

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Call to Order the Virtual Joint Meeting of the BCTDA,
Public Authority and BCTDA,
Nonprofit Corporation



Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority A Joint Meeting of the Public Authority and Nonprofit Corporation Virtual Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.
Via Zoom Webinar due to COVID-19 State of Emergency – Attending Public – Register Here

Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order the Joint Virtual Meeting of the BCTDA, Public Authority and BCTDA, Nonprofit Corporation	Himanshu Karvir
9:05 a.m.	Approval of Meeting Minutes a. March 25, 2021 BCTDA Meeting Minutes b. March 25-26, 2021 BCTDA Annual Planning Retreat Minutes	Himanshu Karvir
9:10 a.m.	Financial Reports a. March 2021 Financial Reports b. Lion & the Rose B&B Penalty Waiver Update c. Earned Revenue Funding Request/Skyview Golf Tournament	Don Warn Don Warn Vic Isley
9:20 a.m.	President & CEO's Report a. Welcome Marshall Hilliard, Explore Asheville's New VP of Sales b. Other Updates	Vic Isley
9:35 a.m.	Tourism Product Development Fund Funding Recommendation	Robert Foster
9:45 a.m.	Marketing Update	Marla Tambellini
10:00 a.m.	Asheville City Council Update	Councilmember Sandra Kilgore
10:05 a.m.	Buncombe County Commission Update	Commissioner Robert Pressley
10:10 a.m.	Miscellaneous Business	Himanshu Karvir
10:15 a.m.	Comments from the General Public	Himanshu Karvir
10:25 a.m.	Adjournment	Himanshu Karvir

The next joint BCTDA meeting is on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Jonna Sampson at |sampson@ExploreAsheville.com or 828.258.6111 with any questions.

Save the Dates

Tourism Summit 2021: DEEP Community Conversations | May 10, May 12, May 17, May 19 | 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

BCTDA Mission Statement

To be a leader in the economic development of Buncombe County by attracting and servicing visitors, generating income, jobs and tax revenues which make the community a better place to live and visit.

MEETING AGENDA & DOCS

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

The agenda and meeting documents are available online.

Go to:

- >AshevilleCVB.com
- >About the Buncombe County TDA
- >Find out about upcoming BCTDA meetings



About Buncombe County TDA Visitor Information Partner Login

What We Do V Business Toolkit V Research & Reports News & Events V Community Programs V COVID-19 Resources V Contact Us V

About the Buncombe County TDA

What is the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority?

The Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority is the public authority created in 1983 by an act of the North Carolina Legislature to oversee the collection and investment of occupancy taxes paid by travelers who stay overnight in commercial lodging establishments, such as hotels and motels, bed and breakfast operations, and vacation rentals such as Airbnb and VRBOs. The members of the Buncombe County TDA Board have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the tax dollars are spent in accordance with the specific legislation governing their use.

- Martine members of the Buncombe Common TDA Board >:
- Find out about upcoming BCTDA meetings >>
- Review pact RCTDA meeting minutes % documents >

What does the Buncombe County TDA do?

The BCTDA oversees the work of the Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau, which develops and carries out advertising, marketing, public relations, and group sales plans to inspire leisure and business travelers to visit here. In 2019, these efforts attracted 4.2 million overnight visitors, providing a base of customers that spent \$2.2 billion at local businesses and generated a total \$3.3 billion economic impact for the community.

Quick Links

- » Share Your Feedback
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Upcoming Events

One-on-One Wednesdays with Explore Asheville

Wednesday, April 28

Buncombe County TDA Board Meeting – April

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 am - 10:25 am

One-on-One Wednesdays with Explore

BCTDA ROLL CALL

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon

- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Asheville City Councilmember Sandra Kilgore
- Buncombe County Commissioner
 Robert Pressley (absent)
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

MINUTES

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Motion for Consideration

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2021 Regular BCTDA Meeting



Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority A Joint Meeting of the Public Authority and Nonprofit Corporation

Via Zoom Webinar due to the COVID-19 Pandemic/State of Emergency

Virtual Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Present (Voting): Himanshu Karvir, Chair; Gary Froeba, Vice Chair; Leah Ashburn,

Andrew Celwyn, Brenda Durden, John Luckett, John McKibbon,

Kathleen Mosher

James Poole Absent (Voting):

Present (Ex-Officio): Asheville City Councilmember Sandra Kilgore

Buncombe County Commissioner Robert Pressley

Absent (Ex-Officio): None

CVB Staff: Victoria Isley, Marla Tambellini, Dianna Pierce, Pat Kappes,

Jonna Sampson, Daniel Bradley

BC Finance: Don Warn, Buncombe County/BCTDA Fiscal Agent

Legal Counsel: Sabrina Rockoff, McGuire, Wood & Bissette

Online Attendees: Carli Adams, Glenn Cox, Kathryn Dewey, Hannah Dosa, Connie

> Holliday, Josh Jones, Jennifer Kass-Green, Sarah Lowery. Kathi Petersen, Tina Porter, Glenn Ramey, Charlie Reed, Whitney

Smith, Landis Taylor, Nicole Will; Explore Asheville Staff

Ashley Keetle, 360i

Kit Cramer, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

Jane Anderson, Asheville Independent Restaurant Association Sharon Tabor, Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce Chip Craig, John Ellis, Jim Muth; Past BCTDA Board Members Rick Bell, Engadine Inn & Cabins/Asheville B&B Association Ruth Summers, Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation

Marshall Hilliard, Windsor Hospitality Daniel Walton, Mountain Xpress

WLOS News

Sunshine Request

Executive Summary of Meeting Minutes

- Chairman Karvir called the virtual joint regular meeting of the BCTDA. Public Authority and BCTDA, Nonprofit Corporation, to order at 9:00 a.m.
- Minutes from the February 24, 2021, BCTDA regular monthly meeting were approved with a 7-0 vote.
- The February 2021 financial statements were approved with an 8-0 vote.
- The FY 21 CliftonLarsonAllen audit contract was approved with an 8-0 vote.

Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority - March 25, 2021 BCTDA Meeting - Page 1 of 6

MINUTES - ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

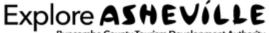
- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

MINUTES

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Motion for Consideration

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 25-26, 2021 BCTDA Annual Planning Retreat



Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority

Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority A Joint Meeting of the Public Authority and Nonprofit Corporation

Via Zoom Webinar due to the COVID-19 Pandemic/State of Emergency

Virtual BCTDA Annual Planning Retreat Minutes

Thursday - Friday, March 25-26, 2021

Present (Voting): Himanshu Karvir, Chair; Gary Froeba, Vice Chair; Leah Ashburn,

Andrew Celwyn, Brenda Durden, John Luckett, John McKibbon,

Kathleen Mosher

Absent (Voting): James Poole

Present (Ex-Officio): Asheville City Councilmember Sandra Kilgore

Buncombe County Commissioner Robert Pressley (Thursday)

Absent (Ex-Officio): Buncombe County Commissioner Robert Pressley (Friday)

CVB Staff: Victoria Isley, Marla Tambellini, Dianna Pierce, Pat Kappes,

Jonna Sampson, Daniel Bradley

Legal Counsel: Sabrina Rockoff, McGuire, Wood & Bissette

Online Attendees: Anthony Bennett, Kimberly Orton; RedSky Strategy

Adam Sacks, Tourism Economics (Thursday)

Erin Francis-Cummings, Destination Analysts (Thursday)

Randy Durband, Global Sustainability Travel Council (Thursday)

Earl "Butch" Graves, Jr., Black Enterprise (Friday)

Rodney Payne, Destination Think (Friday)

Carli Adams, Glenn Cox, Hannah Dosa, Josh Jones (Thursday), Jennifer Kass-Green, Kathi Petersen, Tina Porter (Friday), Charlie

Reed, Whitney Smith, Nicole Will; Explore Asheville Staff

Ashley Keetle, 360i

Kit Cramer, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

Jane Anderson, Asheville Independent Restaurant Association Demp Bradford, Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission

Chris Corl, Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville (Thursday)

David McCartney, Kimpton Hotel Arras

John Ellis (Thursday), Jim Muth; Past BCTDA Board Members Rick Bell, Engadine Inn & Cabins/Asheville B&B Association Ruth Summers. Grove Arcade Public Market Foundation

Kate Pett. Thrive Asheville

Ellen Green, Techie Traveler (Friday) Lacy Cross, Movement Bank (Friday)

Jason Sandford, Ashvegas Daniel Walton, Mountain Xpress

Unless otherwise noted, attendees listed were present for both days of the retreat.

Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority-March 25-26, 2021 BCTDA Annual Planning Retreat-Page 1 of 7

MINUTES - ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Buncombe County Finance Director Don Warn

Presentation of the March 2021 Financial Reports

BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Monthly Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Operating Fund, Budget and Actual March 31, 2021

						(%)	Prior	Year	
	Current			Year to Date		Budget	Budget	Year to Date	(%)
	Budget		Actual	Actual	R	emaining	Used	Actual	Change From
Revenues:									
Occupancy tax, net	\$ 11,135,293	\$	1,044,459	\$ 12,108,697	\$	(973,404)	108.7%	\$ 13,403,607	-9.7%
Investment income	-		-	115		(115)	-	244	-53.1%
Other income	-		-	38,174		(38,174)	-	8,022	375.9%
Earned revenue			12,319	133,474		(133,474)	-	113,752	17.3%
Total revenues	11,135,293		1,056,778	12,280,460	(1,145,167)	110.3%	13,525,626	-9.2%
Expenditures:									
Salaries and Benefits	2,460,163		174,503	1,538,695		921,468	62.5%	1,625,944	-5.4%
Sales	881,277		38,765	361,208		520,069	41.0%	569,076	-36.5%
Marketing	11,390,551		433,790	2,659,522		8,731,029	23.3%	7,033,507	-62.2%
Community Engagement	80,519		519	24,444		56,075	30.4%	15,603	56.7%
Administration & Facilities	755,684		47,381	428,949		326,735	56.8%	352,626	21.6%
Events/Festivals/Sponsorships	121,235		100	66,287		54,948	54.7%	245,348	-73.0%
Total expenditures	15,689,429		695,059	5,079,105	1	0,610,324	32.4%	9,842,103	-48.4%
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(4,554,136)		361,719	7,201,355				\$ 3,683,523	95.5%
Other Financing Sources:									
Carried over earned income	121,235		_	_					
Total other financing sources	121,235		-	-					
Net change in fund balance	\$ (4,432,901)	\$	361,719	7,201,355					
Fund balance, beginning of year Fund balance, end of month				12,465,092 \$ 19,666,447					

As directed by State statute, 75% of the occupancy tax revenue is invested in tourism promotion (reflected in the operations budget presented here) and 25% is dedicated to the Tourism Product Development Fund (TPDF) to be used for tourism-related community grants. The TPDF is budgeted by project ordinance due to the nature of the fund. Revenue dedicated to TPDF is projected at \$3,711,764 for FY21.

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BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Monthly Revenue Summary

March 31, 2021

		Operating Fund									Product Development Fund									
	By Month			Cumulative Year-to-Date				By Month					Cumulative Year-to-Date							
	Current	Prior	(%)		Current		Prior	(%)		Current		Prior	(%)	Current	Prior	(%)				
Month of room sales:	Year	Year	(%)	_	Year	Year		Change	Year		Year		Change	Year	Year	Change				
July	\$ 1,390,343	\$ 1,946,888	-29%	S	1,390,343	\$	1,946,888	-29%	\$	463,448	\$	648,963	-29%	\$ 463,448	\$ 648,963	-29%				
August	1,576,516	1,803,567	-13%		2,966,859		3,750,455	-21%		525,505	5	601,189	-13%	988,953	1,250,152	-21%				
September	1,598,161	1,736,622	-8%		4,565,021		5,487,077	-17%		532,720	5	578,874	-8%	1,521,674	1,829,026	-17%				
October	2,329,272	2,206,323	6%		6,894,292		7,693,400	-10%		776,424	S	735,441	6%	2,298,097	2,564,467	-10%				
November	1,557,487	1,771,151	-12%		8,451,779		9,464,551	-11%		519,162	S	590,384	-12%	2,817,260	3,154,850	-11%				
December	1,517,197	1,780,020	-15%		9,968,976		11,244,571	-11%		505,732	5	593,340	-15%	3,322,992	3,748,190	-11%				
January	1,095,262	1,115,384	-2%		11,064,238		12,359,935	-10%		365,087	S	371,788	-2%	3,688,079	4,119,978	-10%				
February	1,044,459	1,043,672	0%		12,108,697		13,403,607	-10%		348,153	5	347,891	0%	4,036,232	4,467,869	-10%				
March	-	504,135	_		_		13,907,742	_		-	5	168,045	_	_	4,635,914	-				
April	-	117,789	_		_		14,025,531	-		-	S	39,263	-	-	4,675,177					
May	-	383,262	_		_		14,408,792	_		-	S	127,754	_	_	4,802,931	-				
June	-	943,662	_		_		15,352,455	_		_	S	314,554	-	_	5,117,485	_				
Total revenues	\$12,108,697	\$ 15,352,455		\$	12,108,697	-\$	15,352,455		5	4,036,232	38	5,117,485		\$4,036,232	\$5,117,485					

BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Monthly Product Development Fund Summary

March 31, 2021

Revenues:	Budget	Life to Date Actuals	Remaining Budget	(%) Budget Used
	£ 27 202 000	£ 20.0E6.20E	C C 24C 70E	77.0%
Occupancy Tax Investment Income	\$ 27,203,000	\$ 20,956,295 1,230,451	\$ 6,246,705 (1,230,451)	0.0%
Total revenues	27,203,000	22,186,746	5,016,255	81.6%
Total Tevenues	27,203,000	22,100,740	3,010,233	
Expenditures:				
Product development fund projects:				
2012 Montford Park Players (Welcome Facility & Amphitheatre Renovations)	125,000	-	125,000	-
2014 City of Asheville (Riverfront Destination Development 1.0)	7,100,000	3,300,000	3,800,000	46.5%
2016 Asheville Community Theatre (Theatre Expansion & Renovation)	1,000,000	430,000	570,000	43.0%
2017 Buncombe County Government (Woodfin Greenway & Blueway)	2,250,000	-	2,250,000	-
2018 Buncombe County Government (Enka Recreation Destination)	6,000,000	-	6,000,000	-
2018 Eagle Market Streets Dev. Corp. (YMI Cultural Center Improvements)	800,000	42,863	757,137	5.4%
2018 River Front Development Group (African-American Heritage Museum at Stephens-L	100,000	-	100,000	-
Total product development projects	17,375,000	3,772,863	13,602,137	21.7%
Product development fund administration	518,000	363,213	154,787	70.1%
Total product development fund	\$ 17,893,000	\$ 4,136,076	\$ 13,756,924	23.1%
Product Development Funds Available for Future Grants				
Total Net Assets		\$ 18,050,670		
Less: Liabilities/Outstanding Grants		(13,602,137)		
Less: Unspent Admin Budget (Current Year)		(154,787)		
Current Product Development Amount Available		\$ 4,293,746		

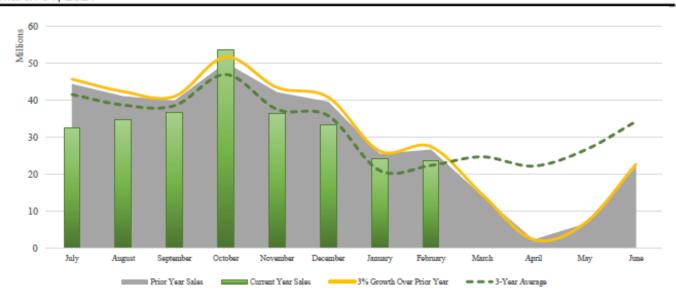
BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Monthly Balance Sheet Governmental Funds March 31, 2021

	Op	erating	D	Product evelopment		
		und	_	Fund	_	Total
Assets:						
Current assets:						
Cash and investments	\$ 19,	731,152	\$	18,050,670	\$	37,781,821
Receivables		-		-		-
Total current assets	\$ 19,	731,152	\$	18,050,670		37,781,821
Liabilities:						
Current liabilities:						_
Accounts payable	\$	23,755	\$	_	\$	23,755
Future events payable	•	40,950	\$	13,602,137	\$	13,643,087
Total current liabilities		64,705	\$	13,602,137	\$	13,666,842
Fund Balances:						-
Restricted for product development fund				4,448,533		4,448,533
Committed for event support program		78,568		4,440,000		78,568
State Required Contingency		890,823		_		890,823
Designated Contingency		190,057		_		4,190,057
Undesignated (cash flow)		506,998		_		14,506,998
Total fund balances		666,447		4,448,533	_	24,114,980
					_	
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$19,	731,152	\$	18,050,670	\$	37,781,821

BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Room Sales Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date March 31, 2021

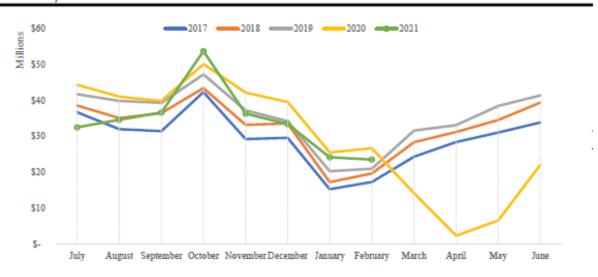


	Current Year	Prior Year	(%) Change	YTD (%) Change	3% Over Prior Year	3-Year Average
Month of room sales:						
July	\$ 32,550,037	\$ 44,385,587	-27%	-27%	\$ 45,717,154	\$ 41,574,158
August	34,666,902	41,114,737	-16%	-21%	42,348,179	38,716,917
September	36,686,431	39,872,267	-8%	-17%	41,068,435	38,558,378
October	53,739,201	50,150,018	7%	-10%	51,654,518	46,965,398
November	36,345,839	42,191,421	-14%	-11%	43,457,164	37,554,580
December	33,467,372	39,597,145	-15%	-12%	40,785,060	35,822,512
January	24,211,984	25,562,428	-5%	-11%	26,329,301	21,065,499
February	23,569,061	26,697,925	-12%	-11%	27,498,862	22,453,224
March	-	14,208,120	-	-	14,634,363	24,750,855
April	-	2,402,461	-	-	2,474,535	22,261,486
May	-	6,624,816	-	-	6,823,560	26,544,293
June	-	22,111,644	-	-	22,774,993	34,321,974
Total revenues	\$275,236,828	\$ 354,918,568			\$365,566,125	\$390,589,273

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BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

History of Total Sales by Month Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date March 31, 2021



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Month of room sales:					
July	\$ 36,734,684	\$ 38,602,612	\$ 41,734,276	\$ 44,385,587	\$ 32,550,037
August	32,040,330	35,118,463	39,917,550	41,114,737	34,666,902
September	31,498,527	36,475,819	39,327,048	39,872,267	36,686,431
October	42,361,030	43,473,922	47,272,253	50,150,018	53,739,201
November	29,254,904	33,231,722	37,240,595	42,191,421	36,345,839
December	29,615,696	33,597,999	34,272,393	39,597,145	33,467,372
January	15,323,999	17,286,992	20,347,077	25,562,428	24,211,984
February	17,323,590	19,676,430	20,985,316	26,697,925	23,569,061
March	24,352,927	28,406,443	31,638,002	14,208,120	-
April	28,444,541	31,240,963	33,141,034	2,402,461	-
May	31,113,327	34,544,014	38,464,050	6,624,816	-
June	33,898,766	39,441,126	41,413,153	22,111,644	-
Total room sales	\$ 351,962,319	\$ 391,096,506	\$ 425,752,745	\$ 354,918,568	\$ 275,236,828
		Page 6 of 8			

BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

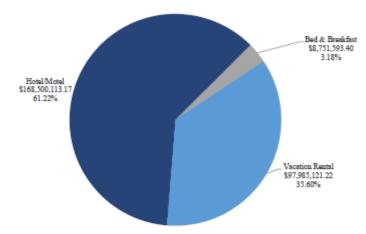
Room Sales Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date March 31, 2021

	Hotel/Mot	el			Vacation Rer	ntals			Bed & Break	fast		Grand Totals			
Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change	Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change	Ситепt Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change	Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change
\$ 19,132,318	\$ 33,587,325	-43.0%	-43.0%	\$ 12,285,571	\$ 9,341,842	31.5%	31.5%	\$ 1,132,148	\$ 1,456,420	-22.3%	-22.3%	\$ 32,550,037	\$ 44,385,587	-26.7%	-26.7%
19,815,648	31,112,092	-36.3%	-39.8%	13,727,538	8,699,296	57.8%	44.2%	1,123,717	1,303,349	-13.8%	-18.3%	34,666,902	41,114,737	-15.7%	-21.4%
22,012,507	29,886,060	-26.3%	-35.5%	13,378,131	8,641,320	54.8%	47.6%	1,295,793	1,344,887	-3.7%	-13.5%	36,686,431	39,872,267	-8.0%	-17.1%
36,464,280	39,606,607	-7.9%	-27.4%	15,347,279	8,717,244	76.1%	54.6%	1,927,642	1,826,166	5.6%	-7.6%	53,739,201	50,150,018	7.2%	-10.2%
24,630,899	32,892,802	-25.1%	-26.9%	10,475,302	7,959,792	31.6%	50.4%	1,239,638	1,338,827	-7.4%	-7.6%	36,345,839	42,191,421	-13.9%	-10.9%
22,871,661	30,545,959	-25.1%	-26.7%	9,555,057	7,885,885	21.2%	45.9%	1,040,654	1,165,301	-10.7%	-8.0%	33,467,372	39,597,145	-15.5%	-11.6%
12,224,328	16,067,073	-23.9%	-26.5%	11,495,881	8,954,274	28.4%	43.3%	491,776	541,081	-9.1%	-8.1%	24,211,984	25,562,428	-5.3%	-11.0%
11,348,473	17,832,201	-36.4%	-27.2%	11,720,363	8,242,674	42.2%	43.2%	500,226	623,049	-19.7%	-8.8%	23,569,061	26,697,925	-11.7%	-11.1%
-	11,867,918	_		_	1,892,976	-		_	447,226	-		-	14,208,120	-	
-	2,109,282	-		_	286,146	-		_	7,034	-		-	2,402,461	-	
-	4,523,980	-		-	1,925,967	-		-	174,869	-		-	6,624,816	-	
-	11,770,482	-		-	9,659,948	-		-	681,214	-		-	22,111,644	-	
\$ 168,500,113	\$ 261,801,781			\$ 97,985,121	\$ 82,207,364			\$ 8,751,593	\$ 10,909,423			\$ 275,236,828	\$ 354,918,568		
	\$ 19,132,318 19,815,648 22,012,507 36,464,280 24,630,899 22,871,661 12,224,328 11,348,473 - -	Current Year Prior Year \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 19,815,648 31,112,092 22,012,507 29,886,060 36,464,280 39,606,607 24,630,899 32,892,802 22,871,661 30,545,959 12,224,328 16,067,073 11,348,473 17,832,201 - 11,867,918 - 2,109,282 - 4,523,980	Current Year Prior Year % Change \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% 11,348,473 17,832,201 -36.4% - 11,867,918 - - 2,109,282 - - 4,523,980 - - 11,770,482 -	Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% -43.0% 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% -26.5% 11,348,473 17,832,201 -36.4% -27.2% - 11,867,918 - - 2,109,282 - - 4,523,980 - - 11,770,482 -	Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 9,555,057 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% -26.5% 11,495,881 11,348,473 17,832,201 -36.4% -27.2% 11,720,363 - 11,867,918 - - - - 2,109,282 - - - - 4,523,980 - - - - 11,770,482 - - -	Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 \$ 9,341,842 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 8,699,296 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 8,641,320 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 8,717,244 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 7,959,792 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 9,555,057 7,885,885 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% -26.5% 11,495,881 8,954,274 11,348,473 17,832,201 -36.4% -27.2% 11,720,363 8,242,674 - 11,867,918 - - 1,892,976 - 2,109,282 - - 1,925,967 - 4,523,980 - - 1,925,967 -	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 \$ 9,341,842 31.5% 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 8,699,296 57.8% 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 8,641,320 54.8% 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 8,717,244 76.1% 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 7,959,792 31.6% 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 9,555,057 7,885,885 21.2% 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% -26.5% 11,495,881 8,954,274 28.4% 11,348,473 17,832,201 -36.4% -27.2% 11,720,363 8,242,674 42.2% - 11,867,918 - - 1,892,976 - - 2,109,282 -<	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 \$ 9,341,842 31.5% 31.5% 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 8,699,296 57.8% 44.2% 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 8,641,320 54.8% 47.6% 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 8,717,244 76.1% 54.6% 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 7,959,792 31.6% 50.4% 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 9,555,057 7,885,885 21.2% 45.9% 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% -26.5% 11,495,881 8,954,274 28.4% 43.3% 11,348,473 17,832,201 -36.4% -27.2% 11,720,363 8,242,674 42.2% 43.2% <	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 \$ 9,341,842 31.5% 31.5% \$ 1,132,148 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 8,699,296 57.8% 44.2% 1,123,717 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 8,641,320 54.8% 47.6% 1,295,793 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 8,717,244 76.1% 54.6% 1,927,642 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 7,959,792 31.6% 50.4% 1,239,638 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 9,555,057 7,885,885 21.2% 45.9% 1,040,654 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% -26.5% 11,495,881 8,95	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 \$ 9,341,842 31.5% \$ 1,132,148 \$ 1,456,420 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 8,699,296 57.8% 44.2% 1,123,717 1,303,349 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 8,641,320 54.8% 47.6% 1,295,793 1,344,887 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 8,717,244 76.1% 54.6% 1,927,642 1,826,166 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 7,959,792 31.6% 50.4% 1,239,638 1,338,827 22,871,661 30,545,959 -25.1% -26.7% 9,555,057 7,885,885 21.2% 45.9%	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change \$ 19,132,318 \$ 33,587,325 -43.0% \$ 12,285,571 \$ 9,341,842 31.5% \$ 1,132,148 \$ 1,456,420 -22.3% 19,815,648 31,112,092 -36.3% -39.8% 13,727,538 8,699,296 57.8% 44.2% 1,123,717 1,303,349 -13.8% 22,012,507 29,886,060 -26.3% -35.5% 13,378,131 8,641,320 54.8% 47.6% 1,295,793 1,344,887 -3.7% 36,464,280 39,606,607 -7.9% -27.4% 15,347,279 8,717,244 76.1% 54.6% 1,927,642 1,826,166 5.6% 24,630,899 32,892,802 -25.1% -26.9% 10,475,302 7,959,792 31.6% 50.4% 1,239,638 1,338,827 -7.4% 12,224,328 16,067,073 -23.9% <td>Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Prior Year % Change YTD % Year % Change YTD % Year YTD % Year</td> <td> \$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c</td> <td>Current Year Prior Year % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year YTD % Change Change</td> <td>Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change % Change Change % Change Change Change % Change Change % Change Change % Change Change Change % Change Change Change Change Change % Change Change Change Change Change % Change Change Change Change Change Change % Change C</td>	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change YTD % Change Prior Year % Change YTD % Year % Change YTD % Year YTD % Year	\$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c	Current Year Prior Year % Change Current Year Prior Year % Change Change Current Year YTD % Change Current Year Prior Year YTD % Change Change	Current Year Prior Year % Change Change % Change Change % Change Change Change % Change Change % Change Change % Change Change Change % Change Change Change Change Change % Change Change Change Change Change % Change Change Change Change Change Change % Change C

