



Annual Report
Downtown New Bedford, Inc.
October 29, 2008

Downtown New Bedford, Inc.

Welcomes you to its 19th Annual Meeting and election of officers
October 29, 2008

Executive Directors' Report

Downtown New Bedford, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization representing downtown stakeholders: property owners, business people and residents. Our goal is to make the heart of our city an economically healthy, welcoming, vibrant place to work, live and visit.

We promote this goal in a variety of ways:

- **We present a collective voice** to communicate with city government and other entities regarding downtown problems and concerns. As an example, we worked with the University of Massachusetts College of Visual and Performing Arts, Bristol Community College and the city's Traffic Commission to negotiate an arrangement whereby students from both educational institutions can park in the Zeiterion Garage at the same rates they would pay at meters. The result is more metered spaces for shoppers.
- **We act as a clearinghouse** for information relevant to all downtowners, business people and residents alike. To increase our effectiveness in this area we are currently investing considerable time and financial resources in expanding and modernizing our computer database.
- **Our Financial Incentives Committee assists new and expanding businesses** in securing loans at attractive rates through our [Downtown Loan Program](#). This year we were proud to be part of the effort that brought the new Waterfront Grille to the city.
- **We provide new entrepreneurs** with free startup technical support services. As part of our Business Partnership Program, members of our Board of Directors serve as pro bono consultants to less experienced downtown business people, assisting them in areas ranging from human relations to cash flow management.

- **We are collaborating with Bristol Community College** to offer low cost and no-cost business education programs to business people. Because a recent BCC/DNB, Inc. survey revealed that downtown retailers feel they could use help with accounting, the first course of the series is Introduction to QuickBooks.

- **We sponsor major events.** Our Downtown Gala, Taste Our SouthCoast Festival, and New Bedford Seaport Chowder Festival continue to grow in popularity and bring thousands of visitors downtown, some for the first time.

This year we have also taken the lead in organizing and coordinating a new event — Holiday Stroll on Saturday, December 6 from the noon arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus to the 5:00 pm lighting of the tree on the library steps. Strollers will appreciate downtown’s holiday retail shops, restaurants and galleries in a beautifully decorated historic setting.

- **Our Public Safety Committee hosts Weekly Safety Meetings** at which our Downtown Community Police officers report on safety-related events of the previous week and discuss concerns brought to the meeting by members of the downtown public.

The meetings are held at the DNB, Inc. office at 105 William Street on Mondays at 9:00 am. They are free and open to the public.

The goal of the meetings is to inform the public on safety issues as they pertain specifically to the downtown and to brainstorm ways to enhance the public’s perceptions of our historic downtown area.

The public is welcome to voice concerns, report problems or submit suggestions.

The committee also publishes a weekly e-mail *Safety Update* and distributes it to a mailing list of over 500 subscribers. To become a subscriber go to the DNB, Inc. web site: <http://www.downtownnb.org>.

- **We publish a quarterly newsletter, *The Downtown Beat***, which keeps Downtowners up to date on downtown people, business activity and events relevant to their lives.

The newsletter is published in both paper and on-line format. Look for changes in the on-line version in the coming year. Web address is: <http://www.downtownnb.org/newsletters>.

- **We print and distribute a *Visitors Guide*** listing and locating more than 75 local retailers, galleries, museums, educational institutions, accommodations, and other points of interest to visitors. The *Visitors Guide* is also on the web site: <http://www.downtownnb.org/visitorsguide.htm>.

- **We maintain a web site** dedicated to informing the public of downtown's assets and attractions. The site is continually being updated and improved. <http://www.downtownnb.org>.

- We operate on a modest budget which is detailed in the center pages.

- Under the direction of new **Executive Director Diane Nichols**, we look forward to an even more productive year ahead.

Arthur Bennett,
Outgoing Executive Director,
Downtown New Bedford, Inc.

Diane A. Nichols,
Incoming Executive Director
Downtown New Bedford, Inc.

President's letter

I would like to mention some of the progress made in downtown over the past months and give you a snippet of what DNB, Inc. has been working on to contribute to the constantly changing face of Downtown New Bedford.

In the past year we have strengthened our ties with a number of our partner organizations, and as a direct result, we are partnering with Bristol Community College and the Greater New Bedford Chamber of Commerce to plan a number of free or low cost workshops geared towards arming the less seasoned business owners with the ammunition that will help them grow and prosper.

We continue to reach out to the downtown community at large in formulating a cooperative and comprehensive marketing plan with our newly formed marketing committee.

We recently held an open and public downtown forum, getting valuable input and ideas from downtown stakeholders. We will continue to keep the channels of communications open by having these forums on a regular basis. We will be asking for more direct input from you in the coming year, will be visiting with you personally and will be conducting frequent communication sessions exploring ways that we can all cooperatively make our downtown a better place.

We, along with many of the business owners downtown, have taken the lead to restructure what used to be Holiday Shops and reinvent it as Holiday Stroll.

In spite of a difficult economy, the list of completed downtown projects continues to grow.

