

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

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 | 9:00 a.m.

Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau | 27 College Place | Board Room (1st Floor) Members of the Public may attend in person or register here to view the livestream of the meeting.

#### **Agenda**

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order the Joint Meeting of the BCTDA, Public Authority and BCTDA, Nonprofit Corporation	Kathleen Mosher
9:05 a.m.	Approval of September 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes	Kathleen Mosher
9:10 a.m.	September 2022 Financial Reports	Don Warn, Buncombe County Finance Director/BCTDA Fiscal Agent
9:15 a.m.	President & CEO Report a. Industry Metrics b. Other Updates	Vic Isley
9:25 a.m.	2022 TPDF Grant Cycle Investment Recommendations	Vic Isley; Chris Cavanaugh, TPDF Administrator
10:00 a.m.	Festivals & Cultural Events Grant Investment Recommendations	Tiffany Thacker
10:15 a.m.	Bylaws Update Notice	Kathleen Mosher
10:20 a.m.	Asheville City Council Update	Councilmember Sandra Kilgore
10:25 a.m.	Buncombe County Commission Update	Commissioner Robert Pressley
10:30 a.m.	Miscellaneous Business	Kathleen Mosher
10:35 a.m.	Comments from the General Public	Kathleen Mosher
10:40 a.m.	Adjournment	Kathleen Mosher

The next joint BCTDA monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, November 30, 2022,** at 9:00 a.m., in the theater of The Collider, located on the 4th floor of 1 Haywood Street. Please contact Julia Simpson at <a href="mailto:jsimpson@ExploreAsheville.com">jsimpson@ExploreAsheville.com</a> or 828.333.5831 with questions.

#### **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.



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

Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau – 27 College Place, Asheville

#### **Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

**Present (Voting):** Kathleen Mosher, Chair; Brenda Durden, Vice Chair; Leah Ashburn,

Andrew Celwyn, Matthew Lehman, HP Patel, Scott Patel

Absent (Voting): Larry Crosby, Michael Lusick

Present (Ex-Officio): Buncombe County Commissioner Robert Pressley

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

**CVB Staff:** Vic Isley, Marla Tambellini, Anne Mullins, Jennifer Kass-Green,

Jonna Sampson, Julia Simpson, Josh Jones, Luisa Yen, Holly Watts,

Tiffany Thacker, Emily Crosby, Joshua Runkles

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

Legal Counsel: Sabrina Rockoff, McGuire, Wood & Bissette/BCTDA Attorney

In-Person Attendees: Randy Claybrook, Bent Creek Lodge

Jane Anderson, Asheville Independent Restaurants

John Ellis, Prior TDA Board Member

Elizabeth Sims, Communications Professional

Peter Pollay, Posana

Kit Cramer, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce Nina Tovish, Asheville City Council Candidate

Online Attendees: Adam Sacks. Tourism Economics

Carli Adams, Sarah Kilgore, Sha'Linda Pruitt, Charlie Reed, Whitney

Smith; Explore Asheville Staff Jim Muth, TPDF Committee Timothy Love, Buncombe County

Zach Wallace, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce

Sharon Tabor, Black Mountain Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce

Lacy Cross, Movement Bank

John Harbin, WLOS

#### **Executive Summary of Meeting Minutes**

- Mosher called the joint regular meeting of the BCTDA, Public Authority and BCTDA, Nonprofit Corporation, to order at 9:03 a.m. Introductions were made around the room.
- Minutes from the August 31, 2022, BCTDA meeting were approved with a 7-0 vote.
- The August 2022 financial reports were reviewed and approved with a 7-0 vote.
- Vic Isley provided her President & CEO's report.
- Adam Sacks provided a 2021 Visitor Contributions to Buncombe County and Economic Outlook Update.
- A brief update from Commissioner Robert Pressley was heard.
- Andrew Celwyn addressed the board during Miscellaneous Business.
- Public comments from Nina Tovish were received.
- With a 7-0 vote, the BCTDA meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

#### **Call to Order of the Joint BCTDA Meeting**

Mosher called the joint regular meeting of the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority (BCTDA), a Public Authority, and BCTDA, a Nonprofit Corporation, to order at 9:03 a.m.

Mosher said the meeting was being livestreamed. She noted that the agenda and meeting documents are on <u>AshevilleCVB.com</u> and were emailed to everyone who registered via Zoom by 8:00 a.m. She said additional materials, including the PowerPoint, would be posted on the website after the meeting.

Introductions were made around the room.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

HP Patel made a motion to approve the August 31, 2022, regular meeting minutes as presented. Ashburn seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and with all in favor, the motion carried 7-0.

#### **Approval of August 2022 Financial Reports**

Don Warn reviewed the August 2022 financial statements. Warn noted that the Legacy Investment from Tourism (LIFT) Fund was added to pages 2 and 4 of the financial reports.

There was a brief discussion about the increased percentage of vacation rentals in Buncombe County and how to effectively manage occupancy tax collection from those properties since booking platforms report aggregate data. There was also clarification about how the percentages in the year-over-year financials are now impacted by the change in legislation, occupancy tax usage and Funds.

Lehman then made a motion to approve the August 2022 financial reports as presented, and Celwyn seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and with all in favor, the motion carried 7-0.

#### **President & CEO Report**

Vic Isley provided a recap of the BCTDA Annual Meeting and noted the William A.V. Cecil Leadership Award was presented posthumously to the late Wilma Dykeman. Isley shared the

video created for the honoree. Isley thanked Jonna Sampson for many years of employment. Isley then presented lodging occupancy metrics for August 2022 compared to previous years.

Isley concluded her report with a reminder that the Monthly Highlights and Destination Performance reports are posted on <u>AshevilleCVB.com</u>.

Isley acknowledged that the livestream audience was disconnected during her report due to an internet outage and the virtual presenter, Adam Sacks, would call in by conference phone.

#### 2021 Visitor Contributions to Buncombe County and Economic Outlook Update

Adam Sacks, President of Tourism Economics, reported on 2021 visitor contributions to Asheville and Buncombe County and provided an economic outlook. There were no questions.

#### **Asheville City Council Update**

Councilmember Kilgore was absent from the meeting; therefore, an Asheville City Council update was not provided.

#### **Buncombe County Commission Update**

Commissioner Pressley reported on recent county-related business, including the comprehensive land use working session, affordable parking program for downtown, anticipated impacts of updated broadband infrastructure, and Sherriff's Office staffing challenges.

#### Miscellaneous Business

Celwyn requested that the BCTDA establish policies or guidelines related to board member participation in client engagements that include travel such as the US Open. A brief discussion followed. Mosher thanked Celwyn for the input, stated she would like the board leadership to be more participatory in representing the community and destination, and would add the matter to a future meeting agenda for further consideration.

#### **Comments from the General Public**

#### Call-In Public Comments

Mosher said members of the public could sign up to call in comments during the in-person BCTDA meeting. She reported that no requests to virtually speak had been received as of the September 27 registration deadline at 12:00 p.m.

#### *In-Person Public Comments*

Mosher said upon arrival to the BCTDA meeting, anyone who indicated a desire to make public comments completed the public comment sign-in sheet, affirming that they read, understood, and agreed to abide by the Rules of Decorum. She invited Nina Tovish to speak.