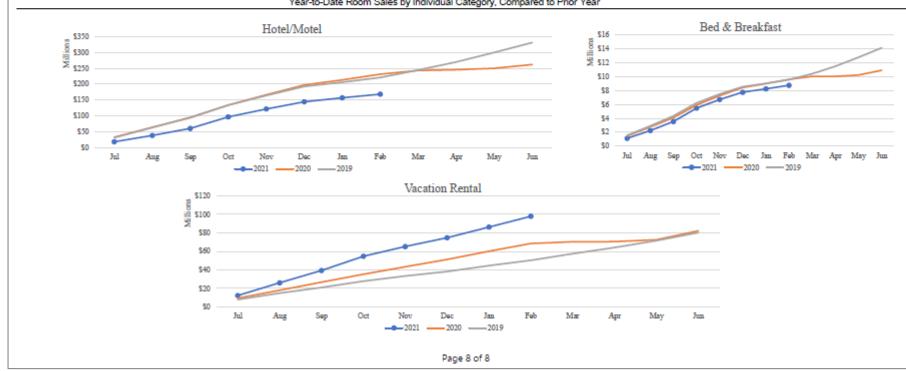
BUNCOMBE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Room Sales by Category Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date March 31, 2021

Total Room Sales by Category, Year-to-Date



Year-to-Date Room Sales by Individual Category, Compared to Prior Year



FINANCIAL REPORTS

Questions/Discussion

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Motion for Consideration

Motion to Approve the March 2021 Financial Reports as Presented

FINANCIALS - ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

PENALTY WAIVER UPDATE

Don Warn

The Lion & The Rose

The Penalty Waiver Request previously approved by Vic Isley for The Lion & The Rose Bed and Breakfast, in the amount of \$157.46, was approved by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on April 6.

EARNED REVENUE REQUEST

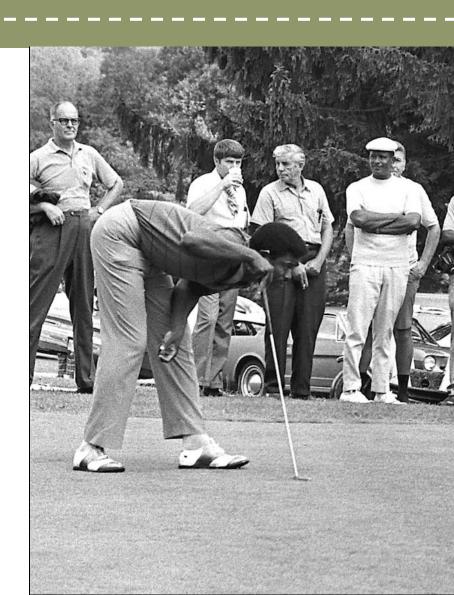
SKYVIEW GOLF TOURNAMENT

Vic Isley

Earned Revenue Funding Request for the Skyview Golf Tournament

SKYVIEW GOLF TOURNAMENT

- 61st Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament
- Asheville Municipal Golf Course (MUNI)
- July 13-15, 2021
- Began in 1960 to promote golf competition among African American golfers and serve as a steppingstone for superior golfers to join the PGA
- Support an important event that aligns with our strategic imperative to "Engage & invite more diverse audiences"
- Estimated direct spending from visitors and participants in excess of \$400,000 annually



EARNED REVENUE REQUEST

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Motion for Consideration

Motion to approve support of the 2021 Skyview Golf Tournament in the amount of an \$8,500 sponsorship using Earned Revenue.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT

VIC ISLEY PRESIDENT & CEO

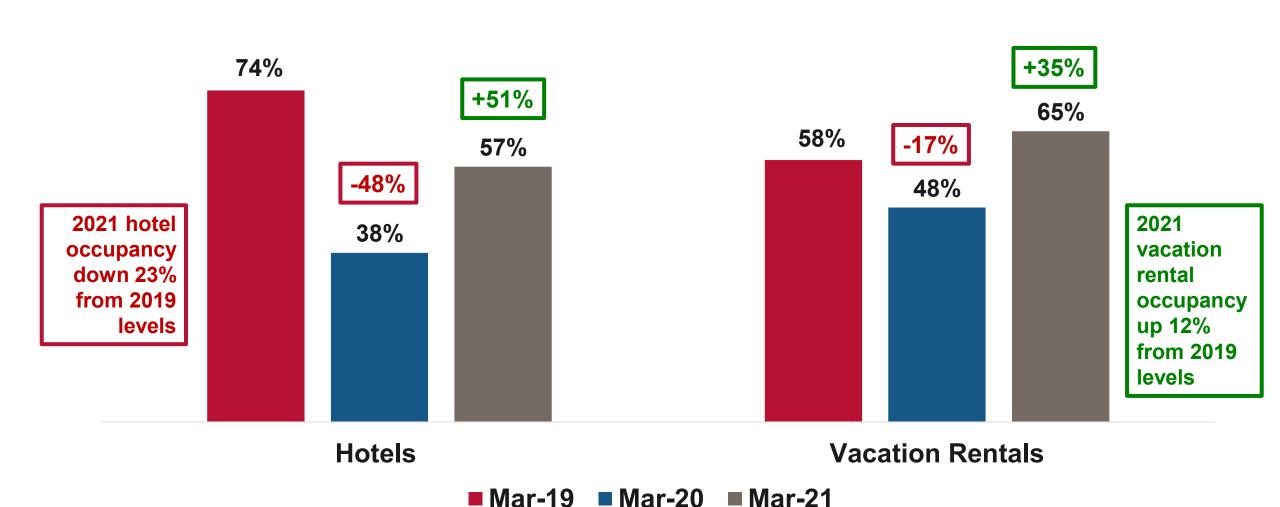
WELCOME MARSHALL HILLIARD

Welcome to the Explore Asheville Team!

