler Pritchard
Associate, Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

Dr. Amanda Rees
Professor of Geography
Columbus State University

GwenDolyn Hargrove Ruff
Senior Vice President, Columbus Water Works

Muffy Schladensky (President)
Asst. VP, Commercial Management Coordinator
Woodruff Brokerage Company

Athavia Senior
Civic leader

John M. Sheftall (Director Emeritus)
Partner, Hall Booth Smith

John Teeples
President, John Teeples Construction

Judy Tucker
Owner, Ida Joe’s Classic Bows

George E. “Tripp” Wade III (Immediate Past President)
President, The Wade Companies

Chris Walker
Senior Vice President, J. Smith Lanier & Co.

Amy Ward
Owner, Wildwood Stitchery

Brian Waters
OnMedia Account Executive

Willie Wells
President, MCW Tax & Business Services

Advisors to the Board

Jack C. Goldfrank

The Honorable Calvin Smyre

J. Edward Sprouse

The Honorable Teresa P. Tomlinson

Sam M. Wellborn

Dr. Robert Wright

Ex officio

Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager, City of Columbus

Carolyn Mull, Principal, Wynnton Arts Academy

Brian Sillitto, Executive Vice President

Columbus Chamber of Commerce,

Elizabeth B. Walden, Executive Director, Historic Columbus

Len Williams, Executive Director, Columbus Housing Authority

Staff

Julio A. Portillo Jr., Executive Director

Sara C. Carver, Office Manager (part-time)

Bitsy Dedwylder, MBA and Marketing Coordinator (part-time)

Kelley Watts, Finance Director (part-time)



2021 MidTown, Inc. Staff



MidTown, Inc. thanks Cam Addison for 10 years of dedication to branding and designing the graphics for MidTown Mingle. Her support beautifully demonstrates the generosity of our great MidTown community. Thank you, Cam, for sharing your talents with us and making the MidTown Mingle EVEN better.



MidTown, Inc.
1236 Wildwood Ave, Columbus, GA 31906
(706) 494-1663
www.midtowncolumbusga.org