Tovish noted they were running for Asheville City Council and made suggestions about local efforts they thought the BCTDA should support.

#### **Adjournment**

Lehman moved to adjourn the meeting, and Durden seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

The PowerPoint presentation and relevant documents are on file with the Explore Asheville Convention & Visitors Bureau and are posted on AshevilleCVB.com.

The next joint BCTDA meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Explore Asheville Board Room, located at 27 College Place in Asheville.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Simpson, Manager, Executive & Strategy

Monthly Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Operating and Earned Revenue Funds, Budget and Actual September 30, 2022

					(%)	Prior	Year
	Current	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget	Budget	Year to Date	(%)
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Remaining _	Used	Actual	Change From
Revenues:							
Occupancy tax, net	\$ 27,217,602	\$ 2,099,768	\$ 4,549,450	\$ 22,668,152	16.7%	\$ 5,135,157	-11.4%
Investment income	-	1,508	4,291	(4,291)	-	164	2516.9%
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Earned revenue	183,000	16,511	34,527	148,473	18.9%	29,998	15.1%
Total revenues	27,400,602	2,117,786	4,588,269	22,812,333	16.7%	5,165,319	-11.2%
Expenditures:							
Salaries and Benefits	3,713,360	178,940	484,028	3,229,332	13.0%	539,562	-10.3%
Sales	2,159,000	89,624	274,733	1,884,267	12.7%	143,875	91.0%
Marketing	21,895,242	919,814	921,943	20,973,299	4.2%	1,189,393	-22.5%
Community Engagement	300,000	3,943	18,041	281,959	6.0%	17,076	5.7%
Administration & Facilities	1,150,000	113,144	251,430	898,570	21.9%	180,097	39.6%
Events/Festivals/Sponsorships	225,000	10,579	33,579	191,421	14.9%	6,000	459.6%
Total expenditures	29,442,602	1,316,043	1,983,753	27,458,849	6.7%	2,076,002	-4.4%
Revenues over (under)							
expenditures	(2,042,000)	801,744	2,604,515			\$ 3,089,317	-15.7%
Other Financing Sources:							
Carried over earned income	42,000	-	-				
Total other financing sources	42,000						
Net change in fund balance	\$ (2,000,000)	\$ 801,744	2,604,515				
Fund balance, beginning of year			26,388,557				
Fund balance, end of month			\$ 28,993,072				

As directed by State statute, two-thirds of the occupancy tax revenue is invested in tourism promotion (reflected in the operations budget presented here) and one-third is dedicated to tourism-related community investments, split equally between the Tourism Product Development Fund (TPDF) and the Legacy Investment for Tourism (LIFT) Fund. The TPDF is budgeted by project ordinance due to the nature of the fund. Revenue dedicated to TPDF is projected at \$6,794,199 and revenue dedicated to LIFT is projected at \$6,794,199 for FY23.

Monthly Revenue Summary

September 30, 2022

			Opera	ting I	- und				Product Development Fund								
		By Month			Cumula	ative	Year-to-Date				Ву	Month		Cumul	lative	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	\$ 2,449,683	\$ 2,807,310	-13%	\$	2,449,683	\$	2,807,310	-13%	\$	603,280	\$	935,770	-36%	\$ 603,280	\$	935,770	-36%
August	2,099,768	2,327,847	-10%		4,549,450		5,135,157	-11%		517,107		775,949	-33%	1,120,387		1,711,719	-35%
September	-	2,282,494	-		-		7,417,651	-		-		760,831	-	-	2	2,472,550	-
October	-	3,095,441	-		-		10,513,092	-		-		1,031,814	-	-	;	3,504,364	-
November	-	2,532,306	-		-		13,045,398	-		-		844,102	-	-	4	4,348,466	-
December	-	2,163,491	-		-		15,208,889	-		-		721,164	-	-	į	5,069,630	-
January	-	1,376,073	-		-		16,584,963	-		-		458,691	-	-	į	5,528,321	-
February	-	1,561,811	-		-		18,146,773	-		-		520,604	-	-	(	6,048,924	-
March	-	2,001,097	-		-		20,147,870	-		-		667,032	-	-	(	6,715,957	-
April	-	2,347,369	-		-		22,495,239	-		-		782,456	-	-	-	7,498,413	-
May	-	2,302,712	-		-		24,797,952	-		-		767,571	-	-	8	8,265,984	-
June	-	2,479,000	-		-		27,276,952	-		-		826,333	-	-	ę	9,092,317	-
Total revenues	\$ 4,549,450	\$ 27,276,952		\$	4,549,450	\$	27,276,952		\$	1,120,387	\$	9,092,317	_ <del></del>	\$ 1,120,387	\$ 9	9,092,317	

				Legacy I	nvestmei	nt fro	m Tourism F	und								
			By I	Month			Cumula	ative `	Year-to-Date			By Month		lative Year-to-Dat	.e	
		Current		Prior	(%)		Current		Prior	(%)	Current	Prior	(%)	Current	Prior	(%)
Month of room sales:		Year		Year	(%)		Year		Year	Change	Year	Year	Change	Year	Year	Change
July	\$	603,280	\$	_	_	\$	603,280	\$	_	_	\$ 3,656,243	\$ 3,743,080	-2%	\$ 3,656,243	\$ 3,743,080	-2%
August	·	517,107	·	-	-	·	1,120,387	·	_	-	3,133,982	3,103,796	1%	6,790,224	6,846,876	-1%
September		-		-	-		-		_	-	-	3,043,325	-	_	9,890,201	-
October		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	4,127,255	-	_	14,017,456	-
November		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	3,376,408	-	-	17,393,864	-
December		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	2,884,655	-	-	20,278,519	-
January		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	1,834,764	-	-	22,113,284	-
February		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	2,082,414	-	-	24,195,698	-
March		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	2,668,129	-	-	26,863,827	-
April		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	3,129,825	-	-	29,993,652	-
May		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	3,070,283	-	-	33,063,936	-
June		-		-	-		-		-	-	-	3,305,333	-	-	36,369,269	-
Total revenues	\$	1,120,387	\$	-		\$	1,120,387	\$	-		\$1,120,387	\$ 36,369,269		\$ 1,120,387	\$36,369,269	

