

AGM 2026 : Director Report

Welcome

Good evening everyone, and thank you for joining us for the Downtown North Bay AGM.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to welcome our members, community partners, City Council, City staff, volunteers, and guests. Thank you for taking the time to be here and for your continued investment in our downtown.

Reflecting on Our Downtown

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded that downtowns are built through collective effort. Every business owner who unlocks their doors each morning, every resident who chooses to shop local, every volunteer who gives their time, and every partner who contributes to our shared vision plays a role in shaping the future of Downtown North Bay.

This year, the DIA continued its work in support of our core mandate: preserving, promoting, advocating for, and developing a vibrant downtown district. While challenges remain, we have continued to focus on creating a downtown that is welcoming, resilient, and positioned for long-term success.

Beautification & Placemaking

One of the highlights of the year has been our continued investment in beautification and placemaking.

The completion of the West End Alleyway Lighting Project transformed an underutilized space into a safer and more inviting pedestrian connection, while work began on the East End Alleyway Beautification Project, which will further enhance the character and appeal of our downtown core.

These projects are about more than aesthetics. They create spaces that encourage people to spend time downtown, support local businesses, and strengthen community pride.

Advocacy & Member Representation

Advocacy has remained a significant focus for the Board.

We have continued to bring forward the concerns and priorities of our members regarding safety, property standards, cleanliness, economic development, and the long-term health of our downtown.

While these conversations are often complex, we believe strongly that a vibrant downtown requires ongoing collaboration between businesses, residents, social service providers, elected officials, and community partners.

Business Growth & Investment

We have also begun laying the groundwork for initiatives that support business attraction and retention.

Through programs such as the proposed "Won't You Be My Neighbour?" campaign, we are exploring new ways to encourage entrepreneurs and investors to choose Downtown North Bay as the place to start and grow their businesses.

Every new storefront, every renovation, and every investment of time and money contributes to the momentum we are building together.

Signs of Progress

Despite economic uncertainty, we continue to see positive signs throughout our downtown.

New businesses are opening, existing businesses are investing in their spaces, public realm improvements are taking shape, and there is a growing sense of optimism about the future of our core.

These successes belong to our entire downtown community.

Gratitude

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow Board members.

Serving on the DIA Board requires commitment, thoughtful discussion, and a genuine desire to see our downtown succeed. Their volunteer leadership and willingness to tackle difficult issues have been invaluable throughout the year.

I would also like to recognize our Executive Director, staff, committee members, volunteers, and community partners. The work accomplished by the DIA is only possible because of the dedication and passion of so many individuals who care deeply about Downtown North Bay.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: supporting our businesses, strengthening our downtown experience, advocating for our members, and creating opportunities for growth.

We know there is still work to be done, but we are encouraged by the progress being made and excited about what lies ahead.

Closing

Downtown North Bay is more than a collection of buildings and businesses. It is a gathering place, an economic engine, a cultural hub, and the heart of our community.

Together, we are helping shape a downtown that future generations will be proud to inherit.

Thank you for your continued support, your trust, and your commitment to Downtown North Bay.