Marshall Hilliard
Vice President of Sales



MAR LODGING OCCUPANCY



Source: STR and AirDNA

TOURISM'S STRATEGIC PILLARS

Strategic Imperatives



Deliver Balanced Recovery & Sustainable Growth



Encourage Safe & Responsible Travel



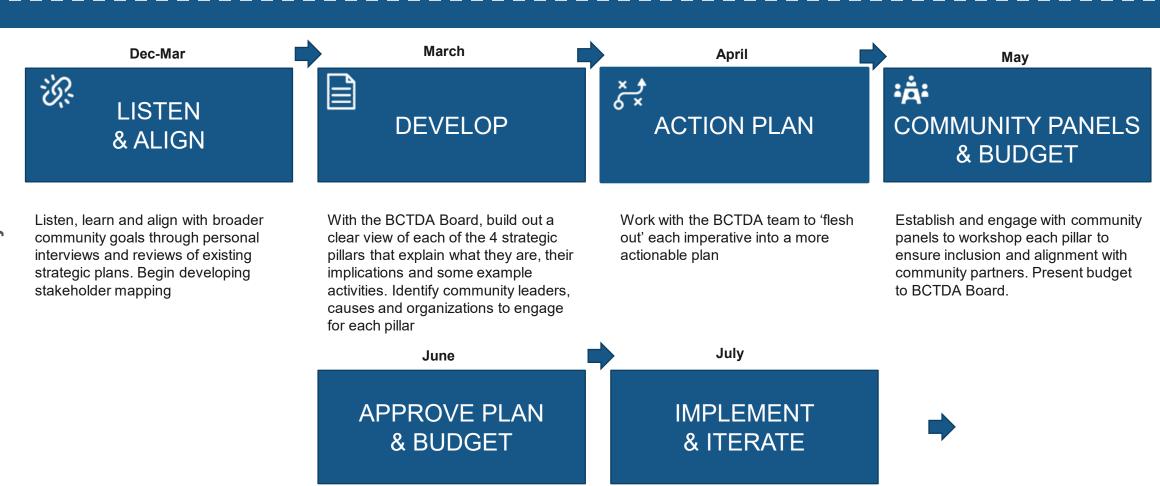
Engage & Invite More Diverse Audiences



Promote & Support Asheville's Creative Spirit

Activity

BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET PROCESS



Pillar: Deliver Balanced Recovery & Sustainable Growth

Monday, May 10, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



Nancy Cable UNC Asheville



Debra CampbellCity of Asheville



Kit Cramer
Asheville Chamber



Avril PinderBuncombe County

Pillar: Encourage Safe & Responsible Travel

Wednesday, May 12, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm



Amy Allison
NC Outdoor Recreation
Industry Office



Dawn ChavezAsheville GreenWorks



Peyton O'Conner

Buncombe County Parks

& Recreation Director



Commissioner
Terri Wells
Buncombe County

Pillar: Engage & Invite More Diverse Audiences

Monday, May 17, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm | Panelists will include:



Aisha Adams
Equity Over Everything
The Asheville View
Lenoir Rhyne Equity & Diversity Institute



Adriana Chavela Hola Carolina



Himanshu Karvir
Virtelle Hospitality
BCTDA Chair

Pillar: Promote & Support Asheville's Creative Spirit

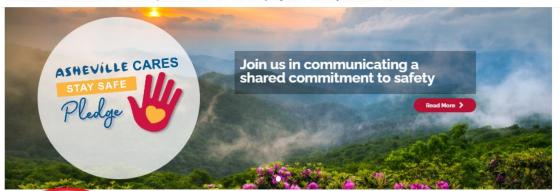
Wednesday, May 19, 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm | Panelists will include:

- Franzi Charen, Asheville Grown Business Alliance/Hip Replacements
- Katie Cornell, Asheville Area Arts Council
- Jessica Tomasin, Connect Beyond Festival/Echo Mountain Recording
- Others to be confirmed

About Buncombe County TDA Visitor Information Partner Login

Explore ASHEVILLE

What We Do v Business Toolkit v Research & Reports News & Events v Community Programs v COVID-19 Resources v Contact Us v



Explore ASHEVILLE

PRESS RELEASE

Explore Asheville CVB

Mar 25, 2021 | What's New

destination facts and more

Releases New Toolkit for

Meeting Safely & Virtual

PRESS RELEASE: With an eve toward the

new needs of meeting planners, Explore Asheville has unveiled a brand-new and

robust Meeting Planner Toolkit complete

with case studies from recent in-person meetings, virtual-planning resources,

What's New

'DEEP' Community Conversations: Tourism's Four Pillars







Tourism Summit 2021: Community Panels on the Future of Tourism in Asheville & Buncombe County

Apr 26, 2021 | What's New

Exister Asheville is charting a new copie for the assign community align with broader community gast. These efforts are being organized around four strategic pillars, which we'll discuss in a four-part series of webinars.



Explore Asheville
Announces Appointment of
eteran Hospitality
Executive as New VP Of
Sales

Apr 13, 2021 | What's New

PRESS RELEASE: Asheville native Marshall Hilliard, an award-winning leader in hospitality sales and marketing, held top positions with major hotel brands prior to his selection from among candidates across the country.

Quick Links

- » Share Your Feedback
- » Contact Us
- » Extranet Login
- » Request an Account

Upcoming Events

One-on-One Wednesdays with Explore Asheville

Wednesday, April 28

Buncombe County TDA Board Meeting - April 2021

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 am - 10:25 am

One-on-One Wednesdays with Explore

Wednesday, May 5

AshevilleCVB.com

Homepage under What's New

Click through for details & link to register for one or all four 'DEEP' Community Conversations

May 10 | May 12 | May 17 | May 19



TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT FUND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

PAT KAPPES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ROBERT FOSTER
TPDF COMMITTEE CHAIR

FUNDING REQUEST

Two requests for capital funding from the Tourism Product Development Fund were submitted for the BCTDA's consideration:

- The Wortham Center
- The Asheville Downtown Association (Withdrew Request)

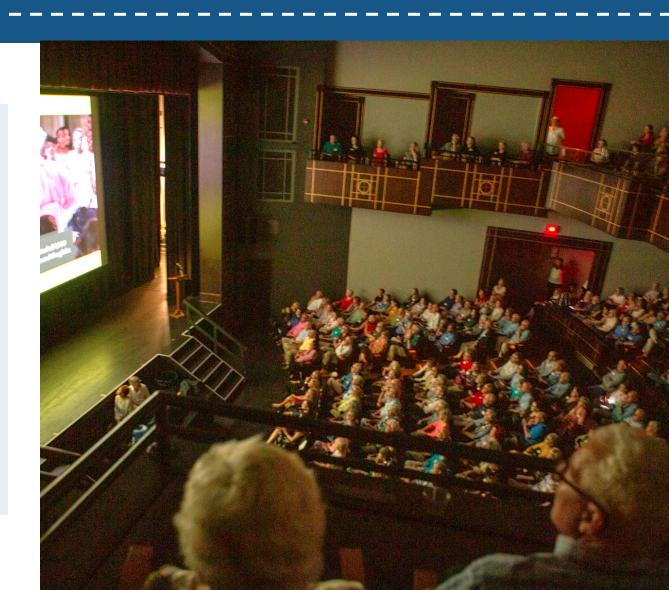
TPDF Committee was directed to assess the requests and make a funding recommendation to the BCTDA.

FUNDING REQUEST

The Wortham Center

Requesting \$60,000

- Camera System for Virtual Engagements
- Air Ionization System for Increased Air Exchange Rates



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The performing arts sector has been one of the hardest hit by COVID related business restrictions and will be among the last to recover pending removal of state-mandated occupancy limits.

The Wortham Center is in the unique position to enable multiple, local event organizers and performing arts organizations in the community to benefit from using its facility.

The air ionization system will help set The Wortham Center apart from venues in other destinations, helping to act as a marketing differentiator and drive visitation.



TPDF FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Himanshu Karvir

Motion for Consideration

Motion to award a Tourism Product Development Fund grant, in the amount of \$45,000, to The Wortham Center for the Performing Arts, for an air ionization system.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

TPDF BUDGET ORDINANCE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Motion for Consideration

Motion to approve the budget ordinance as presented, allocating \$45,000 from Tourism Product Development Fund Occupancy Taxes to establish a budget for the 2021 Wortham Center for the Performing Arts - Air Ionization System project.

