

State of Downtown – Past Impact Award Winners

Business Community Impact: Business initiatives, with both large and small businesses, that promote the development of the Downtown Tempe Business Community. *Examples include a new business that offers something new or a historic business that has been steadily adding vibrancy to the district.*

- 2015 – Julian Wright
- 2016 – Silicon Valley Bank
- 2017 – FABRIC
- 2019 – AC Marriott

Cultural Impact: Programs and Events that improved the image, vibe, and cultural vitality of Downtown Tempe. *Examples include events, performances, street activations, or cultural venues that are doing creative programming.*

- 2015 – Walt Richardson
- 2016 – Four Peaks (for Oktoberfest Sponsorship)
- 2017 – ASU Ceramics Museum
- 2019 – Pat's Run

Economic Impact: Programs, Events, and Developments that have increased Downtown Tempe's economic vitality. *Examples include a new development that increases residential opportunities, companies that are increasing the number of jobs available, or events that draw people and bring an economic boom to the area.*

- 2015 – Sunbelt Holdings
- 2016 – Gammage Auditorium
- 2017 – Marina Heights
- 2019 – ASU Game Days

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Environmental Impact: Organizations and Projects that exemplify environmentally sustainable practices in Downtown Tempe. Examples include a transit project, bike initiative, or a development exceeding green standards.

- 2015 – College Avenue Commons
- 2016 – Tempe Town Lake Dam Repair
- 2017 – GriD Bikes
- 2019 – Tempe Grease Cooperative

Social Impact: Individuals or Groups who make outstanding contributions to humanitarian causes in Downtown Tempe. Examples include individuals who volunteer their time, companies that encourage philanthropic acts, or social service agencies that are leading the way in positive social change.

- 2015 – Mike Jennings
- 2016 – Tempe Police Department
- 2017 – Margaret Hunnicut, Landings Credit Union – TCAA Board member
- 2019 – Salvation Army

Iconic Businesses: Businesses that have been present within the district for many years helping to shape the sense of place. These are businesses that have become institutions, have weathered the test of time, contribute to the economic vitality, add distinction to the business community, and have enhanced the culture of Downtown Tempe.

- 2017 – House of Tricks
- 2019 – Cuckbox

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Downtown Event: Events taking place in Downtown Tempe that are successful as economic drivers, are unique opportunities for local and visitor engagement and embody the spirit of Tempe.

- 2017 – Tour de Fat
- 2019 – M.A.M.A. ~ Tempe Festival of the Arts 50th Anniversary

Lifetime Achievement Awards: Game changer events or people that made downtown what it is:

2016 - Ken McKenzie - For decades he gave his time and energy to our organization and tirelessly supported the efforts to make downtown Tempe a vibrant place. He also answered the call each and every time we called asking for a donation of space or meals or hotel rooms. In the last year Ken McKenzie stepped off our board of directors as he is now working in Scottsdale, but his spirit of community is carried on by the current team at Mission Palms.

2016 - ASU School of Architecture - For a project that was quite literally a game changer for downtown Tempe and this region. Jim Elmore, who was the founding Dean of the School of Architecture at ASU, suggested in Fall of 1966 to a group of 16 students that they should “do something with the river.” He guided these students through extensive studies, research, community interviews, site surveys and ultimately models of Tempe Town Lake were presented to the community and City Leaders. The first go round, voters shot down the aggressive Rio Salado Project, but then Mayor Harry Mitchell only became more determined to see the project come to fruition. After countless studies, negotiations and analysis, the project was completed and Tempe Town Lake filled with water in July 1999, 33 years after it was originally conceived. James Elmore passed away in 2007 at 90 years of age.