

# DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



**1ST QUARTER 2018**

**DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Mayor Dan Horrigan announces \$8 Million TIGER grant to city of Akron for phase II of Downtown Promenade Project

Akron Mayor Horrigan is proud to announce that the city of Akron has been awarded an \$8 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for Phase II of the Downtown Akron Promenade Project.



The city's grant proposal received strong, diverse support from dozens of local businesses, agencies, and offices – including bi-partisan backing from

Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Rob Portman, Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, Congressman Tim Ryan, Congressman Jim Renacci, and Congressman David Joyce.

"I extend my deepest and most sincere gratitude to our congressional delegation including Rep. Tim Ryan and Rep. Marcia Fudge, and to our local business and community leaders who helped champion this effort," Mayor Dan Horrigan said. "It is truly an honor to be the only community in Ohio to receive a TIGER grant this year, and to experience the extremely rare honor of being awarded two multi-million dollar TIGER grants in the span of two years."

"As we continue our efforts to ensure Akron is a thriving city, this grant will allow us to realize the concepts of the recently completed Downtown Vision and Redevelopment Plan, by connecting nodes of activity all the way up to and including the Northside District," Mayor Horrigan continued. "Once completed, the revitalized Downtown Promenade will welcome workers, pedestrians, artists, business owners, and innovators to our great City, and enable us to breathe new life into our urban core and better connect downtown to our neighborhoods."

Building on the momentum of the Phase I, Phase II of the Downtown Promenade Project is a strategic investment that will transform a 1,700-foot segment of Main Street from Mill Street to Perkins Street (SR-59) as the second phase of a 1.4-mile "Green and Complete Street" corridor through the heart of the city's urban core and connect residents and visitors to centers of education, employment, innovation, entrepreneurship, culture, entertainment and recreation.

"We are both thrilled and grateful for the recognition of the importance of our Main Street at the federal level," said Suzie Graham, president of Downtown Akron Partnership. "The city has worked tirelessly to maximize each dollar dedicated to Phase I, including the plans to rebuild the State Street bridge. Their admirable flexibility and willingness to develop these projects alongside downtown constituents is transformational for the neighborhood."

Full press release: <http://ow.ly/rOXV30jzy6M>

## Downtown Akron hotel project a go with \$1.28 million loan to renovate United Building

By Jim Mackinnon, reprinted with permission from Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com



Akron is on track to get a downtown boutique hotel as soon as this year.

The Development Finance Authority announced that

an affiliate approved a \$1.28 million loan aimed at redeveloping the historic United Building at Main and Market streets into a 71-room hotel called the Blu-tique. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$10 million.

Construction should start soon and the renovations needed to finish the hotel could be complete in as little as eight months, said Chris Burnham, Development Finance Authority president.

The \$1.28 million loan is the first of its kind in the city from the Akron Community Revitalization Fund, part of the Development Fund of the Western Reserve, which in turn is a private nonprofit affiliate of the Development Finance Authority.

The Akron fund is intended to help finance economic development projects in the city's most economically distressed neighborhoods.

Burnham said the hotel project meets all of the fund's financial criteria, adding the United Building is under-utilized.

Read the full story on Ohio.com: <http://ow.ly/pgUm30jzxNb>

# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Phase three of the Downtown Akron Partnership's pop-up retail program focused on vendors in the Northside Marketplace that officially opened in November and welcomed 35+ new independent retailers to the district. With funding from Burton D. Morgan Foundation, phase four was launched in March and will return a focus to storefronts on Main Street and surrounding corridors.

Several new or existing businesses also have made their home in downtown Akron over this past quarter ranging from banking, photography services and restaurant.



Eartha Vision

## Pop Up Retail

### Eartha Vision

20 N. High St. | [www.earthavision.com](http://www.earthavision.com)

**Eartha Vision** is a photography studio, darkroom and gallery with space for yoga, photography classes and events. With over 20 years of photography and custom printing experience, Eartha L. Goodwin has made pictures all over the United States. Her attention to detail and sensitivity to her clients shows through her images. She conveys true emotions from her subjects through her camera.