ORDINANCE #	4.28.2021

BUNCOMBE COUNTY TDA, NORTH CAROLINA Tourism Product Development Fund Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 28, 2021

WHEREAS, the Finance Director recommends and the Board now desires to amend the Product Development projects outlined below in Exhibit "A" to the budget, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board for the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority as follows

FUI	ND 320 PROJECT BUD	GET- April 28, 2021	\$ 45,000
Exhibit A:		Increase (E	ecrease)
PROJECT NAME		REVENUES	EXPENDITURES
To budget Product Development Project Awarded.			
TPDF Occupancy Taxes 2021 Wortham Center for the Performing Arts (Air Ionization System)		45,000	45,000
	TOTAL	45,000	45,000
FUND 320 PROJECT BUDGE	ET- April 28, 2021		\$ 45,000
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE:			
By: Jonna Sampson, Executive Operations Manager Him	: nanshu Karvir, Chairman	of the Board	

ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

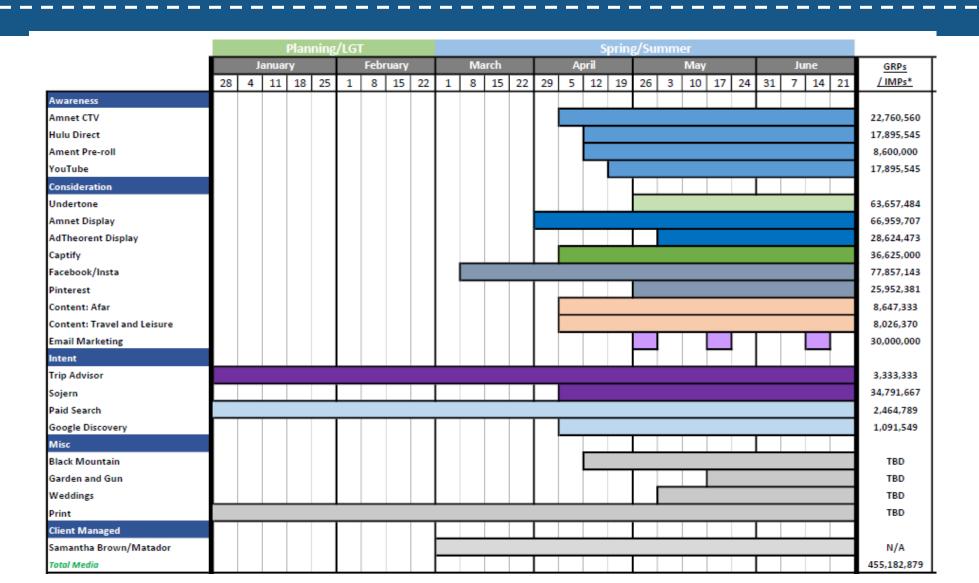
- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

MARKETING UPDATE

MARLA TAMBELLINI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR/VP OF MARKETING

Explore ASHEVILLE

SPRING MEDIA FLOW CHART

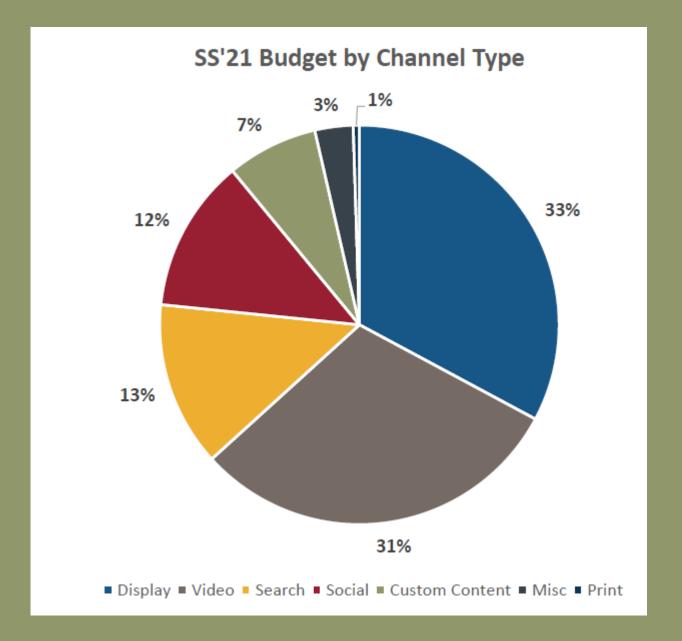


6.5-Hour Drive Radius

Atlanta
Augusta
Bowling-Green
Charleston
Charlotte

Chattanooga Cincinnati Columbia, SC Greensboro Huntsville Knoxville

Lexington
Macon
Myrtle Beach
Nashville
Raleigh
Roanoke
Savannah
Washington DC
Wilmington



Audience Comparisons



ESTABLISHED EXPLORER

*Sizing, Demographics and Behaviors align with original VISA audiences

10MM KEY ATTRIBUTES

VISA	No VISA	Key Attribute
~	~	Older (55-75)
~	~	High HHI & Buying Power
~	~	High travel interest and frequency (spend & domestic travel)
~	~	Likely to spend on travel, luxury goods/apparel, home decor
~	~	Interested in premium-ness, health/exercise, the arts, community, the outdoors
~	~	Comfortable in life - want to enjoy and take care of themselves while upholding their values



DIVERSE ADVENTURER

*Sizing, Demographics and Behaviors align with original VISA audiences

7MM KEY ATTRIBUTES

VISA	No VISA	Key Attribute
~	~	Younger (25-54) and Ethnically Diverse
~	~	Medium HHI & Buying Power
~	~	High travel interest but moderate travel frequency, mid- range spend; Domestic Traveler
~	~	Likely to spend on food, fitness, entertainment
~	~	Interested in travel, sports, health/exercise, pop culture, entertainment, music, outdoors
~	~	Ambitious and looking to establish themselves, but also looking for fun and adventure

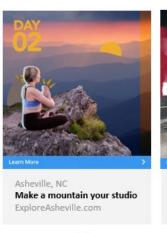


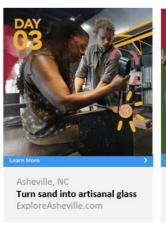
BALANCED & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



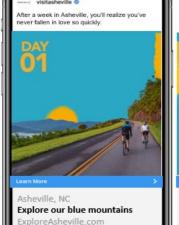
INCREASE LENGTH OF STAY



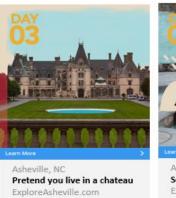


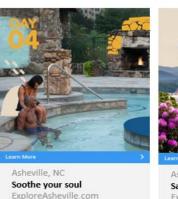
















AD THEORANT

 Uses real-time data and learning to deliver right combination of copy, image and call-to-action.

- Find users actively vacation planning
- Machine learning creative development
- Unique ads for each users
- Ability to retarget clickers with additional unique creative







MEREDITH CONTENT





Binge Asheville

ASHEVILLE + TRAVEL+







From subterranean spas to the highest peaks in the East, every Asheville adventure leaves you craving the next. Take your cares offline thanks to the city's Stay Safe Pledge and cue up a real-life unforgettable experience in this epic mountain wonderland.





Reggie Tidwell

Linger Longer

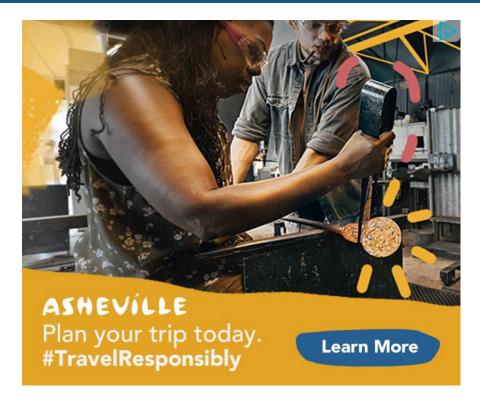
*yesforless





SAFE & RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

#TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY







ASHEVILLE

Plan your trip today. #TravelResponsibly

Explore

MATADOR PARTNERSHIP

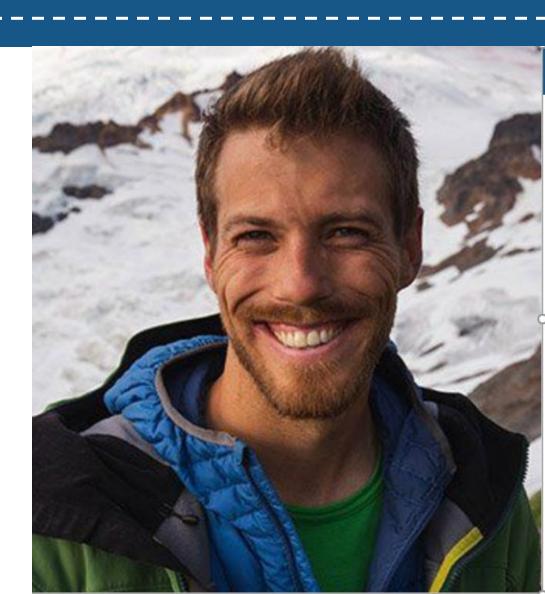
Jacob Moon

INSTA

Profile: High level adventure / expedition photographer outdoor expert. Great to pair with local river community.

