

Support Small Business Downtown

COME SEE FOR YOURSELF ALL THAT DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON HAS TO OFFER

BY LANI SCHWEIGER, DOWNTOWN VISIONS AND MAIN STREET WILMINGTON

» Small businesses are the heart of our cities and the backbone of our communities. They are there during good times and bad, which is why it is more important than ever that we support them during these uncertain times.

Each day new challenges are being faced due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the temporary shutdown of non-essential businesses in Delaware. We all are struggling to find a new normal, and small businesses have been some of the hardest hit by the changes. Many had to close their doors to customers temporarily and have only been able to reopen recently with capacity limitations.

Downtown Wilmington has evolved into a well-known dining, arts and shopping destination, thanks to Downtown Visions (DTV) and City of Wilmington supported programs. As a leader in public space management and small business support, DTV is well poised to support Downtown businesses affected by COVID-19 and assist in creating opportunities to boost business vitality.

Downtown Visions responded quickly to COVID-related needs in Downtown Wilmington. On June 12, 2020, DTV, in partnership with the City of Wilmington and The Committee of 100, launched an effort to support Downtown businesses through Curbside Wilmington. With European café-style, outdoor on-street seating, Downtown restaurants have more ability to provide safe dining. Also added were designated curbside pick-up areas and free valet parking service



Photo by Lani Schweiger

in convenient locations along Market Street. Every Friday evening, there is live music in the 800 block of N. Market Street during Curbside Wilmington's Happy Hour. Thanks to our partnership with the City of Wilmington, one block is closed to traffic and features outdoor dining in a socially distant manner with music from bands like Lower Case Blues and E.W.O Jazz Trio.

Since its founding, Downtown Visions has responded to the needs of Downtown Wilmington—from cleaning and safety to business revitalization, community building and façade improvements. We are committed to keeping the Downtown business district a vibrant and enjoyable place to be for all – residents, commuters and visitors.

Downtown Wilmington's small businesses are doing their part to

support each other and the community. For example, Eunice LaFate of LaFate Gallery is offering summer art classes for children. Spaceboy Clothing created an original Wilmington Strong t-shirt and facemask with proceeds going to support small businesses affected by COVID-19.

There is so much happening in Downtown Wilmington. Most small businesses are open and thinking outside of the box to bring safe and innovative ways to serve you. We hope you join us for Curbside Wilmington or to patronize our many interesting businesses. To stay in the know, follow us on all social media platforms at Downtown Wilmington DE (@downtownwilmde), on Facebook at Downtown Visions, and online at www.downtownwilmingtonde.com.