

Downtown Revitalization & Economic Development Strategy Albany, New York

Downtown Albany today is an economically healthy mix of New York State government offices, financial and educational institutions, urban-lifestyle residential properties, and an ever growing array of restaurants, cafes, sports and entertainment venue. It was not always so. Indeed, the mid 1990's found downtown Albany a virtual ghost-town after 5:00 p.m., and there was little interest in either staying downtown, or coming to the downtown.

Strategy 5 Principal Ernest Bleinberger led the work on a successful Arts & Entertainment Economic Development Strategy for the Downtown Albany BID in 1998 and 1999. The results of the effort included capturing an anchor restaurant/entertainment venue, which proved to be a strong catalyst for redevelopment. Indeed, numerous restaurants and other gathering places have sprung up nearby in the years since the strategy was completed.

Working with representatives of the Cap Rep Theater, the Palace Theater, the Pepsi Arena, and others, Mr. Bleinberger helped to spawn a downtown renaissance that has born significant economic and fiscal benefits for the City and the Business Improvement District that spawned the revitalization effort.