Monthly Tourism Product Development Fund Summary

September 30, 2022

		Life to Date	Remaining	(%)
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	<b>Budget Used</b>
Revenues:				
Occupancy Tax	\$ 17,410,000	\$ 26,294,660	\$ (8,884,660)	151.0%
Investment Income		1,493,682	(1,493,682)	0.0%
Total revenues	17,410,000	27,788,343	(10,378,343)	159.6%
Expenditures:				
Product development fund projects:				
2012 Montford Park Players (Welcome Facility & Amphitheatre Renovations)	125,000	-	125,000	-
2016 Asheville Community Theatre (Theatre Expansion & Renovation)	580,000	430,000	150,000	74.1%
2017 Buncombe County Government (Woodfin Greenway & Blueway)	8,140,000	-	8,140,000	-
2018 Buncombe County Government (Enka Recreation Destination)	6,750,000	-	6,750,000	-
2018 Eagle Market Streets Dev. Corp. (YMI Cultural Center Improvements)	800,000	172,863	627,137	21.6%
2018 River Front Development Group (African-American Heritage Museum at Stephens-L	100,000	-	100,000	-
2021 African American Heritage Trail	500,000	26,860	473,140	5.4%
Total product development projects	16,995,000	629,723	16,365,277	3.7%
Product development fund administration	415,000	2,606	412,395	0.6%
Total product development fund	\$ 17,410,000	\$ 632,328	\$ 16,777,672	3.6%
Product Development Funds Available for Future Grants				
Total Net Assets		\$ 27,028,275		
Less: Liabilities/Outstanding Grants		(16,365,277)		
Less: Unspent Admin Budget (Current Year)		(412,395)		
Current Product Development Amount Available		\$ 10,250,603		

Monthly Legacy Investment from Tourism Fund

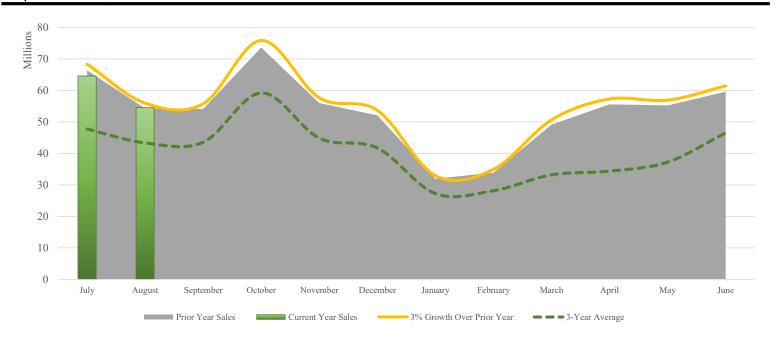
September 30, 2022

	Bu	ıdget	_ L	ife to Date Actuals	Remaining Budget	(%) Budget Used
Revenues:	•		•	4 400 007	<b>4</b> (4 400 00 <del>7</del> )	0.00/
Occupancy Tax	\$	-	\$	1,120,387	\$ (1,120,387)	0.0%
Investment Income		-				
Total revenues		-		1,120,387	(1,120,387)	0.0%
Expenditures: LIFT projects:						
		-		-	-	-
		-				
Total product development projects		-				0.0%
LIFT fund administration						0.0%
Total product development fund	\$	-	\$		\$ -	0.0%
Legacy Investment from Tourism Funds Available for Future Grants						
Total Net Assets			\$	1,120,387		
Less: Liabilities/Outstanding Grants				-		
Less: Unspent Admin Budget (Current Year)				-		
Current Product Development Amount Available			\$	1,120,387		

Monthly Balance Sheet Governmental Funds September 30, 2022

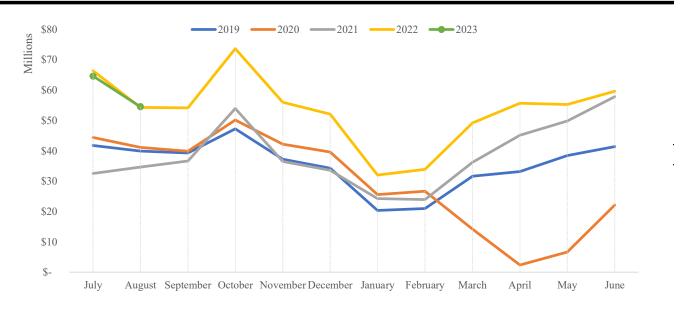
	Operating and			
	Earned	Product	Legacy	
	Revenue	Development	Investment from	
	Funds	Fund	Tourism Fund	Total
Accetor				
Assets:				
Current assets:				
Cash and investments	\$ 29,182,905	\$ 27,028,275	\$ 1,120,387	\$ 56,211,180
Receivables		<u> </u>		
Total current assets	\$ 29,182,905	\$ 27,028,275	\$ 1,120,387	56,211,180
L Call Maria				
Liabilities:				
Current liabilities:				-
Accounts payable	\$ 92,833	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92,833
Future events payable	97,000	\$ 16,365,277	\$ -	\$ 16,462,277
Total current liabilities	189,833	\$ 16,365,277	\$ -	\$ 16,555,110
Fund Balances:				-
		40,000,000		-
Restricted for product development fund	-	10,662,998	-	10,662,998
Committed for event support program	92,201	-	-	92,201
State Required Contingency	2,177,408	-	-	2,177,408
Designated Contingency	14,608,801	-	-	14,608,801
Undesignated (cash flow)	12,114,662			12,114,662
Total fund balances	28,993,072	10,662,998	1,120,387	39,656,070
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 29,182,905	\$ 27,028,275	\$ 1,120,387	\$ 56,211,180

Total Lodging Sales Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date September 30, 2022



	Current	Prior	(%)	YTD (%)	3% Over	3-Year
	Year	 Year	Change	_Change	Prior Year	Average
Month of lodging sales:						
July	\$ 64,627,386	\$ 66,395,236	-3%	-3%	\$ 68,387,093	\$ 47,776,104
August	54,539,069	54,342,049	0%	-1%	55,972,311	43,373,014
September	-	54,173,567	-	-	55,798,774	43,575,302
October	-	73,669,896	-	-	75,879,993	59,244,187
November	-	56,021,061	-	-	57,701,693	44,889,963
December	-	52,126,448	-	-	53,690,242	41,766,849
January	-	31,988,630	-	-	32,948,289	27,265,068
February	-	33,927,340	-	-	34,945,161	28,185,600
March	-	49,176,871	-	-	50,652,178	33,209,625
April	-	55,641,656	-	-	57,310,906	34,405,072
May	-	55,280,269	-	-	56,938,677	37,256,540
June	-	59,657,956	-	-	61,447,694	46,534,138
Total revenues	\$119,166,456	\$ 642,400,980			\$661,673,010	\$487,481,461

History of Total Sales by Month Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date September 30, 2022



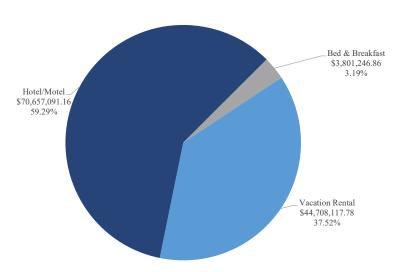
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Month of lodging sales:						
July	\$	41,734,276	\$ 44,385,965	\$ 32,547,111	\$ 66,395,236	\$ 64,627,386
August		39,917,550	41,113,655	34,663,339	54,342,049	54,539,069
September		39,327,048	39,869,174	36,683,164	54,173,567	-
October		47,272,253	50,148,618	53,914,047	73,669,896	-
November		37,240,595	42,190,154	36,458,675	56,021,061	-
December		34,272,393	39,595,569	33,578,528	52,126,448	-
January		20,347,077	25,561,453	24,245,119	31,988,630	-
February		20,985,316	26,696,319	23,933,141	33,927,340	-
March		31,638,002	14,208,120	36,243,884	49,176,871	-
April		33,141,034	2,402,461	45,171,098	55,641,656	-
May		38,464,222	6,624,541	49,864,809	55,280,269	-
June		41,413,202	22,108,839	57,835,620	59,657,956	-
Total lodging sales	\$ 4	25,752,967	\$ 354,904,866	\$ 465,138,537	\$ 642,400,980	\$ 119,166,456