**Burton D. Morgan Foundation** awards grants in its four mission-related areas of focus: Youth Entrepreneurship, Collegiate Entrepreneurship, Adult Entrepreneurship, and the Hudson Community.

At their February meeting, Burton D. Morgan Foundation Trustees approved \$1.2 million in grants to organizations throughout Northeast Ohio including \$35,000 to Downtown Akron Partnership to support phase four of the Pop-Up Retail Program. DAP is grateful and thanks the Foundation for its continued support as we work to grow business and retail in downtown Akron throughout 2018.



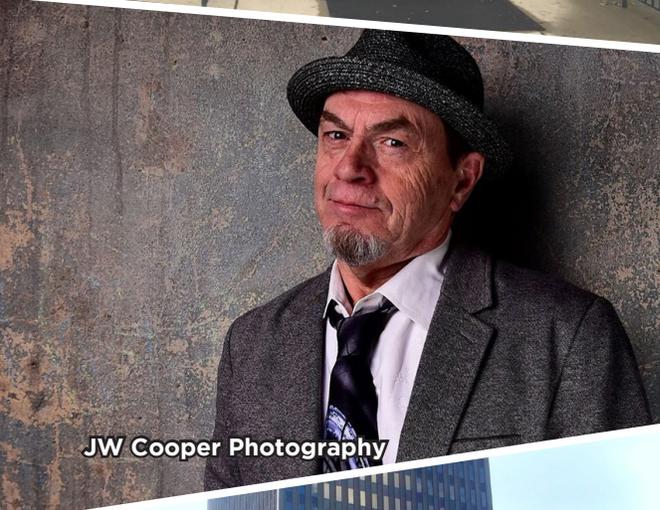
Boiling House

## Welcome new businesses

### Boiling House

1 W. Exchange St. | 234-716-8715 | [www.boilingcrabseafood.com](http://www.boilingcrabseafood.com)

**Boiling House** offers seafood dishes with variety of sides, combo platters to include beef and pork sausages, fried seafood, chicken wings and po' boy sandwiches.



JW Cooper Photography

### JW Cooper Photography

375 Paul Williams Ave. | 330-244-6418 | [www.jwcooperphotography.com](http://www.jwcooperphotography.com)

Located in downtown Akron, **J.W. Cooper** is an art photographer focusing on Americana of all kinds, whether it be the people he meets or the abandoned pieces of art he finds.

### Allegorithmic, Inc.

One Cascade Plz, Suite 1450 | 512-733-4045

**Allegorithmic** specializes in software for the video game, visual effects, architecture and design industries. This award winning software suite enables artists of all backgrounds to create stunning visual masterpieces. Headquartered in France, Allegorithmic has offices worldwide, including downtown Akron.

### OHM Advisors

388 S. Main St., Ste. 301 | 330-657-21455

**OHM Advisors** is the community advancement firm. Founded in 1962, they deliver award winning work across the architecture, engineering, and planning spheres. With more than 400 multidisciplinary employees in 13 offices throughout Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee - now including downtown Akron - this team partners with leaders at all levels of government, developers, school districts, universities, and private companies to create great places.



Allegorithmic Inc. (1 Cascade)

# MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

## Downtown Akron companies are Making it Happen

Downtown Akron Partnership, through a partnership with JLL, launched the **Making it Happen** campaign in February to promote key properties available in downtown Akron for businesses to consider when searching for an office location.

### Metisentry is Making it Happen in downtown Akron



Through a six month campaign in the Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com, several downtown companies are being spotlighted about their business and culture, accompanied by information on office trends, workplace strategies, market statistics and more. These features can be found on the first Sunday of the month through July.

A care package was also developed that contains a retro-style View Master with reels highlighting downtown Akron properties and amenities showing prospective businesses the current view of downtown Akron. Accompanying the View Master is a USB drive with additional business information.

Additional support for the Making it Happen campaign is provided by Roetzel, McKinley Management and The Schipper Group.



To learn more about how your business can Make it Happen in downtown, contact Christine Vadala, DAP's director of business development at 330-374-7676 or cvadala@downtownakron.com.

