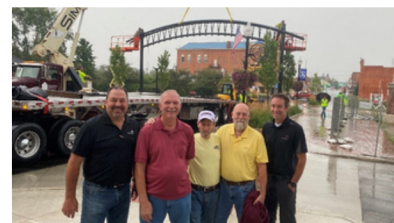
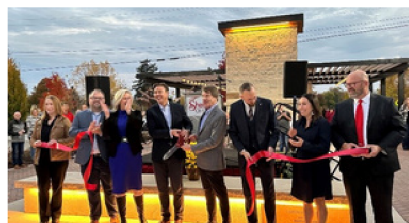
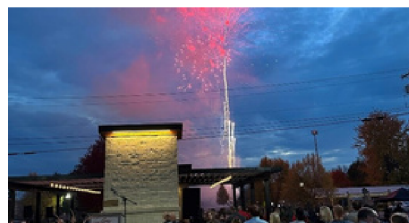


2023 RCDG END OF YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVIEW



SPACE FOR INNOVATION.



RICHLAND
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
GROUP**

SPACE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.



Adena Development:

Adena Development took a risk and committed to construction of a speculative building hoping that we could help them find a tenant once it was completed. We assisted with a lot of marketing and conversations with companies and were able to find a fit with Hedstrom, Ball, Bounce, and Sport! The Ashland based manufacturer is insourcing their distribution and they've **leased the entire 160,000 SF of the spec building** to do it. They have filled the building with warehouse racking, specialized equipment, and office space to support the new venture.

Broadband Expansion

Participated in the team working towards broadband expansion across US 30. BroadbandOhio and OARnet, the Ohio Academic and Research Network, are interested in supporting Richland County by extending their 'middle mile' internet infrastructure here, specifically in support of the 179th new Cyberspace mission.

Industry Tours

We have organized two industry specific tours to our local businesses including JobsOhio, the state level economic development organization, and Team NEO, our regional partner. These tours have been very successful in leveraging the knowledge and expertise of these industry specialists for our Richland County companies, connecting them with resources for expansion, and connections for growth.

9

PROJECT
WINS

113

NEW JOBS

\$6.5M+

NEW COUNTY
PAYROLL

AVERAGE
\$57,500/JOB

\$16.5M+

NEW CAPITAL
EXPENDITURES

33

RESPONSES TO
ATTRACTION
OPPORTUNITIES



SPACE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SHELBY.

46
BUSINESS
VISITS

Downtown Improvements:

- Asked for and **received \$20,000 in appropriations** for Façade Improvement Grant Funding. 3 projects complete to date, one in process. 2 retail businesses with repairs and painting of façade, one multi-family unit on Main St. landscaping upgrades. Funded Leadership Unlimited Capstone Alleyway Improvement Project.
- Installation of **Main Street Arch complete in August**, donor ArcelorMittal, was on hand to witness the installation.
- Black Fork Commons Plaza, a true community effort, was open to the public with a grand opening ceremony in October.
- Application submitted to Capital Budget for Phase II funding for Black Fork Commons Southlands Project.

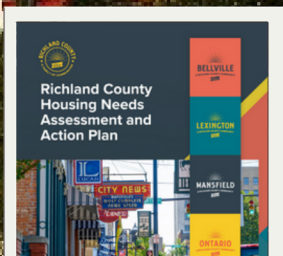
Business Attraction

- Black Fork Brewing LLC – Officially opened their doors October 27th. By December, Mama’s Pizza was in the building, and this first week of January, the old building is officially torn down. The Brewery added 8 employees, and Mama’s.
- Worked with Avita Health Systems to find primary care space in Shelby to expand their offerings here. Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for January 29th at their new location on Whitney Ave. This will be an additional 17 employees at the start at this location and up to 25 as it reaches its full capacity.

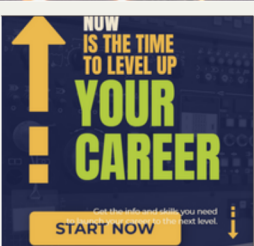
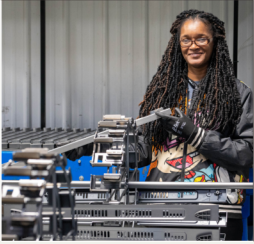
9
RIBBON
CUTTINGS

Housing Study

- Steering Committee continues work prioritizing action items from the strategy and supporting housing projects, including **Area Agency on Aging and Mansfield Metro Housing**, both in Mansfield.