Total Lodging Sales by Type Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date September 30, 2022

		Hotel/Mot	el			Vacation Re	ntals			Bed & Break	fast			Grand Tota	ls	
Month of room sales:	Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change	Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change	Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change	Current Year	Prior Year	% Change	YTD % Change
July	\$ 38,243,319	\$ 41,364,569	-7.5%	-7.5%	\$ 24,268,095	\$ 23,348,777	3.9%	3.9%	\$ 2,115,973	\$ 1,681,890	25.8%	25.8%	\$ 64,627,386	\$ 66,395,236	-2.7%	-2.7%
August	32,413,773	33,288,678	-2.6%	-5.4%	20,440,022	19,639,485	4.1%	4.0%	1,685,274	1,413,887	19.2%	22.8%	54,539,069	54,342,049	0.4%	-1.3%
September	-	34,410,077	-		-	18,324,347	-		-	1,439,143	-		-	54,173,567	-	
October	-	49,777,745	-		-	21,795,421	-		-	2,096,730	-		-	73,669,896	-	
November	-	36,931,580	-		-	17,606,350	-		-	1,483,131	-		-	56,021,061	-	
December	-	34,591,966	-		-	16,283,854	-		-	1,250,628	-		-	52,126,448	-	
January	-	15,401,453	-		-	16,087,946	-		-	499,232	-		-	31,988,630	-	
February	-	17,587,944	-		-	15,551,658	-		-	787,738	-		-	33,927,340	-	
March	-	27,907,881	-		-	19,983,976	-		-	1,285,014	-		-	49,176,871	-	
April	-	33,881,484	-		-	20,113,822	-		-	1,646,351	-		-	55,641,656	-	
May	-	33,766,102	-		-	19,637,684	-		-	1,876,483	-		-	55,280,269	-	
June		36,779,176	-			20,904,390	-			1,974,390	-			59,657,956	-	
Total	\$ 70,657,091	\$ 395,688,655	_		\$ 44,708,118	\$ 229,277,710			\$ 3,801,247	\$ 17,434,615	_		\$ 119,166,456	\$ 642,400,980	_	

Total Lodging Sales by Type Shown by Month of Sale, Year-to-Date September 30, 2022

Total Lodging Sales by Type, Year-to-Date



Year-to-Date Lodging Sales by Type, Compared to Prior Year



Page 9 of 9



## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS OVERVIEW

The Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority (BCTDA) has charted a new course for tourism aligned with broader community priorities. This includes the adoption of <a href="strategic imperatives">strategic imperatives</a> (outlined below) that are informing and guiding the direction of Explore Asheville's program of work and community investments going forward.

The <u>Monthly Highlights</u> report, released at the BCTDA Board meetings, provides a brief update of our progress toward these strategic imperatives. You can also find information from the discussions and presentations at <u>Buncombe County TDA meetings</u>, in our <u>newsletters</u>, at <u>partner events</u>, and via other communication channels.



## Deliver Balanced Recovery & Sustainable Growth

Balance resident and visitor needs, recognizing the necessary role that sustainable, long-term growth of travel has in achieving a healthy, collective economy.

Focus on the quality of each visit to our community – balancing growth across the seasons, business and leisure travel, and throughout Asheville and Buncombe County.



## **Encourage Safe & Responsible Travel**

Engage residents and visitors with shared values to care for and respect natural, cultural and human resources vital in delivering quality guest experiences.

Collaborate with community organizations, local businesses and environmentally focused partners to support the sustainability and growth of our outdoor economy.



## **Engage & Invite More Diverse Audiences**

Extend a genuine invitation to Black travelers and other diverse audiences including LGBTQ visitors – connecting them with local neighborhoods, businesses and entrepreneurs – creating more opportunities for all to win.

Support product development, place making and community connections, enabling new experiences and business opportunities throughout our community.



## Promote & Support Asheville's Creative Spirit

Share stories of creators and makers who help differentiate our destination through food and drink, visual and performing arts, experiences and more.

Support product development, place making and community connections, enabling new experiences and business opportunities throughout our community.



## Run a Healthy & Effective Organization

Invest in people, policies and practices to serve our community with integrity within the organization's legislative requirements.

## DELIVER BALANCED RECOVERY & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

## Balance quality of life for residents & experience for visitors through project investments

- Tourism Product Development Fund (TPDF): Continued TPDF Committee's Phase II review with 14 project presentations on September 29-30
- Festivals & Cultural Events Support Fund: Received 21 grant applications for the September 27 deadline

## Improve quality of each visit by inspiring increased length of stay & dispersal

- <u>Fall Itineraries</u>: Curated seasonal trip ideas for Asheville's neighborhoods and nearby towns, including West Asheville, Downtown, River Arts District, Biltmore Village, Black Mountain, Fairview and Weaverville
- Earned Media Coverage:
  - FamiliesLoveTravel.com: Asheville got recommended for family visits between late September and mid-October to see the leaves at their peak in the list of 23 Best Places To See Fall Colors In The US For Families
  - Forbes: 10 Reasons To Plan A Trip To Asheville, North Carolina, This Fall amplified tips shared in the Fall 2022 What's New + Travel Tips release

## Protect and evolve Asheville's brand to further differentiate from competing destinations and inspire higher quality visits

 US Open: Worked with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to become the official tourism partner for the 2022 US Open

## Accelerate proactive sales efforts to increase net new business to the destination

- Destination Southeast: Conducted 30 one-on-ones at a tradeshow with more than 300 meeting planners in Daytona, FL, on September 12; sponsored a lunch with a presentation and provided local art and gifts to planners
- · Earned Media Coverage:
  - Meetings Today: <u>The Latest Developments and Renovations in Key North</u>
     <u>Carolina Cities (2022)</u> mentioned anticipated hotel openings, local lodging
     partners and popular tour operators and venues

## ENCOURAGE SAFE & RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

## Influence visitors to respect, protect and preserve natural, cultural and human resources

- Fall Content: Kicked off leaf-peeping season with support from area experts
  - Fall Color Forecast: Featured Dr. Neufeld, "Fall Color Guy" and professor of plant eco-physiology, in the fall color forecast <u>press release</u>; distributed to media and received 99% delivery and 55% open rate in initial 48 hours
  - Fall Color Hunters: Introduced six area photographers/content creators, <u>Reggie Tidwell</u>, <u>Jared Kay</u>, <u>Luke Sutton</u>, <u>Leslie Restivo</u>, <u>Kat Dellinger</u> and <u>Rachel Pressley</u>, who will help capture the foliage and share insights

## Identify, qualify and engage purpose-driven companies to hold meetings here

• Environmental Events: Toured <u>The Collider's meeting space</u> and plan to leverage relationship with CASE Consultants International to recruit climate and environmental events to our area and to support ongoing programming

