

notes from steve cramer | june 28, 2019

Summer has now officially arrived, and things are heating up downtown as well. June was a typically busy month!

another successful pianos on parade

It's a special treat at the start of summer to walk around mpls downtown and encounter **Pianos on Parade** being played with great joy and enthusiasm, and often with talent as well! This partnership with Keys 4/4 Kids is an engaging way to liven up the street scene as well as highlight the importance of visual and performance arts as part of the downtown environment. We had great impromptu performances from the public as well as fun scheduled performances like Keri Noble at IDS Center on June 6.

go skateboarding day/Pat Proft appearance at The Naked Gun showing/#OnNicollet events

Other events and activities are also in full swing. The Makers and Farmer's Markets are out all summer, along with "Street Show" performances at the Theater in the Round through a DID/MN Fringe Partnership, and all the other activities you can find by visiting www.onnicollet.com/events. Occasional events like this month's **Go Skateboarding Day celebration** on Nicollet also add excitement and something different from time to time. It was also fun to kick off **the Mpls Comedy Festival** in downtown with a screening of [The Naked Gun at Target Field Station featuring comments by Pat Proft](#), the screenwriter who has local roots.

Aquatennial returns july 24-27

We are very excited about this year's **Aquatennial**, starting with the [CenterPoint Torchlight Parade](#) on 2nd Avenue the evening of Wednesday, July 24, and culminating with the spectacular [Target Fireworks](#) over the Mississippi on Saturday, July 27. In between are more than two dozen varied and fun events to enjoy.

For a schedule of activities please visit www.aquatennial.com/events.

RBC Gateway breaks ground

The **RBC Gateway project** [officially broke ground](#), marking a 28-year odyssey from demolition of the old Nicollet Hotel to this fabulous new project that will be home to the five-star Four Seasons Hotel, RBC Wealth Management, consolidated offices for the Pohlads companies and others, and a few dozen condominiums. Thanks and congratulations to the Pohlads and their development team at United Properties for making this high impact development a reality!

hennepin and 8th street projects

Major **street projects** continue to progress. Just a reminder that you can find out more detail and sign up for regular updates at www.hennepindowntown.com for the Hennepin project, and www.8thstreetproject.com for 8th Street. Our 2025 *Plan* Transportation Committee keeps track through period updates provided by Public Works staff as well.

june member events

Member events focused on highly relevant topics for our times, with an emphasis on strategies to lead through disruptive change, and announcement of the next iteration of our partnership with the downtown YMCA around building a more inclusive downtown. For more details on the later topic look for a separate e-mail coming soon.

public safety officials lunch

Finally, one of the most important meetings this month was the annual lunch with **public safety officials** sponsored by downtown business organizations. There was a great turnout out of law enforcement agency leaders, public sector attorneys, the district court and other officials. The discussion ranged over a number of topics, coming back to the bottom line conclusion that safety is a bedrock expectation of any community, including downtown. We have been more challenged so far this year by safety concerns compared to the past two – which the assembled group discussed openly – so those in attendance left with a renewed sense of purpose around making our downtown as safe as possible! Enjoy the warmer weather ahead, and I'll look forward to seeing you out in our extraordinary downtown.



81 south 9th st
suite 260
mpls, mn 55402

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Cramer'.

steve cramer
president & ceo, mpls downtown council and Mpls Downtown
Improvement District