SPACE FOR WORKFORCE.



Area 10 Workforce Development Board

From May through December of 2024, I scheduled and hosted the quarterly board meetings, as well as monthly executive committee meetings. I managed the Business Resource Network Grant strategy, reporting, and execution - with the guidance of the established BRN (BRN) committee. I have facilitated the update of policies, completed board certification with ODJFS, and completed the MOU documentation for 2023. I also developed and submitted the regional strategy update (2-year review), and submitted to ODJFS. I have managed the replacement and addition of membership that created adequate geographic representation and meets the requirements of the bylaws. 2024 quarterly meetings have been scheduled and posted publicly, as well as the executive committee meetings.

Summer Teacher Bootcamp

We partnered with Mid Ohio Educational Services Center and their Business Advisory Council to support the 2023 Richland Area Manufacturing Teacher Bootcamp. The Regional Manufacturing Coalition assisted by making connections with 9 local manufacturing facilities and their leadership. Teachers toured the facilities and created curriculum to utilize in their classroom that directly ties to local business. [Click for media coverage link.](#)

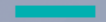
Upskilling and Training Dollars

In 2023, we utilized **\$200,000 of Incumbent Worker Training dollars** through the Area 10 Workforce Development Board. These dollars contributed to the upskilling of over 100 Richland County employees across 5 companies.

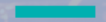
www.midhioskills.com and BRN Campaign

The Richland Area Chamber and Area 10 Workforce Development Board worked together to manage **\$100,000 in Business Resource Network Funds** to create the www.midhioskills.com website and launch a social media campaign to guide individuals interested in training and jobs. So far, this campaign has received 36 contacts through its efforts and 13 of them are currently in the process of being paired with the jobs or training that they are seeking.

35
BUSINESS
VISITS



30
EDUCATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP
MEETINGS



\$200K
INCUMBENT
WORKER
TRAINING
FUNDS
UTILIZED



\$100K
BUSINESS
RESOURCE
NETWORK
FUNDS
RECEIVED



SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION.

35
LOCAL
COMPANIES
HIGHLIGHTED
THROUGH
RICHLAND
WORKS

260K+
LIFETIME
RICHLAND
WORKS VIDEO
VIEWS

280
BRANDRICHLAND
DOWNLOADS

2K+
BRANDRICHLAND
WEBSITE VIEWS

Richland Works - OEDA Marketing & Communications Award

Initiated in April 2022 by the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, the [Richland Works](#) project led by Clint Knight and Sandy Messner aimed to revitalize Richland County's economy and reshape its job market. This initiative, responding to the 2009 closure of a major employer, involved creating 35 videos, a website, and strategic social media campaigns. Collaborating with DRM Productions and New Day Creative, the effort garnered **over 260,000 video views, 25,000+ website visitors, and led to six new hires.** The project showcased the character of the community's careers and work opportunities. The Ohio Economic Development Association recognized this impactful endeavor with the [2023 Excellence in Marketing & Communications Award](#).

BrandRichland Community Brand Adoption

In early 2023, RAC&ED led the launch of [BrandRichland.com](#), a collaborative effort with Destination Mansfield and DRM Productions. We initiated a roadshow, engaging community partners, distributing branded items like t-shirts, mugs, stickers, and polos. BrandRichland is now prominent on various platforms, including the City of Mansfield and Destination Mansfield - Richland County websites, RAC&ED marketing, Downtown Mansfield, Inc., The Renaissance Theatre marketing materials, and more. It's featured in the [Make A Life video](#) from Richland County Commissioners. A second county-wide video, showcasing 30+ locations and narrating the brand story, is in production for deployment in 2024. A comprehensive BrandRichland marketing plan is actively underway.

Solar Eclipse Awareness

Contributing to the 2024 Ohio Solar Eclipse EMA Communications Committee, involvement included the development of a solar eclipse [business resource website](#) and collaboration on a [trifold brochure](#) for residents, businesses, and visitors. Contributed to strategic planning for effective communication to enhance awareness among businesses and the public.