Visit [www.downtownakron.com/makingithappen](http://www.downtownakron.com/makingithappen) to read the current business profiles.

The campaign kicked off with an overview of downtown and featured businesses include **Quanex Building Products**, **Metisentry** and **Apteryx Inc.**

## DAP Ambassador stats Jan.-March 2018

## CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING



**4,966**  
TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

**19**  
GRAFFITI REMOVED

**398**  
BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

**237**  
SAFETY ESCORTS




**225**  
MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

**2,301**  
PARKING ASSISTANCE

**1,145**  
BUS STOPS CLEANED

**2,500**  
HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

# BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

## PRITT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP TAKES HOME EIGHT ADDYS AT THE 2018 AKRON-CANTON ADDY AWARDS

**Pritt Entertainment Group (PEG)** took home eight ADDY Awards from the American Advertising Federation, including four Gold ADDYs and a Judge's Choice, at the 2018 Akron-Canton ADDYs, held Feb. 23, at the Akron Civic Theatre.

PEG received the Judge's Choice award for their work on the Why Not Akron? video produced in partnership with the city of Akron for Mayor Dan Horrigan's 2017 State of the City address.

## AKRON'S REVITALIZATION FUND GETS NOTICED

The Council of Development Finance Agencies has awarded a 2017 CDFA Excellence in Development Finance Award to the **Development Finance Authority** of Summit County and Development Fund of the Western Reserve for their work in creating the Akron Community Revitalization Loan Fund. The revolving loan fund, which was fully capitalized in July, provides financing for business development projects in distressed and urban areas of Akron, those places with a poverty rate of at least 30% and an unemployment rate of at least 10%.

## HOWARD PARR RECEIVES 2018 GOVERNOR'S AWARD

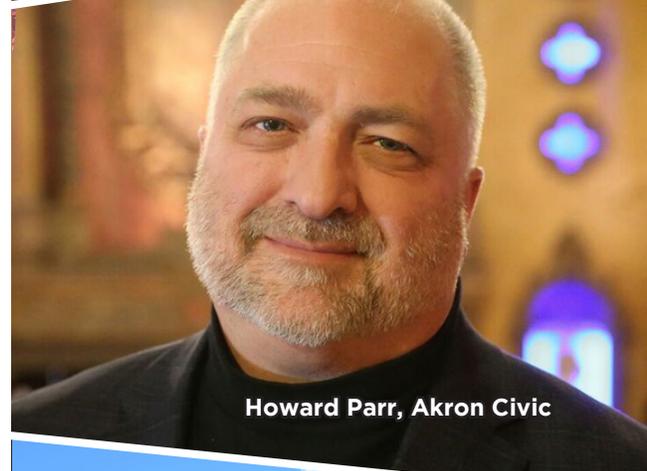
Howard Parr, executive director of the **Akron Civic Theatre** was one of nine recipients of the 2018 Governor's Award for the Arts through the Ohio Arts Council and Ohio Citizens for the Arts Foundation. Since its beginning in 1971, the Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio has recognized individuals and organizations who have been vital to the growth and development of Ohio's cultural resources

## AKRON ZOO SETS MULTIPLE ATTENDANCE RECORDS FOR 2017

The **Akron Zoo** set a new annual attendance record in 2017, with 416,942 guests visiting throughout the year. The previous record, set in 2016, was 398,878 visitors. A new single-day attendance record was established on Saturday, Oct. 21 with 8,196 guests, surpassing the record of 7,550 from Oct. 23, 2016. Wild Lights at the Akron Zoo set a new record with 26,151 guests visiting over the 20-night event. Boo at the Zoo 2017 saw the second-highest attendance with 27,773 guests over six days. The highest attended year was 2016 with 29,938.

## AKRON ART MUSEUM TO RECEIVE GRANT FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR UPCOMING EXHIBITION OPEN WORLD: VIDEO GAMES & CONTEMPORARY ARTS

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$30,000 to the **Akron Art Museum** for the upcoming exhibition *Open World: Video Games & Contemporary Art*. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.