1. Board member Gene Lonergan and his partner Rob Sudduth purchased the Cherry Building in September 2000, have continuously upgraded the building and have nearly 100% occupancy, including the important UMass presence, retail shopping at Celia's and a restaurant, Cafe Arpeggio.
2. Board member Jim Muse has successfully completed projects that include the Hudner Building and the Tabor Market Building. Jim purchased the Standard Times and Boy's Club Building in

2002 while he was still working on his other properties and has transformed the buildings into upscale condos.

3. The Truran family has restored The Bristol Building to its original 1914 look and stature with beautiful condos upstairs and retail downstairs. It houses the popular Green Bean Restaurant, and soon Marco Montez will open Trevezzia, an urban winery on the first floor. Judith Klein will be opening the Judith Klein Art Gallery, also on the first floor.
4. In 2006 WHALE and HallKeen successfully completed Union Street Lofts, the \$13 million restoration of the Phinney Building, the New Bedford Dry Goods Building, AE Coffin Building and the Eddy and Haste Buildings adding thirty five one and two bedroom rental units and sixteen thousand square feet of retail space to the heart of downtown.
5. In August 2007 the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its \$4,000,000 building expansion that brought all of its services, patient care, a pediatric clinic, dental care, eye care, lab work and a pharmacy into one location. Over time they have renovated an entire city block.
6. The Corson Building on William Street (actually two three story buildings) burned in September, 1997. The Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) purchased the building after the fire, stabilized it and then donated it to the National Park in 2004. After a complete renovation, it was dedicated as Corson Maritime Learning Center in April 2008.

On William St., Purchase and Pleasant Streets a number of new businesses and entrepreneurs are successfully investing in downtown. The entire area abutting Route 18 is vibrant and welcoming to young and old. Some of the recent additions benefiting the downtown are: the Waterfront Grille, the Bay and the Cottage, Blush Beauty Bar, TL6 the Gallery, an expanded Pegasus, an expanded No Problemo, an

expanded Calico, Cork Wine and Tapas Bar, The White Bouquet, Pour Farm Tavern, an almost completed 42 North Second Street and Hibernia Irish Pub, just about ready to open.

As you can see, the face of downtown continues to evolve in a positive manner.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome Diane Nichols as DNB, Inc.'s new Executive Director. We are absolutely delighted that Diane will be joining our efforts in downtown New Bedford and working to bring our hard working organization of staff and volunteers to a new level.

**Kevin T. Pelland, President
Downtown New Bedford, Inc.**

Staff, Officers and Directors, Downtown New Bedford, Inc.

Administrative Staff

Arthur Bennett, Executive Director retiring effective 10/31/2008

Diane A. Nichols, Executive Director, effective 11/01/2008

Marianne Conley Hodgson, Administrative Assistant

Sally Spooner, Downtown Beat reporter and photographer

President

Kevin T. Pelland, Citizens-Union Savings Bank

Vice Presidents

Arthur Bennett, Resident

Katie Gilfeather, Outlook, EAP

Richard Poyant, Poyant Signs, Inc.

Treasurer

Zee Bryant, Zee Associates

Clerk

Robert F. Murray, Attorney Robert F. Murray

Directors through 2009

Arthur Bennett, Resident

Zee Bryant, Zee Associates

Elizabeth Isherwood, Mayor's Office

Modesta Levesque, The Standard-Times

Kevin T. Pelland, Citizens-Union Savings Bank

Jeff Pontiff, E. J. Pontiff Real Estate, Whaling City Expeditions

A. Jack Silva, Bristol County Savings Bank

Directors through 2010

Peter Georgeopoulos, Greater New Bedford Community Health Center

David Medeiros, Sovereign Bank

Robert F. Murray, Attorney

James A. Muse, Buyer's Professional Real Estate

Richard Poyant, Poyant Signs, Inc.

Theresa Romanovitch, Bristol Community College

Lisa Sughrue, WHALE

Directors through 2011

Keri Cox, *medium studio*

Dennis D. Galvam, NSTAR

Katie Gilfeather, Outlook EAP

Eugene Lonergan, Merrill Lynch, Purchase Street Ventures

Randall T. Weeks, Jr., Partridge, Snow & Hahn

Orren B. Robbins, Board Member Emeritus

Elaine Lima, Board Member Emeritus

Our Person of the Year Awards

2008

**Marguerite Ann “Gig” Lang
Volunteer Work**

2007

**James G. DeMello
Retired CEO Acushnet Company**

2006

**Scott W. Costa and Andrew B. Tillett
Bufftree Building Company, Inc.**

2005

**Elizabeth Isherwood
Moore & Ishwerwood, Inc.**

2004

**James H. Mathes
New Bedford Chamber of Commerce**

2003

**Arthur P. Motta Jr.
City of New Bedford Tourism Director**

2002

**Antone G. Souza
WHALE**

2001

**Senator Mark C. W. Montigny
Instrumental in Star Store renovation
Advocate for UMass College of Visual and Performing Arts**

2000

**Mayor Fred Kalisz
Mayor, City of New Bedford**

BUSINESS MEMBERS

—A—

AHA!

