



# EDMONDS DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE 2024 WORK PROGRAM & PLAN

Edmonds, Washington

Prepared pursuant to Edmonds City Ordinance 3909, Section  
3.75.120

The mission of the Edmonds Downtown Alliance is to encourage, promote and participate in activities enhancing the general economic conditions of the district for the mutual benefit of its businesses and the City of Edmonds. We are a focused, member-funded organization that supports and improves business conditions in Downtown Edmonds. Our goal is to ensure our downtown stays lively, attractive, prosperous and welcoming to everyone.

**Per Ordinance 3909, the scope of work includes the following items:**

- A. Marketing & Hospitality: may include maps/brochures/kiosks/directories, website, social media, marketing/advertising campaigns, holiday decorations, street performers/artists, historic education/heritage advocacy, special public events
- B. Safety & Cleanliness: may include maintenance, security, pedestrian environment enhancements
- C. Appearance & Environment: may include design enhancements, neighborhood advocacy & communication, streetscapes/lighting/furniture
- D. Transportation: may include transportation alternatives, directional signage, parking management & mitigation
- E. Business Recruitment & Retention: may include education/seminars, market research, business recruitment
- F. Organization: may include contract staff & professional services, administration costs

**INTRODUCTION**

Ed! - Edmonds Downtown Alliance (the "Alliance"), was approved on January 15, 2013 under Ordinance 3909. The following is the eleventh year work program and plan for the district, effective from approval by Edmonds City Council through December 31, 2024. It includes a description of the Alliance, proposed services, sources of funding, annual budget and allocations.

## I. **PROPOSED 2024 SERVICES**

The services to be provided in this plan include items required to meet the needs of, and for the promotion and enhancement of, the Alliance and its members. The services are not intended to take the place of, but rather add to or supplement, those services provided by the City and/or other Edmonds-based organizations. The services will be executed under the direction of the Alliance Members Advisory Board.

### A. **Administration (Per Ordinance 3909, Item F)**

- i. **Program Management.** The Alliance Board will contract with an individual(s) to provide program management and support for the operation and maintenance of the Alliance. Program management and administrative support for implementation of specific committee projects will be covered by the budget available for those programs.
- ii. **Operating Expenses.** Operating expenses will include, but are not limited to, supplies and insurance, post office box rental, mailings to members, Zoom subscription and website domain and hosting fees. Legal, accounting and professional services will be contracted on an as-needed basis. When appropriate and available, pro-bono services will be used.
- iii. **Assessment and Evaluation.** The Alliance recognizes the important responsibility it has to its members to demonstrate effective and efficient use of Alliance resources. As such, the Alliance will include reasonable and appropriate program assessment and evaluation efforts within its work plans. This may include internal and external initiatives such as member surveys, market research, third party or independent impact analysis, etc.

### B. **Marketing/Advertising (Per Ordinance 3909, Item A)**

- i. **Advertising.** Our 2023 advertising plan has helped drive a 17% increase in visits and an 14% increase in users on EdmondsDowntown.org, which is informing our recommendation for

2024. The Alliance will continue to implement a robust 2024 digital marketing effort throughout the year. This may include contracting professional services for design and execution. The 2024 social media advertising plan will be managed by Ed!'s program manager. Ed! will also run a robust holiday digital advertising campaign in partnership with the City of Edmonds.

- ii. **Website.** The Alliance will continue to execute on the Ed! content strategy to increase awareness of Edmonds as a day trip destination for shopping, dining, and doing business in our historic downtown, along with promoting local activities. This will include publishing stories on the website to highlight local businesses and events, written by a contract copywriter and illustrated with photos by a contract photographer. Ed! will also continue the Business Spotlight series, which focuses on promoting a variety of individual businesses in Downtown Edmonds. In addition, Ed! will maintain an extensive site directory of local businesses.
- iii. **Social Media.** The Alliance's social media presence continues to grow, and is a strong branding tool, keeping Downtown Edmonds top of mind. Photography will continue to be produced by a contractor for both social media and website use.
- iv. **Winter Campaign.** The Alliance will continue to execute a campaign during the winter months to increase visits to downtown businesses during this slower time of year.
- v. **Summer Campaign.** The Alliance will continue the successful *Lovin' Summer* Edmonds campaign launched in 2021, aimed at promoting Downtown Edmonds during the summer months, promoting downtown happenings and highlighting our unique local businesses, making it a desirable day trip destination.
- vi. **Holiday Campaign.** The Alliance will continue to make Downtown Edmonds a destination for shoppers and visitors during the holiday season. The holiday trolley will run in 2024 either in partnership with the

City of Edmonds or with sponsor donations, to manage various campaigns to increase shopping and dining in town and to promote holiday events with marketing collateral. A "holiday elf" will be contracted for a sixth year to make the holiday trolley festive and run smoothly.

