

Downtown Development Authority

Term Expiration

Meetings: As Needed

Term: 4 Years

Mayor Donald D. Lyons

Alan Fricke

Richard Judd, Jr.

Charlie Maher

January 2015

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The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was created in 1986 by the City of Dowagiac to address what was then a deteriorating downtown. Since its creation, through public and private partnerships, the community has invested more than \$15-million in the revitalization of its Central Business District. Multiple streetscape improvement projects created a pedestrian-friendly shopping district and a perfect setting for this community's niche of specialty shops, fine and casual dining, and seasonal events and festivals. The DDA's Facade Incentive & Architectural Design Services Program, coupled with the City's Rental Rehabilitation Program for the development of upstairs apartments, has created a positive environment for property owners and investors. The DDA maintains a database of available storefronts, as it actively assists building owners market their properties for lease or rent. It also markets the Central Business District, businesses located therein, and the community's events and festivals to day-visitors and residents. A growing database of day-visitors is maintained, who receive promotional mailings on a seasonal basis.