Jacob Moon is an accomplished photographer, videographer, athlete, explorer, guide, and father whose work inspires people (especially families) to explore beyond their comfort zones and get outdoors together.

- Influencer video and social cutdowns
- Sharing in Matador social channels
- Sharing in REI channels
- Influencer Sharing: 2 Instagram Stories (3 panels each), one static post



PARTNERSHIPS



Visit Asheville

Published by Jason Tarr 2 · 4d · 3

Happy Earth Day! Take your love for the Blue Ridge Mountains to new heights by joining Pledge for the Wild, an initiative to help protect the great outdoors for generations to come. We've partnered with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation, which provides essential stewardship, protection and historical and cultural preservation of our natural treasures. Text WILD4ASHEVILLE to 44321 to donate and make an impact. Learn more: https://www.pledgewild.com/asheville.

Photo by Robert ... See More



MAKE IT YOUR NATURE TO PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA'S OUTDOOR SPACES



PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

North Carolina is home to endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. Before you travel, learn about your destination, its regulations and safety matters.



STICK TO TRAILS AND OVERNIGHT RIGHT

Keep to designated trails and durable surfaces to protect trailside plants. Camp at existing or designated sites.



TRASH YOUR TRASH

Pack it in, pack it out. Place all trash in garbage bags and carry it home. Food scraps, cigarette butts and other litter can take years to decompose and are unhealthy for wildlife.



LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

North Carolina is home to an amazing diversity of indigenous plants and animals. Snap a picture instead of picking flowers, gathering shells and collecting pine cones.



BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

If you choose to have a fire, check on regulations, secure a permit if needed and keep the fire small. If allowed, gather wood from the ground instead of breaking branches from trees. Buy firewood locally to avoid bringing in invasive species.



KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

From black bears and wild horses to salamanders and birds, all wildlife should be treated with respect in the natural areas you are visiting.



SHARE OUR TRAILS

People have a range of skill levels and different ideas about how to enjoy the outdoors. Respect others so that North Carolina's natural spaces will be welcoming and relaxing for all.





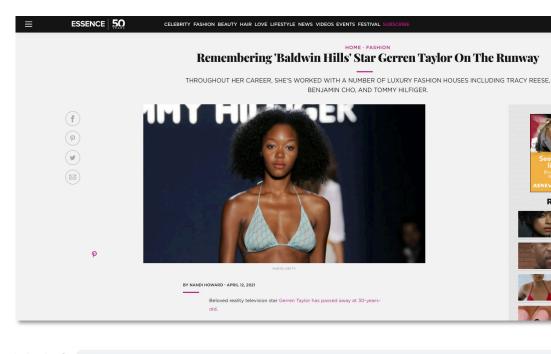


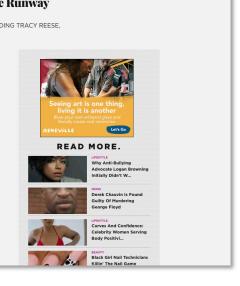


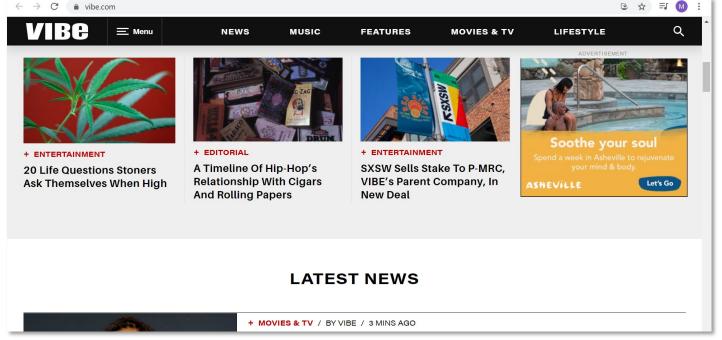




ENGAGE & INVITE MORE DIVERSE AUDIENCES









30 Cute Summer Dresses That'll Get You Through the Hottest Days

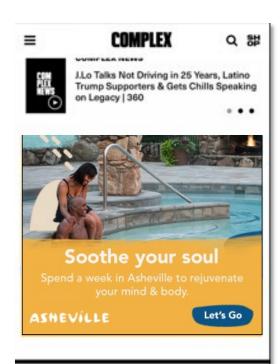
Let these frock stars take center stage.

By Paula Lee Apr 7, 2021



We know what you may be wondering: why would I ever forgo my favorite sweatpants? But, let us assure you, these cute summer dresses are just as comfortable as your go-to pajamas. Plus, they're breathable and lightweight enough for the stickiest afternoons. Strappy dresses will keep you cool but there are also plenty of sleeved designs if you're looking for arm coverage (or to ward off the AC chill). Trends like the puff sleeve, smocking, eyelet, and ruffles are still going strong and lend lovely dimension to even the most casual silhouettes. Stretch the longevity of these dresses with chic sandals for a daytime wedding, toss on a pair of white sneakers while you're running errands, or let them double as cover-ups when you're poolside. Any way you style it, a pretty sun dress is up for the task. We sourced a range of options (minis, midis, and maxis) that fit every budget, from cheap thrills to splurge-worthy finds.









MATADOR PARTNERSHIP

- Influencer video and social cutdowns
- Sharing in Matador social channels
- Sharing in REI channels
- Influencer Sharing: 1
 Instagram Stories (3
 panels each), one static
 post and one TikTok
 Video

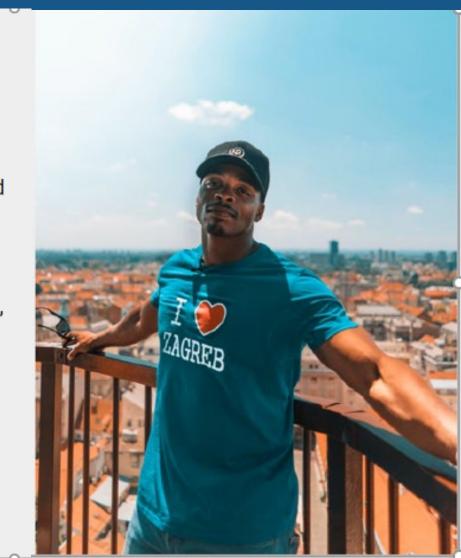
Phil Calvert

aka "Phil the Culture" [INSTA] [Youtube]

Profile: High energy visitor / Black Travel Ambassador. Shines when he connects with fun local crew to take him around.

Phil's uses his larger than life personality, positivity, and humor on a mission to break down stereotypes of how the world perceives Black people. We love working with Phil because of how he brings videos to life! He has an almost magical ability to connect with people anywhere, anytime, and leads with genuine gratitude that really comes through on camera.

- Pro basketball player turned adventurer and cultural ambassador
- Pioneer of the Black Travel Movement
- Proven all star on-camera talent for Matador





PROMOTE & SUPPORT ASHEVILLE'S CREATIVE SPIRIT

SAMANTHA BROWN

Program Overview: Showcase the breadth of Asheville activities through the voice of a trusted travel personality, Samantha Brown, on her PBS show Places to Love.

Shoot Date: May 7 through May 12

Focus on:

- Creative music experiences
- Asheville's Black history and the places and experiences today
- Unique elements of food and beverage scene
- History of arts and crafts
- Biltmore





at Stay D



WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT ASHEVILLE NOW

One glimpse of the surrounding Appalachian mountains, which appear straight out of a Bob Ross painting, and it's easy to see why Asheville is a top destination to visit in the Southeast. But this western North Carolina city is more than scenic. There's a diverse local art community, an award-winning food scene that celebrates modern Appalachian cuisine, and a memorable hike for every ability. Visitors come all year long to experience the combination of chill mountain-town vibes and a culturally vibrant city. In Asheville, you

A New Shade of Blue

IN ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA. A WIDER CELEBRATION OF THE CITY'S RICH HISTORY PROVIDES VISITORS WITH A FRESH EXPERIENCE

n the hills of Southern Appalachia at the confluence of the Swannanoa and French Broad Rivers sits Asheville, North Carolina, With a reputation for hospitality and a vibrant artistic spirit, the city has art, culinary, and music scenes that regularly capture the attention of travelers. Over the last decade, a movement has grown to spotlight the underappreciated parts of the city-an effort to support the diverse and dynamic tapestry that makes Asheville unique. This year, several new initiatives illuminate the city's expansive history. proving there is so much more to love about this eclectic Blue Ridge town than might meet the eve.