## **Encourage partners to embrace sustainable and responsible tourism practices**

• B-Corp Training: Sales Managers attended a webinar put on by B-Corp companies delving into how corporations can reduce their carbon footprint

## ENGAGE & INVITE MORE DIVERSE AUDIENCES

#### Extend a genuine invitation to diverse audiences

- NOMADNESS Fest: Attended <u>NOMADNESS Fest</u> on September 9-11 in Newark, NJ, to meet with BIPOC influencers, writers and content creators; many connections made were with influencers who have more than 50K Instagram followers
  - Connections: Colby Holiday, Shakeemah Smith, Vanessa Karel, Gaby Beckford, Cameron Lee, Martinque Lewis, Francesca Murray, Phil Calvert, Sergio Rosario Diaz and Victoria Walker
- · Site Visits: Curated itineraries for diverse influencers and writers
  - Alysse Dalessandro (<u>@readytostare</u>): Visited September 7-11, promoted several partners on <u>Instagram Stories</u> and plans to post a blog
  - <u>Freelancer Joey Skaldany</u>: Visited in mid-September and secured upcoming coverage in Thrillist, Sleep.com and TODAY.com
- Earned Media Coverage:
  - Vacationer: What's New This Fall in Asheville? article featured LGBTQ+ storylines; Vacationer has a reach of 420,000 LGBTQ+ travelers around the world each month

#### Increase outreach in recruiting diverse meetings and events

 NC College Campus Tour: Met with representatives from Visit NC, Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham and Winston-Salem who are interested in collaborating to produce a College Campus Tour itinerary

# PROMOTE & SUPPORT ASHEVILLE'S CREATIVE SPIRIT

#### Elevate Asheville's creative experiences to differentiate and inspire visits

- Event Grants and Sponsorships: Supported several events in September
  - o YMI Goombay Festival: September 2-4
  - o Chow Chow | Festival Weekend #3: September 8-11
  - o AMOS Under the Stars: September 15
  - o Asheville Downtown After 5: September 16
  - o ASAP Farm Tour : September 17-18
  - o Blue Ridge Pride Festival: September 24
  - o Asheville Quilt Show: September 30-October 2
  - o AIGA Asheville Design Weekend: September 30-October 2
- Food and Beverage Features: Hosted editors from Southern Living, The Local Palate, and Atlanta Journal Constitution in partnership with Chow Chow during the third festival weekend and anticipate coverage
- Arts & Culture Cooperative: Convened museum, cultural venue and institution leaders to learn about existing challenges, to exchange details about current programming and to explore opportunities for collaboration

## Create opportunities for partners to learn about and support creative spirit

- BCTDA Annual Meeting: Hosted more than 200 partners at DoubleTree-Biltmore on September 22; the program included a President & CEO report, a keynote by Professor Wendy Smith on Both/And leadership, a storytelling foundation update from Stewart Colovin of MMGY Global and the William A.V. Cecil Leadership Award Ceremony
  - William A.V. Cecil Leadership Award: Honored the late <u>Wilma Dykeman</u> with the William A.V. Cecil Leadership Award
  - Reception Entertainment: Featured spins from <u>DJ Mad Mike</u>, advice from <u>The Booth Fairy</u>, a build-your-own-bouquet activity with <u>Never Ending Flower Farm</u> and a book signing with <u>keynote Wendy Smith</u>
  - o Local Coverage:
    - Mountain Xpress: Wilma Dykeman honored with William A.V. Cecil Leadership Award by Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority
    - Mountain Xpress: <u>TDA discusses tourism 'paradox' at annual meeting</u>

# RUN A HEALTHY & EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

## Demonstrate organizational commitment to local, diverse creators, makers & vendors

- Visitor Guide Distribution: Received and fulfilled 1,633 individual requests and 22 out-of-market orders, totaling 184 cases, or 9,200 guides; 21 local partners ordered 55 cases of visitor guides, or 2,750 guides
- ExploreAsheville.com
  - Partner Listings: Created 7 new free partner listings and updated 20 listings
  - o New Partner Outreach: Sent emails to 32 businesses
  - Event Calendar: Posted 344 events to our online calendar
  - Package & Deals: Added 7 packages and deals
- Black Mountain Staff Familiarization: Explored businesses in Black Mountain and learned about a variety of programs offered to groups, visitors and locals

#### Increase team performance and effectiveness

 New Hires: Welcomed five new employees to the team in September: Penelope Whitman, Destination Development Manager; Tiffany Thacker, Director of Grants; Shawn Boone, Senior Sales Manager; Emily Crosby, Group Services Manager; and Joshua Runkles, Office Assistant

## Focus on events and communications strategy to increase community engagement

 President & CEO Presentations: Addressed groups, including Asheville Independent Restaurants Member Owners, UNCA Leadership Asheville Seniors and Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce, about visitor contributions to the local economy

## Focus on events and communications strategy to increase community engagement (continued)

- Local News & BCTDA/Explore Asheville Coverage
- General
  - Citizen Times: <u>Hundreds more hotel rooms on the horizon</u>. Is there development slowdown or stoppage soon?
  - WLOS: <u>Declining tourism rates spark concerns among some leaders</u>, business owners in Asheville
  - Citizen Times: Boyle column: Yep, the TDA will continue spending millions on advertising
- Tourism Product Development Fund
  - Mountain Xpress: <u>Green in brief: Woodfin Greenway & Blueway gets</u>
     \$5.9M TDA boost
  - Citizen Times: <u>TDA invests \$5.9M more in Woodfin 'Wave' project,</u>
     \$750k in Enka Rec Park
  - Citizen Times: Woodfin's Riverside Park, Whitewater Wave project fully funded, 90% designed
- o US Open Sponsorship
  - Citizen Times: <u>TDA expenses at U.S. Open included \$70K on catering, koozies, décor</u>
  - Asheville Watchdog: <u>Luxury Suites</u>, <u>Perks for Local V.I.P.s in \$1.3</u>
     <u>Million US Open Deal</u>

## **Destination Performance Report**



Lodging & Visitor Overview - September 2022

**Lodging Sales** \$54,539,069 **±** 0.4%

Hotel Occupancy\* 70.7% **₹** -2.5% (August)

Hotel Demand\* 197,510 **1** 0.4% (August)

Hotel ADR\* \$173.38 ₹ -3.4% (August)

Hotel RevPAR\* \$122.50

(August)

