



## 2023 POLICY YEAR-END REVIEW

In 2023, Downtown Sacramento Partnership's policy priorities focused on the four main organizational pillars: Managing Our Environment, Creating Our Spaces, Building Our Business, and Engaging Our Community. The policy department emphasized developing additional resources to address the unhoused crisis and ensuring accountability for public realm management. In addition, actively influenced policy decisions to mitigate urban development barriers, imperative to the health of the central city.

Leveraging the Public Policy Advisory Committee to seek stakeholder feedback on upcoming policies, Downtown Sacramento Partnership responded to concerns by testifying 13 times at City Council meetings and submitting 12 position letters on priority items. Through participation in the California Downtown Association, Downtown Sacramento Partnership supported four statewide bills passed by the Governor.

Below are key accomplishments of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership policy team in 2023.

### **Goal A: Managing Our Environment**

- **City Budget:** Testified at City Council in support of [FY 2023-24 City Budget](#) with focus on continued budget for police overtime to support calls for services
- **City Siting Plan 2.0:** Spoke at City Council to support ordinance to authorize the City Manager to implement a citywide [temporary shelter program](#) to increase the number of shelter beds available for people experiencing homelessness
- **CORE Wellness Center:** Advocated for the opening of X Street [CORE Wellness Center](#) (opened October 2023) at city and county level, adding another tool to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness near the Central City
- **County Budget:** Advocated for critical items within the [FY 2023-24 County Budget](#), including:
  - Funding for central city CORE wellness site, opened in October 2023
  - Funding for jail diversion and anti recidivism services key to compliance with the Mays Consent Decree
- **Sacramento County Main Jail:** Advocated for continued improvements to the Main Jail to ensure compliance with [Mays Consent Decree](#), including:
  - Approval of new intake facility

- Truncated release times from jail
- Increased services for released individuals through CalAim
- **Street Vending Implementation:** Convened County staff and private sector stakeholders to advocate for improved street vending enforcement, ensuring accountability and safety related to crowding at high-traffic entertainment venues
- **Updated Homeless Response Protocol:** Testified in support of departmental updates to the [City's encampment enforcement protocol](#) that gave city departments the ability to enforce existing city ordinances including Sidewalk Ordinance and Critical Infrastructure Buffer Zones
- **[SB 43 \(Eggman\) - Behavioral health](#)** - Supported significant updates to California's conservatorship laws, allowing Californians experiencing serious mental illness or severe substance use disorder and most at-risk of harm to themselves to have a conservator appointed to direct their care – with continued protection of individual rights and increased transparency on data, equity, and outcomes

### **Goal B: Creating Our Spaces**

- **Cannabis Zoning:** Engaged in discussions with city staff regarding open cannabis consumption lounges and potential for rezoning in Central Business District
- **Community Reinvestment Project Grant Funding:** Successfully secured over \$300,000 in [district funding](#) from Assemblymember 6 office for [community activations, financial support for community partners, and public realm improvements](#)
- **Digital Kiosks:** Provided initial feedback to city staff on ordinance to allow for the implementation of [digital kiosks](#) citywide, with suggestions to improve public realm safety and wayfinding
- **SacRT Grant Funding:** Submitted letters of support for SacRT grant applications for programs including: [Evaluation of Funding Opportunities](#), [Increasing Ridership Through System Enhancement](#), [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\)](#), [Low and No Emission](#), [Valley Rail Expansion](#), and [Rail Vehicle Replacement Program](#)
- **[AB 1217 \(Gabriel\) - Business pandemic relief](#)** - Supported extending the provisions of AB 61, allowing current regulatory flexibility related to outdoor, patio, and al fresco dining to help restaurants continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and inflation
- **[SB 76 \(Wiener\) - Alcoholic beverages: music venue license: entertainment zones: consumption](#)** - Supported cities' ability to create "entertainment zones" allowing brick-and-mortar bars and restaurants to sell takeout alcoholic beverages for consumption at street fairs and the like. The bill also allows music venues to serve

alcohol at private events that are not concerts or entertainment events

### **Goal C: Building Our Business**

- **2040 General Plan:** Supported proposed updates to floor area ratio-based density code in [2040 General Plan](#), and advocated to amend density bonus allowances to allow for more housing units and amenities in new developments
- **Adaptive Reuse:** Participated in initial discussions around the [adaptive reuse project](#) to convert the underutilized EDD Building into hundreds of units of new rental housing on Capitol Mall
- **Business Operations Tax:** Engaged in stakeholder feedback for citywide ballot measure proposal to update [business operations tax](#) structure, emphasizing need to retain businesses of all types
- **Community Benefits Agreement Ordinance:** Advocated for updates to proposed [Community Benefits Agreement Ordinance](#), including an exemption for the central city, to prevent roadblocks to making downtown a destination for catalytic investment
- **Development Impact Fees:** Secured adjusted implementation of proposed Department of Utilities [development impact fee increases](#) with exemptions for existing applicants
- **Missing Middle Housing:** Joined coalition of pro-housing advocacy groups to support [Missing Middle Housing updates](#) to increase gentle density near transit stops in Sacramento neighborhoods
- **Mixed Income Housing Ordinance:** Opposed proposed updates to the existing [Mixed Income Housing Ordinance](#) through convening multiple stakeholder meetings with city staff, direct advocacy with councilmembers, submitting data-driven [letters of concern](#), and public comment at City Council, addressing infeasibility of proposed ordinance
- **Sacramento Forward:** Advocated against provisions of the city's [Sacramento Forward](#) proposal, specifically inclusionary zoning requirements for all new housing developments
- **AB 557 (Hart) - Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences** - Supported updates to allow for public agencies to meet remotely under certain conditions during a state declared emergency

### **Goal D: Engaging Our Community**

- Accepted as member of the District Attorney's [Community Advisory Team](#), elevating stakeholders' public safety concerns to the Office of the District Attorney and downtown's community prosecutor

- Continued participation in:
  - [California Downtown Association](#) Board & Legislative Committee – engaged in statewide policy initiatives related to public safety and economic development of downtowns across California
  - [Metro-PAC](#) Board of Directors – fostered relationships with current elected officials and 2024 candidates, actively influencing political outcomes in the Sacramento region
- Hosted stakeholder meetings with 2024 City of Sacramento Mayoral candidates to highlight Downtown Sacramento Partnership's candidate policy platform
- Increased distribution of policy email Action Alert and expanded subscriber base and Downtown Sacramento Partnership's call-to-action platforms to inform stakeholders of key upcoming policy items
- Increased followers on Downtown Sacramento Partnership business forward [X \(formerly Twitter\) account](#)
- Introduced Young Professional Seat to Downtown Sacramento Partnership Board of Directors to diversify body of individuals affecting downtown's future
- Joined board of [House Sacramento](#), a local chapter of California YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard), increasing Downtown Sacramento Partnership's involvement in local and statewide housing networks and advocating for informed solutions to the local housing crisis
- Led Downtown Sacramento Partnership Public Policy Advisory Committee and private sector Prohousing Policy Working Group

For any questions, please contact the Downtown Sacramento Partnership Policy Department at:  
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