Clockwise from left: A Blue Ridge vista over Asheville: Southern comforts at Benne on Eagle; art deco grandeur at the Asheville Art Museum: Renne on Eagle chef de cuisine Malcolm McMillian.

Upon arrival in Asheville, many have followed a familiar path down Biltmore Avenue and Broadway, Full of gastronomic delights, the open-air hub is also filled with music, from sidewalk bluegrass acts to a string of iconic music venues. Here, the avenues are studded with mom-and-pop outfits alongside newer stores. while the main thorough fareholds one of the country's largest collections of untouched art deco buildings. But just one street away from this well-traveled strip is a quiet tree-lined boulevard known as the Block, Once Asheville's Black business district, this was home to a group of ambitious entrepreneurs. During the last half of the twentieth century, an urban renewal crusadeled to the displacement of many residents, but in recent years, members of the city's Black community have forged grassroots development projects to bolster the area once more.

One such resident is DeWayne Barton. As the artist and visionary behind Hood Huggers International, he leads walking tours down Eagle Street and beyond, pointing out important landmarks to the visitors he accompanies through the city's historic Black neighborhoods. His promenades visit culturally significant but often undercelebrated sections of Asheville. accompanied by stories of struggle, creativity, and courage, leaving his guests with a deeper appreciation of the people and places that helped shape the city. "The art of resilience is creating a way out of no way." Barton explains, Projects like his not only create lasting community relationships but document Asheville's history and lift up its Black-owned businesses.

The heart of the Block is the YMI Cultural Center, Formerly known as the Young Men's Institute Building, it was designed by architect Richard Sharp Smith in the early 1890s. The historic meeting hall was a cultural gern among the city's Black population and remains a cornerstone of the community. Today, the center hosts in-person and virtual events focused on local history and culture. Onsite, a permanent exhibition showcases a collection of photographs highlighting the YMI's history and its ties to the Biltmore Estate, as well as rotating works by local artists of varying disciplines.

A newly opened haven for Black artists, Noir Collective AVL, sits on the same block. Part boutique shop, part gallery, the space is an outlet for Black creatives within the city's thriving maker culture, bringing shoppers face-to-face with the artists themselves. Tremendous works by well-known creators are available for purchase here, including pieces by muralist and multimedia artist Irene "Jenny" Pickens. The self-taught artist grew up in

Asheville's Southside community, and her emotionally resonant portraits and handcrafted dolls gained popularity at the city's annual festivals and art-centric events.

In a town as storied as Asheville, heritage, tradition, and legacy take on new meanings through the eyes of the city's creative entrepreneurs, Many of these experiences are expressed through food, and here, chefs pay a passionate homage to the Appalachian spirit that permeates the mountains.

Among Asheville's greatest culinary treasures is Benne on Eagle. The critically acclaimed restaurant lies just around the corner from the YMI, and its continued exploration of the Black roots of Appalachian cookery has garnered great praise-including multiple nods from the James Beard Foundation. Following in the footsteps of the celebrated chef Ashleigh Shanti, Malcolm McMillian has recently joined the much-lauded restaurant as its new chef de cuisine. A classically trained culinary practitioner, McMillian sees food as a road map to understanding the landscape and has made his name by drawing on the distinctive corners of the region's culinary legacy.

For restaurants such as Benne on Eagle, Ashe ville's farmers and artisans are the backbone of Appalachia's centuries-long food tradition. evident in each locally driven dish on their menus.

It's this deep connection to the land that also made Asheville the first city in the country to be recognized by the Green Restaurant Association as a Green Dining Destination. Balancing the values of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic vitality, local restaurants and members of the food industry have created an atmosphere of creativity and innovation-not to mention some unforgettable meals.

Against a stunning backdrop of mountains and mist, it's folks like these who are setting the scene for a new era in Asheville; one that honors the city's past and makes way for a more vibrant, inclusive future. Even this summer's Chow Chow events, back for a second installment after 2019's wildly successful run, are shifting their focus to spark broader conversations around racial justice and climate change through a slew of culinary happenings in June, July, and August. And for visitors to the area, Asheville is becoming more than a charming stop on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Thanks to these shining efforts (and countless more), the city offers a refreshed and compelling vision of Appalachia, where the beauty and value of the local community lie at the heart of it all.

Planyour trip at ExploreAsheville.com



Whether it's live music. fine art. or outdoor adventure you seek, these open air activities showcase Asheville's best

Take in a garden installation

From April 1 on, the work of art-Ist Patrick Dougherty appears on the grounds of the Biltmore Estate, Marvel at his towering woven-branch sculpture up close as you wander through the green spaces.

Catch an outdoor show Rabbit Rabbit is a new onenair music venue, created by the teams behind the Orange Peel and Asheville Brewing Company, The space hosts live shows and movie screenings paired with bites and libations from food trucks and local brewers.

Hit the trails

To see the region from new heights, book a guided excursion with a local outfit such as Hike Bike Kayak Asheville. The company offers six hike categories including waterfalls, wildflowers, and snowshoeing, so an adventure awaits for every season.

Venture to Black Mountain

Just twenty minutes east of Asheville, Black Mountain is known as the "front porch of the Blue Ridge Mountains." Aperfect day-trip destination, the idyllic town is dotted with craft galleries, bistros, lush parks, and popular trailheads.

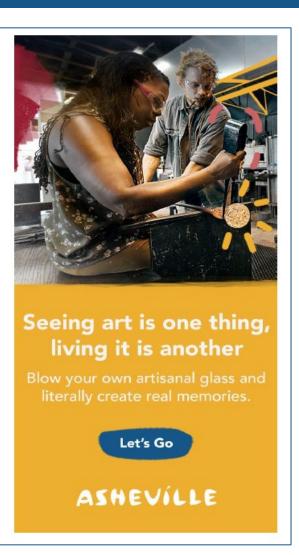
Experience the LEAF Festival

Also In Black Mountain, the fall LEAF Festival returns to Lake Eden October 14-17. A signature event of the LEAF Global Arts Center, the outdoor gathering features live music, artisan vendors, and local food and drink

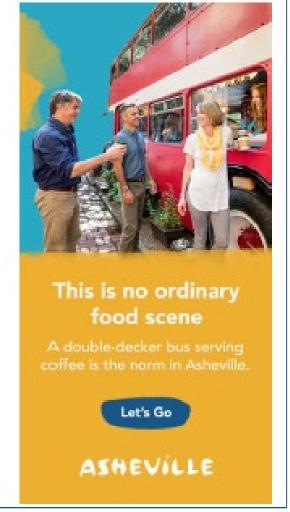


FOCUS ON CREATIVE EXPERIENCES









AGENCY SEARCH

- Evolutions for both organizations:
 - Explore Asheville is building a new framework that will guide its marketing direction.
 - Dentsu, which owns 360i, underwent a significant restructuring with impacts to its business structure.
- Contract ends in June.
- Modified search process is underway.







CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilmember Sandra Kilgore

Asheville City Council Update

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Members of the Public were invited to submit comments via email to reply@ExploreAsheville.com through 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27.

There were no comments received by the deadline.

LIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Members of the Public were invited to sign-up to verbally share live comments during today's virtual BCTDA meeting.

As of the 12:00 p.m. deadline on Wednesday, April 27, one request to speak had been received.

LIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Speakers are allowed up to 3 minutes to share comments and can choose to appear on screen or via audio only. Speakers agree to abide by the *Rules of Decorum for Live Public Comments during Virtual BCTDA Meetings*.

Today's Public Commenter (audio only)

Veronica Coit | West Asheville

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

Request Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

ADJOURN - ROLL CALL VOTE

Chairman Himanshu Karvir

- Vice Chairman Gary Froeba
- Leah Ashburn
- Andrew Celwyn
- Brenda Durden
- John Luckett
- John McKibbon
- Kathleen Mosher
- James Poole
- Chairman Himanshu Karvir

NEXT BCTDA MEETING



Thanks for attending!

The next BCTDA meeting will be on

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 9:00 a.m.