PEG

Howard Parr, Akron Civic

Akron Zoo

Akron Art Museum

# BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

**DOWNTOWN IS ONE OF THE SAFEST NEIGHBORHOODS IN AKRON. HELP US KEEP IT THAT WAY.**

## OFFICE SECURITY TIPS DO YOUR PART...

- Use your security/alarm systems. Don't buzz individuals into your building without knowing who they are or what they want.
- Question individuals walking through your office by asking if they need assistance.
- Never leave your reception area unattended or entrance doors propped open.
- Always keep valuables out of sight.
- Keep current inventory records of equipment with their serial numbers.
- Lock your office if you step away from your desk, even for a few minutes.

## BE PREPARED...

- Many crimes are ones of opportunity. Always be alert and aware of things around you.
- Be aware of locations/situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.
- Get to know your business neighbors.

## REPORT CRIME AND SUSPECTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY PROMPTLY BY CALLING 911

### QUARTERLY DISTRICT MTGS

Quarterly meetings for downtown stakeholders are held the second Thursday of the month. RSVP at [www.downtownakron.com/district](http://www.downtownakron.com/district)

#### Canal District:

May 10, Aug. 9, Nov. 8  
2-3 p.m. | Barley House

#### Northside:

June 14, Sept. 13, Dec. 13  
1-2 p.m. | Jilly's Music Room

#### Historic Arts:

July 12, Oct. 11  
10-11 a.m. | Main Library

## AKRON/SUMMIT CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF PARTNERSHIPS IN MOTION: 2018 DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM



The Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau announced the recipients of its Partnerships In Motion: 2018 Destination Development Grant Program; a total of \$49,805 was awarded to twenty-two Summit County organizations, businesses and events.

Downtown Akron recipients include: Akron Art Museum, Akron Zoo, ArtsNow, Downtown Akron Partnership, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, Ohio Shakespeare Festival and Zeber-Martell Gallery & Clay Studio.

## AKRON ZOO CEO RECOGNIZED - 'ACHIEVEMENTS IN EXCELLENCE'



Akron Zoo President & CEO Doug Piekarz was recognized at the Akron/Canton National Sales & Marketing Executive (NSME) 46th Annual Accent of Excellence Awards Ceremony on Feb. 27.

Having demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism during his career with a focus on growing the Akron Zoo's attendance and marketing efforts, Piekarz was selected by the NSME Akron/Canton leaders to receive an Achievements in Excellence award based on criteria which includes community and civic involvement, professional experience and demonstrated performance.

## CHECK OUT ORIGINAL WORKS OF ART JUST LIKE BOOKS AT THE AKRON ART LIBRARY



The **Akron Art Museum** launched the Akron Art Library on Feb. 22. This new collaboration with the **Akron-Summit County Public Library** will allow anyone with a library card check out original artworks to display in their home.

The art library was funded in part by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of its Knight Arts Challenge along with support from GAR Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and the Lehner Family Foundation. *Photo by John Aylward*

## AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NAMES NEW DIRECTOR



Pamela Hickson-Stevenson has been named director of the **Akron-Summit County Public Library**, effective April 2. She formerly was the deputy director for 12 years, and succeeds David Jennings, who retired in February 2018. Hickson-Stevenson is the first female director since 1927.

Before she began at the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Hickson-Stevenson served as director of the Portage County, Wadsworth and Wayne County public libraries and as assistant director of the Elyria Public Library.

# CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

## Mayor Horrigan announces partnership with Copenhagenize Design Co. to plan a connected bicycle grid for Akron

Mayor Dan Horrigan announced \$127,000 in funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to support the development of a consistent and connected bicycle grid across the city of Akron. The city will engage Copenhagenize Design Co., a consulting firm that helps cities integrate simplicity, logic and human nature into transportation networks.



Akron has been incrementally building its bicycling infrastructure over the past 20 years. The city currently has 25 miles of bike lanes and an additional 16 miles are in the planning or construction phases. Akron is also home to a variety of dedicated walking/biking paths, most notably the Towpath Trail, which is being joined by the Freedom Trail and the Rubber City Heritage Trail, which is in the planning

stage. The city has tested bike lanes through Better Block events, and is planning more bicycling engagement events later this year.