**C. Communication and Outreach (Per Ordinance 3909, Items A and E)**

- i. Member Engagement.** The Alliance wishes to focus on productive member engagement in 2024 and will encourage committee and board-wide involvement to better galvanize local business relationships and increase member involvement. To minimize cost, communication will continue primarily via email and the e-newsletter, with a printed update to be mailed to members once a year and other communications as needed. A simple welcome kit will be assembled using the welcome brochure and additional informational materials for use with in-person new member outreach. Annual Member meeting will be held in April with notifications and ballots sent via post.
- ii. Public Relations.** To increase community visibility, inspire member involvement, and strengthen the Ed! identity, the Alliance will continue to publish a sponsored-content bimonthly column in *My Edmonds News*. The Alliance will continue to promote bringing new businesses to Downtown Edmonds and build a continually improving business district. Partnering with existing organizations such as the Edmonds Chamber of Commerce and the City of Edmonds will help to strengthen the mission of the Alliance and the shared objectives of our partner organizations. The Alliance will continue to partner with such organizations to further community priorities.
- iii. DEMMU.** The Downtown Edmonds Merchant Meetup group (formerly DEMA) is now a subcommittee of the Ed! Communications and Outreach committee. Members will meet informally as needed to discuss issues pertinent to merchants, and an Ed! liaison will bring ideas and information back to the Ed! board.

- iv. **Main Street Conference.** Send attendee(s) to the annual Main Street Conference as able to learn best practices and network with other Main Street organization experts from around Washington state.
- v. **Events.** The Alliance will continue to sponsor local events as appropriate, such as the Lunar New Year, PorchFest Edmonds, Fourth of July, Taste Edmonds, or the Tree Lighting.

**D. Appearance and Environment (Per Ordinance 3909, Items B, C and D)**

- i. **Umbrella Program.** The Alliance will maintain the existing umbrella program throughout Downtown Edmonds in 2024. As determined by business member feedback as well as member survey responses, the Alliance will maintain the program by providing umbrellas and umbrella stands in locations throughout the district, as well as maintenance, coordination and redistribution.
- ii. **Parking.** Members will continue working in concert with City efforts related to enhancing parking in Downtown Edmonds. There are no new lots to consider in 2024 for the After Hours parking program, promoting existing lots will be the focus. The group will consider expenditures for design and installation of signage to improve parking location awareness, as well as other potential expenditure for identified parking-related improvements. Potential future funding for a larger capital expenditure related to parking improvements will be explored.
- iii. **Creative Signage.** Implement creative signage such as the *Lovin' Summer* temporary mural installed in 2023 to encourage engagement with the brand and the city.
- iv. **New Interactive Map.** A digital map of downtown businesses, attractions and amenities will be developed in partnership with the City of Edmonds.

**II. PROPOSED SOURCES OF FUNDING**

**A. Assessments**

Assessments will be collected in accordance with Ordinance 3909.

## **B. Grants and Donations**

The 501(c)(3) organization formed by the Alliance may pursue and accept grants and donations from private institutions, the City, other public entities or individuals and other non-profit organizations, in accordance with State and Federal law.

## **III. ANNUAL BUDGET**

### **A. Budgeted Revenue and Projected Fund Balance**

The projected assessments collected for 2024 will be approximately \$79,209. Together with the carry-forward of a projected 2023 year-end balance of \$32,886, the result is an estimated \$112,095 in projected available funds for expenditures in 2024. After budgeted expenditures, the projected 2024 fund balance should be \$8,550 (10.8% of on-going revenue). A fund balance is necessary for operating capital in each future year. The Alliance must have a fund balance available to pay for ongoing programs and costs in advance of expected revenue. A detailed budget summary accompanies this Work Plan.

### **B. Budgeted Expenditures**

In accordance with the scope of work as approved in Ordinance 3909, it is anticipated that the budgeted expenditures for the 2024 operating year of the Alliance will total \$103,545 and are detailed as follows:

<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$22,200</b>
Operating Expenses	\$1,200
Program Management	\$21,000
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>\$47,145</b>
Advertising/Social Media	\$5,500
Content Creation	\$13,800
Website	\$3,500

Holiday Events and Advertising	\$8,845
Summer Marketing Campaign	\$4,500
February Marketing Campaign	\$1,000
Program Management	\$10,000
<b>Communication and Outreach</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>
Annual Meeting	\$1,500
Event Support	\$500
Member Communications	\$1,370
My Edmonds News Outreach	\$330
Main Street Conference	\$700
Program Management	\$1,000
<b>Appearance &amp; Environment</b>	<b>\$28,800</b>
Umbrella Program	\$10,600
After Hours Parking	\$0
Creative Messaging	\$2,000
Interactive Map	\$15,000
Program Management	\$1,200
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$103,545</b>

**A. Unallocated Funds**

An unallocated fund balance of \$32,886 is projected to be carried forward from 2023. The Alliance must submit a budget amendment to City of Edmonds Council for approval to use any unallocated funds not otherwise identified in this Work Plan and proposed Budget.

**B. General Provisions**

- i. The Alliance shall make no expenditures other than in accordance with



and pursuant to a Budget for which a total Annual Budget amount has been approved by the City.

- ii. In the event that in any given fiscal year the sources of funding and/or reserves held over from the previous year do not equal the total annual budget amount, the Alliance may choose to eliminate some expenditure in order to balance the budget.
- iii. The Alliance, at the conclusion of the fiscal year, will provide a detailed financial report in accordance with Ordinance 3909, as amended.