



DOWNTOWN ALBANY

October 2024

2024 Excellence in Downtown Albany Awards Announced

On September 30, over 90 volunteers, members, building and business owners and community partners gathered for the Albany Downtown Association's 2024 Excellence in Downtown Albany Awards.

Taylor Roosa and Jena Metting, event co-chairs, invited attendees "to celebrate what makes Downtown Albany unique – from our rich history and beautiful architecture to our thriving arts scene, dining establishments, shopping opportunities and the ever-growing entertainment venues."

Lise Grato, ADA's Executive Director, welcomed city partners including Mayor Alex Johnson II, City Councilors and City Directors. Thanking those present and the rest of the City team "for their invaluable support in projects and funding."

She also extended ADA's "heartfelt appreciation" to attending community partners - the

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2024 Excellence in Downtown Albany Awards Winners: Open Door Award: Albany Pride, Keith Kolkow. Volunteer of the Year: Beth Walker. Outstanding Promotional Event: Antiques in the Streets & Classic Car Show, Sharon Anderson. Historic Preservation Award: The Opera House, Jeremy Lepman. New Business of the Year: Camille's Bistro, Camille Romania. Business of the Year: Merrime Bridal, Jena Metting & Rose Heth. Creative Placemaking: Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Mural Project, Stacie Wyss-Schoenborn & Jennifer Stanaway. Leadership on Main, Taylor Roosa. (See other winners in individual photos.)

Downtown Albany Offers Lots of Halloween Fun This October

It's nearly time for some fun and spooky Halloween activities in Downtown Albany.

Downtown Halloween Poster Hunt

From October 18-31, families are invited to stroll Downtown to find the Halloween Posters and a chance to win a prize. Info & entry form at albanydowntown.com/events, or call (541) 928-2469.



Halloween 1st Friday at the Carousel

On Friday, October 4, get your costume ready for some scarily good fun for the whole family! For just \$5 per person, you get unlimited carousel rides and a fun activity or craft for the family, thanks to Party Perfection Oregon, along with gift shop and Carousel Café specials. The event is 5:30-8 pm. For more info, visit albanycarousel.org.

Downtown Trick or Treat

Celebrate Halloween in Downtown Albany with this FREE family-friendly event on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 11 am-1 pm. The costume contest is for the whole family. Stop by the photo booth at the 1st Avenue Parklet near Ferry Street. Visit ADA's Facebook page to vote on your favorites. For more info, visit albanydowntown.com, or call (541) 928-2469.

Trunk or Treat at UPC

Take the kids out for a good time trunk-or-

treating at United Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 am-1 pm. Admission is free. 350 5th Ave. SW. For info visit, www.upcalbany.org or call (541) 926-5551

City Hall-o-ween

On Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 3-5 pm, join Albany Parks and Recreation for a free family-friendly Trick-or-Treat extravaganza at City Hall! Dress up in your most creative costumes and come collect fun and spooky treats. It's going to be a fang-tastic time filled with laughter, joy, and lots of candy! Bring your friends and family, and let's make this Halloween a hauntingly good time! Registration required. Visit AlbanyOregon.gov.

Monteith House Events

Ghost Walking Tours, Trolley of Terror and VIP Experience Ghost Hunts are all sold out. For information on other upcoming events, visit monteithhouse.org or call (541) 220-0421.

ADA Honors Individuals, Businesses and Projects

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Albany Visitors Association, LEDG and the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to our members, from building and business owners to our Friends of Downtown Albany," said Lise. "Your support of the Albany Downtown Association is crucial for reaching our Oregon Main Street and National Main Street goals, aimed at revitalizing Downtown Albany." She also gave a big thank-you to ADA's 2024-25 Board.

This summer, ADA asked for the public's help in making nominations, the nominees were then evaluated and winners selected by our awards committee. Winners had to meet geographic calendar and other award-specific rules.

Creative Placemaking

Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Mural

Placemaking is about using a community's assets and potential to create public spaces that promote health, happiness and well-being. This award recognizes those who have made meaningful and attractive improvements to public areas in Downtown Albany.

The mural has brought a sense of place and pride to Downtown Albany. Representing history and industry, this eye-catching focal piece draws attention from both locals and visitors alike.