Read the full release on the city's website: <http://ow.ly/lqT830jzyjg>

## Main Street closure in front of Lock 3



South Main Street between Church St. and University Ave. is closed through May 25 for continued work on the OCIT Rack 37 Diversion Structure Relocation in front of Lock 3.

During this closure, southbound traffic will be detoured using W. Bowery St., S. High St. and University Ave. Northbound traffic will be detoured using University Ave., Broadway, and W. Bowery St.

Church Street will be closed at S. Main St., but access will be maintained from S. High St. to Summit County Parking Deck and to Maiden Lane.

On street parking for S. Main St. will be maintained during this project and access to this area will be from the south end at University Ave.

**During construction The Lockview, Peanut Shoppe of Akron, El Gato Taqueria and Baxters Bar will be open normal operating hours.**

## FEATURED PROPERTY

**Chemstress Courtyard Building**  
39 S. Main St. | 330-535-5591-0757

Located in the Historic Arts District, the building has 2,000 to 6,500 sq ft of storefront space available with direct access to a parking deck. Prominent visibility on S. Main St. and the exterior Main St. level was fully renovated. It has a consumer draw of over 14,000 potential daily customers within walking distance. Many fine arts and entertainment venues are nearby, such as the Akron Art Museum, Akron Civic Theatre, Akron-Summit County Public Library, JSK Center and Canal Park Stadium.



## FEATURED BUSINESS

**Woods Associates**  
388 S. Main St. | 330-836-6388  
[www.woodsassoc.com](http://www.woodsassoc.com)

Woods Associates provides financial planning, investment analysis, and estate and retirement planning. They help clients work towards building and preserving their assets while helping them work towards their financial goals. They have predominately served in the senior market and focuses on money in transition via business sales, retirement, settlements and inheritances.



# PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



## AWR! Kicks Off the 2018 Trolley Tour Season

The Akron Waterways Renewed! program (AWR!) is kicking off the **2018 AWR! Construction Site Trolley Tour** season today and tours will continue through the remainder of the year. Last year more than 1,800 people participated in trolley tours of active and complete AWR! construction sites.

The tours start at the Mustill Store (57 W. North St., Akron, Ohio 44304), where attendees learn all about its significance and the history of the canal, as well as the ongoing Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel (OCIT) work. Immediately following a short video about OCIT and a question and answer period, participants board a trolley, and visit a variety of storage basins and green infrastructure sites.

Residents or groups interested in signing up for a tour can do so at [www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com/community/awr-construction-site-trolley-tours.aspx](http://www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com/community/awr-construction-site-trolley-tours.aspx). The public is encouraged to browse the [www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com](http://www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com) site for project and community information, pictures, and updates.

Opportunities for tours are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each tour is primarily by trolley, with an opportunity to get out of the trolley at various project sites that are not in the area of active construction, weather and time permitting.

For questions, to arrange a tour for a large group, or to request accommodations for any special needs, please contact Heather Bolestridge, AWR! Communications Manager, at (330) 375-2501 or by email at [hbolestridge@gstephensinc.com](mailto:hbolestridge@gstephensinc.com).

## \$8.5 million project at PNC Building is a first for Summit County

*By Doug Livingston, reprinted with permission from Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com*

Sometime this spring, a gaping hole will appear in the top floor of the PNC Building where a row of windows now looks 300 feet down on Cascade Plaza.

From the corner of Main and Bowery streets, a crane 10 feet taller than the building — the second tallest in Akron — will swing over and grab a 25,000-pound hunk of machinery. It hasn't moved since the skyscraper went up in 1968. But it'll go all the way down to the ground.

First to be removed will be the old chiller. By summertime, it'll be replaced with a more efficient unit that could ease the building's dependence on natural gas. After that, workers will do the same for two equally enormous boilers, also relics from 1968. The pair of cylinders, a puzzle of curved and flat steel plates bolted and welded together, stretch out 24 feet and stand 10 feet high. After they're removed, five leaner and greener units, each small enough to send up the maintenance elevator, will kick on before next winter.

