DOWNTOWN CANTON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Regular Audit

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022





65 East State Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov 800-282-0370

Board of Directors Downtown Canton Special Improvement District 222 Market Ave N. Canton, OH 44702

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, Stark County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Downtown Canton Special Improvement District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

September 17, 2024



For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

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Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District 222 Market Avenue North Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, Stark County (the District), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows, thereof for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in financial position and cash flows, thereof for the years then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District Stark County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District Stark County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated July 16, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Charles Having Assaciation

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. July 16, 2024

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 212,218
Total current assets	212,218
LIABILITIES:	
Credit Card Payable	64
Deferred Revenue	2,000
Total Liabilities	2,064
NET ASSETS:	
Without Donor Restrictions	210,154
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 212,218

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUE:	
SID Assessment	\$ 270,298
Downtown Branding Program	1,600
Farmer's Market	700
First Friday Income	5,675
Ice Skating Rink	2,150
DORA Sponsorship	 2,900
Total support and revenue	283,323
EXPENSES:	
Audit	2,681
Consultant Labor	48,333
Database/Website	9,077
Donation	500
DORA	8,125
Downtown Branding Program Expense	6,076
Dues and Subscriptions	788
Farmer's Market Expense	12,200
Fees, Interest, Office Expenses	237
First Friday	17,162
Ice Skating Rink Expense	2,668
Insurance	1,229
Landscaping	3,497
Outreach/Marketing	5,150
SID Assessment to DCP	 245,000
Total expenses	362,723
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(79,400)
NON-OPERATING REVENUE	
Interest	4,548
	,
Total Non-Operating Revenue	 4,548
Net Income / (Loss)	(74,852)
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	 285,006
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 210,154

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: Cash Received from Special Improvement District Allocations Cash Received from Services Cash Payments for Goods and Services	\$ 270,298 13,025 (362,659)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(79,336)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: Interest	 4,548
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	4,548
Cash, Beginning of Year	 287,006
Cash, End of Year	\$ 212,218
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Operating Income	\$ (79,400)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities: Credit Card Payable	 64
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ (79,336)

Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Nature of Activities

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District (the District) is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1997 under the laws of the State of Ohio for the purpose of governing a special improvement district created pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710.

The District provides programming to preserve the economic well-being of downtown Canton. The District is dedicated to preserving the aesthetic, architectural, and historic character of the downtown area. The District is funded by special assessments on downtown property owners located within the District. The District directly supports a downtown landscaping program and cleaning program. The District also has a sponsorship program to support various downtown events that attract visitors and residents, including a Farmers Market, First Friday, Vintage Canton, Canton Blues Fest, Outdoor Summer Movie Series and the Downtown Canton Art Call. Downtown security is organized and maintained by the District. Safety is an important key in promoting, not only the events in the downtown area, but also the daily activities associated with doing business in the downtown area.

Management believes the financial statements included in this report represent all of the activities of the District which the District is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The District's financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"). The Financial Accounting Standards Board issued ASU 2-16-2014, Not for Profits Entities (Topic 958) – *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not for Profit Entities*. Under ASU 2016-2014, nonprofits are required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the District's management and the executive board of directors. The District reported net assets without donor restrictions \$210,154 at December 31, 2023.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by the actions of the District, or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities. The District reported no net assets with donor restrictions, at December 31, 2023.

Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial Statement Presentation (continued)

Net assets with voluntary designations by the governing board of the District are considered to be without donor restriction.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments, which subject the District to concentration of credit risk, consist principally of cash and cash equivalents. To minimize risks, the District places its funds with highly rated financial institutions. The cash balances held at financial institutions might exceed insured limits from time to time; however, at December 31, 2023, the cash balances were fully insured.

Income Taxes

The District has been classified as a public charity and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The District has analyzed tax positions taken for filing with the Internal Revenue Service and all state jurisdictions where it operates. The District believes that income tax filing positions will be sustained upon examination and does not anticipate any adjustments that would result in a material adverse effect on the District's financial conditions, results of operations or cash flows.

Accordingly, the District has not recorded any reserves, or related accruals for interest and penalties for uncertain income tax positions at December 31, 2023.

The District is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax period in progress. The District believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2020.

Note 3 – Special Assessment Tax Levy

The major source of revenue for the District is funded by special assessments on the property taxes of owners of downtown business property. The portion of said assessment attributable to each property within the Special Improvement District that is not exempt shall be based on the ratio of the taxable land value of the subject property to the total taxable land value of all nonexempt property within the District. The special assessment levy was renewed in 2022 for a five-year period. The City of Canton sends the District the special assessments twice a year.