Additional Nominees:

- 1st Street Parklet restoration - Windermere
- Sole to Soul Yoga's community classes

Outstanding Promotional Event

Antiques in the Streets & Classic Car Show

This category recognizes creative and effective image campaigns, special events, or other promotional projects that attracted people to Downtown Albany between July 2023 and June 2024.

Congratulations to Sharon and Scott Anderson and everyone who helped make this event a success! It not only brought our community together but also showcased the best of Downtown Albany. Thank you for putting Albany on the map each year drawing visitors and participants from around Oregon.

Additional Nominees

- Albany Pride
- Albany Wine Walk
- Albany Tweed Ride
- Carnival at the Carousel
- Christmas in July
- Downtown Trick or Treat
- Downtown Twice Around Parade and Community Tree Lighting
- Linn County Veterans Day Parade

Good Neighbor Award

Stay Awhile Vintage Mercantile

This award is not just about business; it's about the heart and soul of Downtown Albany. This very special accolade honors businesses that not only provide exceptional service but also go above and beyond to nurture and enhance the sense of community here in our Downtown.

Anne Shelley and her business partner



Good Neighbor Award

and son, Roma, quickly incorporated themselves into the Downtown community. Operating six days a week, they make sure to be open for those visiting the Carousel and neighboring shops. They enthusiastically share information on local restaurants and other shopping opportunities.

The other top finalists were:

- La Belle Boutique
- Camille's Bistro
- Urban Ag Supply

Open Door Award

Albany Pride

Nominees for the Open Door Award represent models of inclusive practices that build community through the creation of safe identity or affinity spaces. Projects, programs or events in this category increase community inclusivity.

Albany Pride held its 7th annual Pride event on June 22. This celebration of love, diversity and inclusion was held in Downtown Albany in front of the Linn County Courthouse. The event consisted of a day full of joy, solidarity and vibrant festivities for all members of the community. The 2024 theme was "Unity in Diversity."

Additional Eligible Nominees:

- Albany Visitors Association
- Embrace Kindness BodyWork
- The Historic Carousel & Museum
- Ophelia's Place
- The Pix Theatre
- Urban Ag Supply

Building Renovation of the Year

Greyhound Tavern Building

The Building Renovation of the Year award celebrates those building owners or projects that have truly elevated Downtown Albany by making significant exterior or interior



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Barbara Doolan - Member At Large
Jena Metting - Merrime Bridal
Beth Walker - La Belle Boutique

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Sophie Adams - CARA / Economic Dev.
Rebecca Bond - Albany Visitors Assoc.
John Pascone - LEDG
Marilyn Smith - Albany City Council
Janet Steele - Albany Area Chamber of Commerce



2024 Standout Volunteer Beth Walker

The Albany Downtown Association depends on our volunteers, in 2023-24 we had dozens of public events and countless internal activities made possible by our volunteers. From the ongoing guidance of our Board of Directors and dedication of our committees to the dozens of volunteers who give hours for the parade, member events, hanging baskets, tree lights and more, we accomplished our goals and gained positive feedback from our communities and peers. With so many volunteers, it was hard to pick just one to honor.

Beth Walker went above and beyond in 2023-2024! She volunteered at events throughout the year, recruited volunteers, participated in the Adopt-a-Block program and served on not one but two committees, co-chairing one of them. She supported other business owners, spreading the word on events, securing sponsors, championing and also creating Downtown events!



Parking Update

Each month, ParkWise awards a month of free parking to a leased space or permit holder.

Our October parking winner is...

Dylann Gerding

Downtown Resident

Downtown Events - October

Saturdays through November - Albany Farmers' Market

Each week, head to the Albany Farmers' Market for fresh local produce, meats, baked goods, seafood, plants, flowers and more. Hours: 9 am-1 pm in the Albany City Hall parking lot (corner of 4th & Ellsworth). www.locallygrown.com

Through Oct 12 - ACT presents Evil Dead The Musical

Evil Dead The Musical takes all the elements of the cult classic films The Evil Dead and Evil Dead 2 and combines them for one of the craziest, funniest and bloodiest theatrical experiences of all time. Remaining performances are Oct. 4, 5, 6(m), 10, 11 and 12. Evening performances start at 7:30 pm. Matinees at 2:30 pm. The Albany Civic Theater box office opens 45 min. before curtain. Info and tickets at www.albanycivic.org.