₹ -29.6%

Airport Passengers 179,330

**\$** 26.7%

Asheville Visitor Center 16,399 **£** 6.3%

Pack Sq Visitor Center

Black Mtn Visitor Center 2,561 ₹ -29.5%

Travel Guide Requests 1,633

### Lodging & Visitor Overview - Fiscal Year 22-23

**Lodging Sales** \$119,166,455 ₹ -1.3%

Hotel Occupancy\* 73.8% ₹ -5.2%

Hotel Demand\* 412,372 ₹ -2.3%

Hotel ADR\* \$183.26 ₹ -2.2%

Hotel RevPAR\* \$135.16 ₹ -7.3%

375,723

Airport Passengers

Asheville Visitor Center 50,125 ₹ -4.7%

Pack Sq Visitor Center

N/A

N/A

Black Mtn Visitor Center

10,588

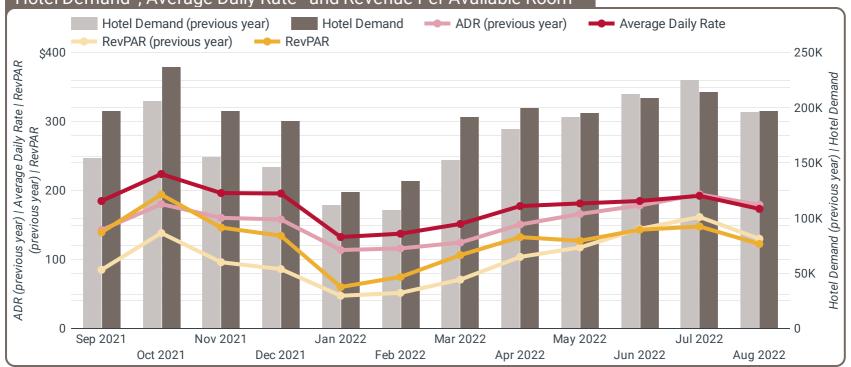
Travel Guide Requests

6,693

\* Source: STR, Inc. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited Lodging Sales and Hotel Occupancy\* Lodging Sales Lodging Sales (prev. year) Hotel Occupancy (prev. year) Hotel Occupancy







## **Destination Performance Report**

## ASHEVILLE

#### Short Term Rental Data - August 2022

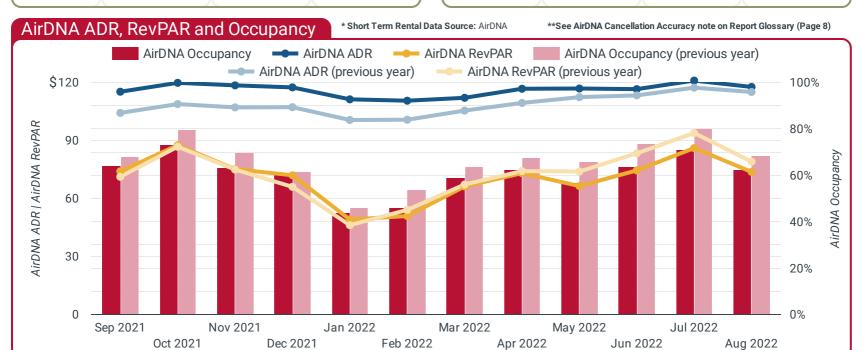
Occupancy 62.7% • -8.7%

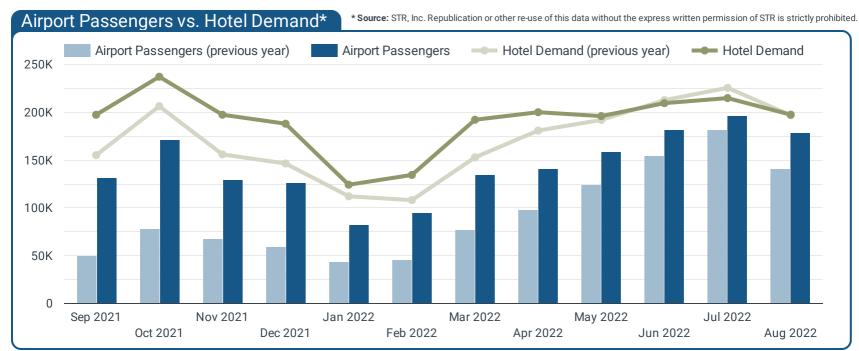
\$117.70 1 2.3% RevPAR **\$73.77** • -6.7% Demand 171,907 13.9% Short Term Rental Data - Fiscal Year 21-22

Occupancy ADR RevPAR De

62.8% \$116.65 • -8.2% \$12.65 RevPAR **73.27** 

Demand **2,142,666** 







## Sales Department Performance Report



Sales Leads and Outreach - September 2022

Sales Leads Issued 96

**\$** 47.7%

Room Nights (Leads)
37,515

\$\frac{1}{2} 304.3\%

Leads Turned Definite 33

Room Nights (Definite) 5,536

\$1,002,041

P2P Outreach 1,060 \$ 117.7% Indirect Outreach
13,562

13.6%

Group Events 71

**\$** 42.0%

Room Nights Generated 6,370

₹ -38.9%

J →Z, -4.1%

Actualized Revenue \$2,806,606

**10.8%** 

**14.0%** 

Groups Serviced

66

\$ 15.8%

#### Sales Leads and Outreach - Fiscal Year 22-23

Sales Leads Issued

254

10.4%

Room Nights (Leads) 80,672 \$ 95.1%

Leads Turned Definite 89

Room Nights (Definite)

