**Mayor, city receive Legacy Award**

By Joseph Slacian

Mayor Scott Long and the City of Wabash were named the recipients of Wabash Marketplace’s Downtown Legacy Award. Long accepted the honor during the Jan. 25 Wabash City Council meeting. It was presented by Steve Downs, for whom the award was created last year. It is designed to honor Downs for his contributions to WMI and the downtown area upon Downs’ retirement from the organization.



The presentation culminated an update that WMI Executive Director Andrea Zwiebel gave the City Council on the organization’s highlights in 2020.

Among the highlights she noted to the Council were:

Wabash Marketplace offered a Business Interruption Loan before the end of the March as the first response for cash flow.

The organization offered $2,500 in Stimulus Bucks to boost downtown businesses and the community.

Four new businesses opened their doors in downtown and joined our membership: C&J Raxx, Bluebird, Hunter Estate and Elder Law, White Rock Recreation.

The organization received the designation of Spotlight Community for Indiana Arts Commission. One of 4 in the state along with Fort Wayne, Goshen and Kokomo!

WMI officials worked with radio station 105.9 FM to create the "This Week in Wabash" video series.

The organization published a trail guide as a driving tour of public art, and it also created a new downtown map.

Launched the "Small Business, Big Heart" Campaign to highlight 12 businesses in downtown.

The year, Zwiebel noted, began like a normal year with Fire Spinners performing in downtown Wabash in February, as well as the Eagles Theatre grand re-opening.

“Then the world changed with COVID-19,” she continued. “Downtown Wabash had to adapt in many ways. Amidst the storm, there was so much good.”

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