Friday, Oct 4 - 1st Friday in Historic Downtown Albany: Fall Kick-Off

Bring your friends Downtown for some 1st Friday fun! Look for sales, tasting, music, artist receptions and other fun. For more info, visit www.albanydowntown.com/events.

Friday, Oct 4 - Gallery Calapooia Artist Reception

Gallery Calapooia featured artists this month are Susan Bourdet and Rachael Oehler. The artist reception is 6-8 pm. The show will be displayed from Oct 1-26. For more info, call (541) 971-5701 or visit www.gallerycalapooia.com.

Friday, Oct 4 - First Friday Art Show at City Hall

The Albany Arts Commission is proud to present the art of Cliff Baker & Rob Robinson. The artists' reception is 5-6:30 pm at City Hall. View a variety of their works and enjoy light refreshments provided by the commission. Free and open to the public. The show will continue through October during the regular City Hall hours, 8 am-5 pm.

Saturday, Oct 5 - Soroptimist Walk for the Cause

The 29th Walk Celebration will start off with a 9 am program at the steps of the Linn County Courthouse, followed by the 5K at 9:15 am. Vendor booths will fill the streets in front of City Hall before, during and after the Walk. On-site registration will begin at 8 am. For more information on the Walk, visit sialbany.org/walk.

Wednesday, Oct 9 - History Bites: National Curious Events Day

October 9th is National Curious Events Day. Albany Regional Museum presenter Bill Maddy will help celebrate this special day by sharing a few of his favorite curious, weird, unusual and humorous Albany history stories. History Bites is free to attend. 12-1 pm. Light refreshments provided. www.armuseum.com.

Saturday, Oct 12 - 3rd Annual Dogtoberfest

Deluxe Brewing will host a celebration of all things dogs - raffle prizes, a dog costume contest, themed food and drinks, a doggie pie-eating contest hosted by Dog Mountain Bakery, adoptable dogs, a donation drive for SafeHaven Humane Society and more! All well-behaved, people- and dog-friendly dogs are welcome. Dogs must be fully vaccinated, registered and on leash at all times (no retractable leashes, please). Admission is free. Minors are welcome. 1-5 pm. 635 Water Ave. NE. For more info, visit sinisterdeluxe.com.

Sunday, Oct 13 - Downtown Clean Up

It's time to tame the fall leaves. Grab your gloves and meet the ADA's Design Committee at the ADA office at 9 am to receive assignments. We'll be finished by noon and enjoy some treats. To volunteer, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/DowntownVolunteer> or call (541) 928-2469.

Friday-Thursday, Oct 18-31 - Downtown Halloween Poster Hunt

Families are invited to stroll Downtown to find the Halloween Posters and a chance to win a prize. Info & entry form at albanydowntown.com/events, or call (541) 928-2469.

Saturday, Oct 26 - Downtown Trick or Treat and Costume Contest

Traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating at business throughout Downtown Albany and costume contest photo booth. 11 am-1 pm. The fun extends to the United Presbyterian Church Trunk or Treat. For info, visit albanydowntown.com. See story on page 1.

Sunday, Oct 27 - Black History Walking Tour of Albany

Join Oregon Black Pioneers and KinCultivate for a guided walking tour of Albany's Black historic sites. Learn more about the historic places and seldom-told stories of Albany's Black history. This tour, the first of its kind in Albany, will highlight early Black pioneers, Black-owned businesses, and significant moments of community change. Led by Oregon Black Pioneers' Mariah Rocker, the two-hour, 2-mile walking tour will take guests through historic locations such as the home of Amanda Gardiner Johnson and Benjamin Johnson, Hale's Shoeshine Shop, and other significant sites connected to Albany's Black history. Tickets \$17, purchase online. For info, visit oregonblackpioneers.org, kincultivate.org.

Tuesday, Oct 29 - City Hall-o-ween

Join Albany Parks & Recreation for fang-tastic fun from 3-5 pm. See story on page 1.

For info on these and other events, visit AlbanyDowntown.com

Awards Show Welcoming Nature of Downtown Albany

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improvements to a non-historic structure. These renovations don't just beautify – they breathe new life into our downtown and strengthen its economic vitality.

Congratulations to building owners Kody & Michelle Roth and Tyler Porter! They took a derelict building and completely reimagined it, using its original purpose as the inspiration for the new design.

The formerly blighted area is now welcoming. In addition to the Greyhound Tavern venue, they added a sweet tenant, Sugar J's Ice Cream Workshop.