12,036

-14.3%

\$3,729,421 \$-2.3%

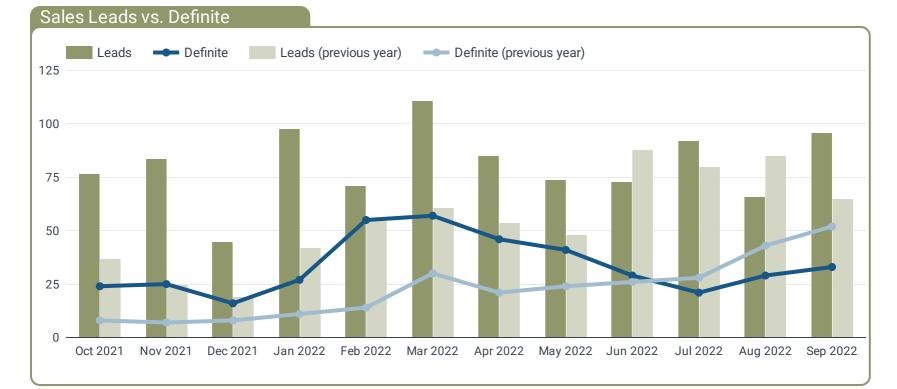
   Room Nights Generated 14,927

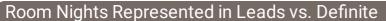
₹ -29.4%

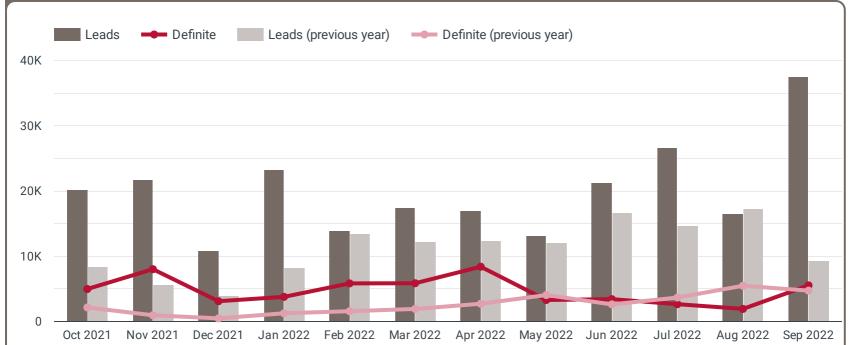
Actualized Revenue \$5,512,548

**3,3 12,340 ≜** 32.9% Groups Serviced 133

**\$** 8.1%

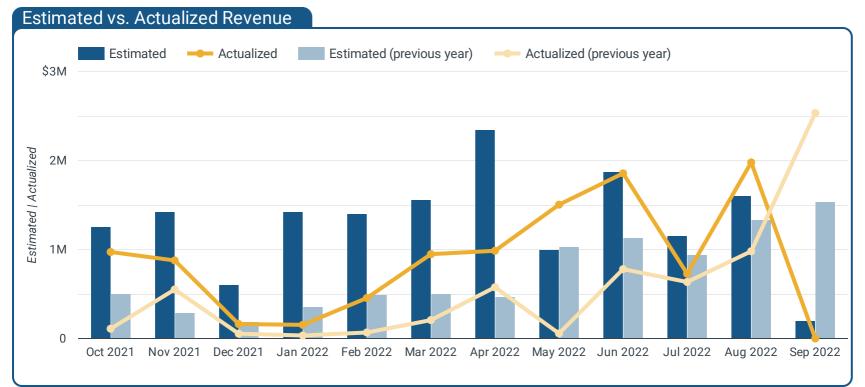






## Sales Department Performance Report





Sales	Outreach	2022 by	/ Month
-------	----------	---------	---------

% Δ	Indirect Outreach				
	mancot outreadi	% ∆	Person-to-Person Outreach	Month of Year ▼	
0	13,562	0	1,060	Sep 2022	1.
183.4	109,553	-53.3%	387	Aug 2022	2.
0	1,629	-3.3%	693	Jul 2022	3.
844.7	224,947	-5.6%	988	Jun 2022	4.
1.0	25,198	-26.5%	413	May 2022	5.
0	11,725	29.9%	951	Apr 2022	6.
-0.6	10,419	-44.7%	484	Mar 2022	7.
-0.5	5,955	-43.2%	566	Feb 2022	8.
-1.0	330	-51.4%	416	Jan 2022	9.
-0.9	1,326	-19.5%	591	Dec 2021	10.

## Group Events by Month and Room Nights Generated

	Month of Year ▼	<b>Group Events This Month</b>	% Δ	Room Nights Generated	% Δ
1.	Sep 2022	71	0	6,370	0
2.	Aug 2022	35	25.0%	6,466	63.0%
3.	Jul 2022	32	0.0%	2,091	-4.7%
4.	Jun 2022	50	108.3%	5,610	154.7%
5.	May 2022	37	236.4%	3,845	983.1%
6.	Apr 2022	37	76.2%	3,253	90.3%
7.	Mar 2022	26	271.4%	4,465	202.9%
8.	Feb 2022	14	366.7%	1,759	162.5%
9.	Jan 2022	9	800.0%	523	321.8%
10.	Dec 2021	19	216.7%	897	286.6%

## Marketing Department Performance Report



Marketing Metrics Overview - September 2022

Website Visits **565,819** 

**₹ -16.8%** 

\$4,736,145 1 28.9%

PR Publicity Value

Mobile Site Visits

420,308

PR Estimated Impressions **1,774,707,360** 

**⋾** -1.3%

aRes - Room Nights 38

-48.6%

Significant Placements

30 **₹** -16.7% aRes - Room Revenue

\$10,864 • -30.8%

Media Touchpoints

62

**1.6%** 

Total Facebook Fans 310,380

Video Views

693,943

**1,216.7%** 

**2.3%** 

#### Marketing Metrics Overview - Fiscal Year 22-23

Website Visits **1,668,814** 

-22.9%

PR Publicity Value

Mobile Site Visits

1.243.144

₹ -22.5%

PR Estimated Impressions

\$23,959,994 9,128,947,648

aRes - Room Nights

105

₹ -46.4%

Significant Placements

384

aRes - Room Revenue

\$22,000

₹ -44.2%

Media Touchpoints

669

Avg. Total Facebook Fans

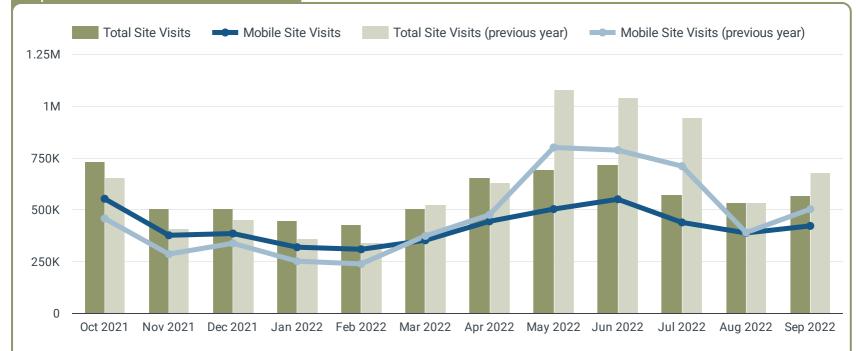
309,365 ± 2.0%

Video Views

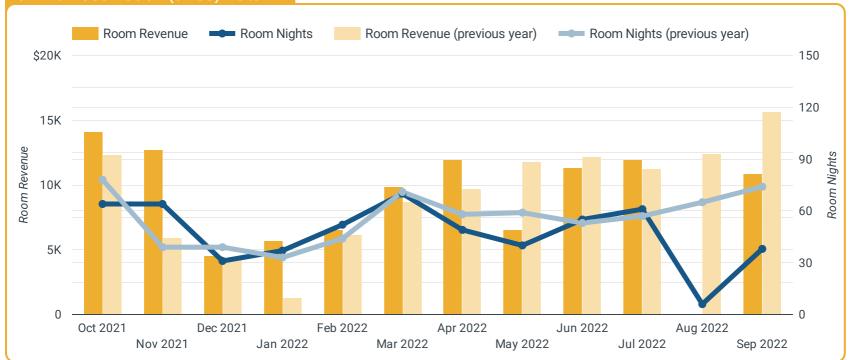
1,387,878

**\$** 656.6%

## ExploreAsheville.com Web Stats







## Marketing Department Performance Report



	Month of Year ▼	Publicity Value - Print/Broadcast	% △	Editorial Impressions - Print/Broadcast	% Δ
1.	Sep 2022	\$1,409,822	376%	5,386,568	99.4%
2.	Aug 2022	\$307,082	-79%	3,382,693	-38.72%
3.	Jul 2022	\$1,235,213	15%	16,499,252	214.59%
4.	Jun 2022	\$974,746	-28%	9,563,408	347.69%
5.	May 2022	\$522,923	-17%	2,573,638	-57.14%
6.	Apr 2022	\$2,827,371	367%	10,691,595	296.95%
7.	Mar 2022	\$390,117	132%	3,131,148	47.24%