**American Pride Seafood
Anne Whiting Real Estate
Arthur Moniz Gallery
ArtWorks at Dover Street
Atlantic Elevator South Co.**

—B—

**Bank Five
Barry's Fine Wine & Spirits, Inc.
Beauregard, Burke & Franco
Beirstadt Art Society
Bennett, Jean and Arthur
Biltmore Package and Pic-A-Deli
Bluebird Taxi Cab
Brenton Productions, Inc.
Bristol Community College
Bristol County Savings Bank
Bruce Spooner Financial Services
Bufftree Building Co., Inc.
Bullard, John
Burke & Lamb, CPA
Buttonwood Park Zoological Society
Buyers Professional Real Estate
Buzzards Bay Brewery**

—C—

**Candleworks Restaurant
Carlos Seafood
Carter's Clothing
Catwalk Bar & Grille
Christian Science Reading Room
Citizens Bank of Massachusetts
Citizens-Union Savings Bank
City of New Bedford
Coalition for Buzzard Bay
Coastal Orthopaedics**

**Colonial Beverage
Comfort Inn
Command Print Solutions, Inc.
Community Foundation of Southeastern MA
Converse Photo Supply
Cooper Insurance
Cork Wine & Tapas Bar
Crowell's Gallery
Cuttyhunk Ferry Service**

—D,E,F—

**David's Fish Market
Days Inn-New Bedford
DeMello, James
Dias, Lapalme & Martin, LLP
Draka Cableteq USA
Dyer Brown SouthCoast Architects
Eastern Fisheries
Elaine's Home of the Black Whale
Elite Corporation/McDonald's
Fairhaven Hampton Inn
Fall River Ford, Inc.
Fiber Optic Center
Finicky Pet Food, Inc.
First Church of Christ, Scientist
First Citizens? Federal Credit Union
First Night New Bedford
Fleet Fisheries
Fort Taber Military Museum
Freestone's City Grill**

—G,H,I,K—

**Glaser Glass Corporation
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
Greater New Bedford Community Health Foundation
Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation
Guido's Plate Glass Service, Inc.
HallKeen Management, Inc.
Halloran, Lukoff & Smith
Hodgson, Pratt & Associates
HUB International Feitelberg**

**Hygrade Ocean Products, Inc.
Integrity Mechanical, Inc.
Isaiah's Restaurant
Kauppila Realty Trust**

—L—

**L.M. Pina & Associates
La France Hospitality Group
Law Office of Breh Dorny
Law Offices of Eric Jaikes
Law Offices of Robert F. Murray
Eleanor & Terence G. Lewis, Sr.**

—M—

**M.O.L.I.F.E., Inc.
Mare Studios & Gallery, LLC
Mary Louise Nunes, CPA, PC
Massachusetts Small Business Development Center
Media Image Productions, Inc.
mediumstudio
Meville House Bed & Breakfast
Miguel's Restaurant
Millennium bcpbank
Monaghan Printing Co., Inc.
Moore & Isherwood, Inc.
M-V Electrical Contractors, Inc.
MV Associates, LLC**

—N—

**National Bleach Company
New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
New Bedford Art Museum
New Bedford Credit Union
New Bedford Economic Development Council
New Bedford Housing Authority
New Bedford Preservation Society
New Bedford Symphony Orchestra
New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
New England Fast Ferry**

**New England Fisheries
Norport, Inc. F/V Act IV
North End Business Association
North Water St. Real Estate Trust
Northern Wind, Inc.
NSTAR Gas & Electric
NWD Trucking, Inc.**

—O,P—

**Oakmont Partners, LLC
Ocean Explorium
Oceans Alive
On-A-Roll
Orchard Street Manor
Outlook, EAP
Partridge, Snow & Hahn
Paul & Dixon Insurance
Pier Fish Company, Inc.
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Ponichtera & DeNardis, PC
Pontiff Real Estate/Whaling City Launch
Poyant Signs, Inc.
Purchase Street Ventures/Merrill Lynch**

—R,S—

**Residence Inn by Marriott
Reynolds DeWalt Printing, Inc.
Robbins, Orren B.
Rockland Trust
Rosenfield, Raymon & Pielech, PC
Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum
Rourke, Boyd A.
Saint Anne Credit Union
Schooner Ernestina Commission
Sea Born Products, Inc.
Sea Fuel Marine Products, Inc.
Seamen's Bethel
SEED Corporation
Short, Arthur W.
SMILES Mentoring**

**SoCo Magazine
South End Business Association
SouthCoast Insider
Sovereign Bank
STAT Ambulance Service
Sylvia & Company Insurance Agency, Inc.**

—T,U—

**Tempest Fisheries, Inc.
The Bedford Merchant
The Maiden Company
The Standard-Times
TOFIAS, PC
UMASS Art Gallery
UMASS Dartmouth College of Visual & Performing Arts
Union Street Investors Realty Trust
United Way of Greater New Bedford**

—W,Y,Z—

**Wamsutta Club
Waterfront Grille
WBSM 1420/Fun 107
Webster Bank
Westport River Winery
WHALE
Whaling City Seafood Display Auction
WNBH
Working Waterfront Festival
YMCA Southcoast
Your Theatre
Zee Associates
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center**