The building improvements were a \$400,000 investment in our Downtown district, funded in part by a 2023 Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant. The building has added 29 Downtown jobs plus opportunities for musicians, dance instructors and food suppliers.

Historic Preservation Award

The Opera House

This award recognizes the unique challenges faced by projects involving designated historic properties. These renovations must follow strict guidelines set by the City's Landmarks Commission, State Historic Preservation Office and national standards. The process is often lengthy, costly and filled with obstacles. However, Downtown Albany's strong sense of community and commitment to preserving its history continues to drive these efforts forward.

Congratulations to Scott Lepman and his amazing team at Glorietta Bay LLC. This beautifully restored building, originally built in 1905 as Albany's first Opera House, now retains its historic charm on the exterior while featuring modern, well-equipped apartments inside.

This project supported dozens of local construction jobs and is helping to bring more people to our area, revitalizing Downtown in the process. The building adds two short-term rental units and 16 apartments with over 20+ occupants who eat, shop and play Downtown!

Additional Nominees:

- 1st Hand Seconds Unique Boutique
- Monteith Square
- Woods Apartments

Leadership on Main

Taylor Roosa

Oregon Main Street says Leadership is at the heart of community building. This award recognizes an individual who has shown extraordinary dedication to their local Downtown over a significant period of time. Nominees for Leadership on Main may be committee volunteers, board members or other community leaders involved in the Main Street program.

A lot was accomplished over the past year. Taylor has consistently shown remarkable leadership and enduring commitment and expertise, contributing significantly to the well-being and growth of the Downtown Albany community. She is a member of the Albany Downtown Association Board of Directors and was an active part of this year's strategic planning process.

When the position became open, Taylor stepped up to co-chair the Economic Vitality Committee and led the group to accomplish all their 2023-24 strategic plan goals as well as host the most successful education and mixer events to date. She also chaired the committee for the awards selection process and the wonderful recognition event.

Additional Nominees:

- Beloved Cheesecakes
- Greyhound Tavern



New Business of the Year

Camille's Bistro

This award celebrates the vibrant spirit of entrepreneurship that characterizes Downtown Albany. The "New Business of the Year" award is given to a business that has made significant strides in our community and opened its doors in the two-year period between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2024.

Congratulations to Camille Romania and team! They enriched our downtown community by opening their doors and sharing their heart with all who enter by delivering exceptional service and delicious cuisine. Starting out as breakfast and lunch with French flair, Camille's now offers dinner Friday-Sunday. They also hold private events and cater. In short, Camille's has become a new staple in the food scene Downtown!

Additional Nominees:

- JoNuts
- Stay Awhile Vintage Mercantile
- Wine Crush

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- Stay Awhile Vintage Mercantile
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Business of the Year

Merrime Bridal

The Business of the Year award is designed to recognize the innovation, dedication and entrepreneurial spirit displayed by our entrepreneurs and small businesses. Eligible nominees are businesses that increase their volume of business, expand operations or demonstrate a strong commitment to Downtown revitalization.

Here are a few highlights from the nominations:

- This business is supportive of Downtown and always involved in Downtown events.
- This business owner volunteers on multiple ADA committees, giving her time to help other businesses thrive like hers.
- This business also provides a unique, valuable and high-quality retail option for our city, helping us meet our goal of diverse offerings for locals and visitors.
- As a business owner, there are times where I look to her for guidance. She is always trying to better her business, better our downtown, and is such a positive businesswoman. I see her constantly trying to educate herself and others so that we can become a great downtown together.

Additional nominees:

- Varitone Architecture
- Margin Coffee Roaster

In conclusion, attendees were asked to "carry the inspiration from tonight's awards with us as we work together to elevate and celebrate everything that makes Albany truly unique."

As volunteers departed, they were met with a table full of Thank You candy jars from Sugarheroes Candy Bar filled with sweet mixes as diverse and individual as our volunteers.

We wish thank our amazing Downtown partners Loafers Station for the tasty food and Natural Sprinkles for the delightful desserts. A giant shout out to Jim Hoffman at Wine Crush for donating all of the wine and Mitzi Dykast for creating and donating the beautiful flower arrangements.

Congratulations once again to all of this year's award recipients! Your hard work and achievements truly reflect the spirit of excellence that makes Downtown Albany so special.

[Visit our website and Facebook page for more event photos.](#)