## Online Publicity Value and Impressions

	Month of Year ▼	Publicity Value - Online	% Д	Estimated Impressions - Online	% △
1.	Sep 2022	\$3,326,323	-2%	1,769,320,792	0
2.	Aug 2022	\$4,436,056	385%	2,359,604,321	0
3.	Jul 2022	\$2,533,333	+0%	1,347,517,437	0.85%
4.	Jun 2022	\$1,927,879	44%	1,025,467,440	41.72%
5.	May 2022	\$1,354,878	61%	720,679,643	51.52%
6.	Apr 2022	\$1,487,349	121%	791,143,059	113.83%
7.	Mar 2022	\$1,330,956	-21%	707,955,063	-21.25%

### Media Placements & Touchpoints

Media Flacemento a Fodenpointo						
	Month of Year ▼	Media Touchpoints / Interactions	% ▲	Significant Placements	%Δ	
1.	Sep 2022	62	0	30	0	
2.	Aug 2022	45	0	21	0	
3.	Jul 2022	40	-13.0%	32	39.1%	
4.	Jun 2022	36	16.1%	17	-22.7%	
5.	May 2022	44	-38.0%	19	18.8%	
6.	Apr 2022	24	-55.6%	24	-17.2%	
7.	Mar 2022	95	216.7%	23	-43.9%	

## Facebook Fans & Video Views (All Platforms)

	Month of Year ▼	Total Facebook Fans	% ∆	Video Views	%Δ
1.	Feb 2022	305,000	1.8%	397,105	890.6%
2.	Jan 2022	304,420	2.6%	260,089	288.7%
3.	Dec 2021	303,371	1.4%	27,484	-16.1%
4.	Nov 2021	303,399	1.4%	91,293	255.4%
5.	Oct 2021	303,301	1.5%	126,476	145.5%
6.	Sep 2021	303,277	1.8%	52,703	25.0%
7.	Aug 2021	303,225	1.8%	43,708	-23.8%

## **Destination Performance Report - Glossary**

#### **Destination Performance Metrics**



**Lodging Sales -** Total lodging sales for all property types reported for the previous month. Data is provided by the Buncombe County Finance Department.

**Hotel Occupancy -** Percentage of available rooms sold during the previous month. Occupancy is calculated by dividing the number of rooms sold by rooms available. Data is provided by Smith Travel Research.

**Hotel Average Daily Rate (ADR) -** A measure of the average rate paid for rooms sold for the previous month, calculated by dividing room revenue by rooms sold. Data is provided by Smith Travel Research.

**Hotel Demand -** The number of rooms sold in the previous month (excludes complimentary rooms). Data is provided by Smith Travel Research.

**Hotel Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) -** Total room revenue for the previous month divided by the total number of available rooms. Data is provided by Smith Travel Research.

**Total Airport Passengers** - Total monthly air traffic reported for the previous month. Data is provided by Asheville Regional Airport.

**Asheville Visitor Center -** Total monthly visitors to the Asheville Visitor Center. Data is provided by the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Pack Square Park Visitor Center -** Total monthly visitors to the Pack Square Park Visitor Center. Data is provided by the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Black Mountain Visitor Center -** Total monthly visitors to the Black Mountain Visitor Center. Data is provided by the Black Mountain-Swannanoa Chamber of Commerce.

Travel Guide Requests – The number of travel guides requested monthly via the website and leads. Data provided by Simpleview CRM.

**AirDNA Listing room nights -** the sum of all AirDNA listing nights that were available for rent times the number of rooms per listing. As of 2/1/19, AirDNA data includes both Airbnb and HomeAway short term rental data for 1/1/17 to present.

**AirDNA Occupancy** - Booked AirDNA listing room nights divided by available AirDNA listing room nights in the given month. This only counts listings as being available if they had one booked night in the month. Data is provided by AirDNA.

**AirDNA ADR (Average Daily Rate)** - Total AirDNA monthly revenue divided by the total number of AirDNA listing room nights booked in a given month. ADR includes cleaning fees but not other AirDNA service fees or taxes. Data is provided by AirDNA.

**AirDNA RevPAR (Revenue Per Available Room) -** Total AirDNA monthly revenue divided by the total number of AirDNA listing room nights available in a given month. Data is provided by AirDNA.

#### **Sales Performance Metrics**

Sales Leads Issued - Monthly tentative sales leads sent to hotel partners. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**Room Nights (Leads) -** Monthly room nights represented in the tentative leads sent to hotel partners. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**Leads Turned Definite** - Monthly leads sent to hotel partners that have resulted in a rooms agreement. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM

Room Nights (Definite) - Monthly room nights represented in definite leads. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**Estimated Revenue** - Estimated monthly revenue of definite leads. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**P2P Outreach -** Monthly person-to-person interactions between the sales team and clients. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**Indirect Outreach -** Monthly communications from the sales team to more than one client at a time. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**Group Events -** The number of groups who were sourced through the bureau and met in Asheville during the given month. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

**Room Nights Generated -** Room nights generated by the groups who were sourced through the bureau and met in Asheville during the given month. Data is provided by hotel partners and compiled by Simpleview CRM.

**Actualized Revenue -** Room nights generated by the groups who were sourced through the bureau and met in Asheville during the given month. Data is provided by hotel partners and is compiled by Simpleview CRM.

**Groups Serviced -** Groups who met in Asheville who received or were offered additional planning services by Explore Asheville during the given month. Data is provided by Simpleview CRM.

## **Destination Performance Report - Glossary**



#### **Marketing Performance Metrics**

Website Visits - Number of monthly website sessions to ExploreAsheville.com. Data is provided by Google Analytics.

**Mobile Site Visits -** Number of monthly website sessions from mobile and tablet devices to ExploreAsheville.com. Data is provided by Google Analytics.

**aRes - Room Nights -** Number of monthly room nights booked through aRes Travel third party booking engine at reservations. Explore Asheville.com. Data is provided by aRes Travel.

**aRes - Room Revenue -** Total monthly room revenue for rooms booked through aRes Travel third party booking engine at reservations. ExploreAsheville.com. Data excludes cancellations and is provided by aRes Travel.

**Total Facebook Fans -** Total number of Facebook fans for the Visit Asheville Facebook page reported monthly. Data is provided by Facebook.

**PR Publicity Value** – Estimated ad equivalency cost of clips secured across multiple mediums. Data is provided by Cision.

**PR Estimated Impressions –** The circulation of the publication and the estimated gross impressions for broadcast and digital articles by the placements reported for the previous month. Data is provided by Cision.

**Significant Placements** – Clips from online, print or broadcast media that Explore Asheville had a hand in securing or that feature Asheville predominantly and have a reach of certain threshold. Reported for the previous month. Data is provided by Cision.

**Media Touchpoints** – Monthly contact that members of the PR team had with various media outlets or journalists. Data is provided by Explore Asheville PR Team.

**Video Views (All Platforms)** - Figures for total monthly video views on all platforms. Data is provided by YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, and Instagram and does not include advertising campaign views.

\* Source: STR, Inc. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited.

\*\* AIRDNA Cancellation Accuracy - The AIRDNA booking algorithm determines whether unavailable dates are due to a reservation by a guest or a blocked date by the host. AIRDNA can only pick up cancellations if the unavailable days changes back to available on the listing calendar. If the dates remain unavailable, then there is no way for AIRDNA to have any visibility on these cancellations. During periods of unusually high cancellations, AIRDNA may overestimate room night demand for short term rentals.