Read the full story at: [www.ohio.com/akron/news/local/8-5-million-project-at-pnc-building-is-a-first-for-summit-county](http://www.ohio.com/akron/news/local/8-5-million-project-at-pnc-building-is-a-first-for-summit-county)

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN

## BLU PLATE NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

**LUNCH:** Tues-Fri 11 a.m.-4 p.m. | **HAPPY HOUR:** Tues-Fri 4-7 p.m.

**DINNER:** Tues-Sat 5-11 p.m.

45 E. Market St. | [www.bluplateakron.com](http://www.bluplateakron.com)



**BLU Plate** pays homage to the food, music & culture of places like New Orleans, St. Louis and Memphis, Nashville & more - with an Akron twist. Popular southern dishes like shrimp & grits, muffaletta, po' boys, hush puppies, blackened chicken, BBQ, crawfish, andouille gumbo & more are

on the menu, along with beer, wine and cocktails.

## HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS IN CONCERT

**Saturday, April 21 & 22 | 1 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.**

UA's EJ Thomas Hall | [www.uakron.edu/ej](http://www.uakron.edu/ej)



The Harry Potter Film Concert Series returns to EJ Thomas Hall with **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets in Concert**, the second film in the Harry Potter series. The Akron Symphony Orchestra will perform John Williams' unforgettable score live from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,

while the film plays in high-definition on a 40-foot screen.

## 17TH ANNUAL ZENITH AWARDS

**Wednesday, May 2 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.**

John S. Knight Center | [www.johnsknightcenter.org](http://www.johnsknightcenter.org)

The annual **Zenith Awards** luncheon will celebrate the hard work and dedication of those working in Summit County's hospitality industry. Winners will be announced for the Susan L. Hamo Hospitality Person of the Year Award, Hospitality Industry-Only Awards, You Tell the Tourist Awards and Chairman's Award.

## BALLET THEATRE OF OHIO PRESENTS THE LITTLE MERMAID

**Saturday, May 5, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. | Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m.**

Akron Civic Theatre | [www.akroncivic.com](http://www.akroncivic.com)



Follow the **Little Mermaid** on a quest to find her true love on land. This production promises audiences the gorgeous costumes and sets, spectacular dancing, and engaging choreography they've come to expect from BTO ballets.

## ARTYPARTY AKRON

**Wednesday, May 9 | 6-9 p.m.**

Summit Artspace | [www.summitcasagal.org](http://www.summitcasagal.org)



Join CASA/GAL for **#ArtyPartyAkron** for an evening of spirited bidding on works of art. Enjoy live art performances and great local food and drink. Art is created by local students ranging from preschoolers to college students. Funds will directly help abused and neglected children in our community.

## 3RD THURSDAY

**Every Thursday of the month | May 17, June 21, July 19**

**5-9 p.m. | [www.downtownakron.com/3rdthursday](http://www.downtownakron.com/3rdthursday)**



**3rd Thursday** is a monthly event highlighting the arts, culture and entertainment offerings in downtown Akron. Take the free trolley to more than 30 destinations from the Northside District to Main/Exchange Streets for art, music, shopping and dining each month through Dec.

## CANVAS AND WINE ON THE RAILS

**Friday, June 8 | 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

CVSR Northside Station | [www.cvsr.com](http://www.cvsr.com)



Climb aboard and enjoy an evening of fun, creativity and a little wine. On board, you will receive step-by-step instruction from a talented artist while you sip wine and ride the rails through the National Park after dark.

Passengers must be 21 or over.

## ALL-CITY MUSICAL: JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

**Fri. June 15, 7:30 p.m. | Sat., June 16, 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.**

Akron Civic Theatre | [www.akroncivic.com](http://www.akroncivic.com)



The first musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice to be produced for the professional stage, **Jesus Christ Superstar** has wowed audiences for over 40 years. A timeless work, the rock opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universally-known series of events but seen, unusually, through the eyes of Judas Iscariot.



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HOT  
ICED

**CHAMELEON CAFE**  
Phone: 330-331-3883  
103 S. High St., 4th floor, Akron, OH 44308  
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*Chameleon Cafe photo by Tim Fitzwater*