Note 4 – Deposits with Financial Institutions

At December 31, 2023, cash and cash equivalents consisted \$212,218 in demand deposits and money market accounts. At the end of the year, the bank balance of the Corporation's deposits was insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

Stark County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 5 – Risk Management

The District maintains property insurance through a private insurance carrier. There has been no significant change in coverage from last year. There have been no claims that exceeded coverage in the past three years.

Note 6 – Availability and Liquidity

The following represents the District's financial assets at December 31, 2023:

	2023
Total Assets	\$ 212,218
Financial assets available to meet general	
expenditures over the next 12 months	\$ 212,218

Note 7 - Subsequent Events

The District evaluates events and transactions occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements for matters requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements consider events through July 16, 2024 the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2022

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS: Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 287,006
Total current assets	287,006
LIADILITIEC.	
LIABILITIES: Deferred Revenue	2,000
Total Liabilities	 2,000
NET ASSETS:	
Without Donor Restrictions	 285,006
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 287,006

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

OPER ATTING DEVENIE		
OPERATING REVENUE:	\$ 193.841	
SID Assessment	* /-	
Downtown Branding Program Event Sponsorship Revenue	51,650	
Farmer's Market	2,500	
Foundation Grants	3,798	
	24,925	
Ice Skating Rink	7,880	
Restaurant Week	1,750	
DORA Sponsorship	2,700	
Miscellaneous	1,000	-
Total support and revenue	290,044	-
EXPENSES:		
Audit	5,124	
Centennial Plaza Sponsorship	50,000	
Consultant Labor	93,000	
Database/Website	18,706	
DORA	6,883	
Downtown Branding Program Expense	58,924	
Dues and Subscriptions	543	
Event Sponsorship	21,250	
Farmer's Market Expense	13,798	
Fees, Interest, Office Expenses	121	
Ice Skating Rink Expense	8,335	
Insurance	1,786	
Landscaping	11,337	
Materials/Supplies	65	
Outreach/Marketing	6,415	
Postage	96	
1 054450		-
Total expenses	296,383	_
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(6,339)	
NON-OPERATING REVENUE		
Interest	31	_
Total Non-Operating Revenue	31	
Net Income / (Loss)	(6,308)	
. ,	, ,	
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	291,314	-
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 285,006	

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Cash Received from Special Improvement District Allocations	\$ 193,841
Cash Received from Services	96,203
Cash Payments for Goods and Services	 (296,383)
	 (6,339)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Interest	31
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	 31
Cash, Beginning of Year	293,314
Cash, End of Year	 287,006
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
	(6.220)
Operating Income	 (6,339)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ (6,339)

Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Nature of Activities

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District (the District) is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1997 under the laws of the State of Ohio for the purpose of governing a special improvement district created pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710.

The District provides programming to preserve the economic well-being of downtown Canton. The District is dedicated to preserving the aesthetic, architectural, and historic character of the downtown area. The District is funded by special assessments on downtown property owners located within the District. The District directly supports a downtown landscaping program and cleaning program. The District also has a sponsorship program to support various downtown events that attract visitors and residents, including a Farmers Market, First Friday, Vintage Canton, Canton Blues Fest, Outdoor Summer Movie Series and the Downtown Canton Art Call. Downtown security is organized and maintained by the District. Safety is an important key in promoting, not only the events in the downtown area, but also the daily activities associated with doing business in the downtown area.

Management believes the financial statements included in this report represent all of the activities of the District which the District is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The District's financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"). The Financial Accounting Standards Board issued ASU 2-16-2014, Not for Profits Entities (Topic 958) – *Presentation of Financial Statements of Not for Profit Entities*. Under ASU 2016-2014, nonprofits are required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to the following net classifications:

Net assets without donor restrictions: Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of the District's management and the executive board of directors. The District reported net assets without donor restrictions \$285,006 at December 31, 2022.

Net assets with donor restrictions: Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by the actions of the District, or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statements of activities. The District reported no net assets with donor restrictions, at December 31, 2022.

Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Financial Statement Presentation (continued)

Net assets with voluntary designations by the governing board of the District are considered to be without donor restriction.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments, which subject the District to concentration of credit risk, consist principally of cash and cash equivalents. To minimize risks, the District places its funds with highly rated financial institutions. The cash balances held at financial institutions might exceed insured limits from time to time; however, at December 31, 2022, the cash balances were fully insured.

Income Taxes

The District has been classified as a public charity and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The District has analyzed tax positions taken for filing with the Internal Revenue Service and all state jurisdictions where it operates. The District believes that income tax filing positions will be sustained upon examination and does not anticipate any adjustments that would result in a material adverse effect on the District's financial conditions, results of operations or cash flows.

Accordingly, the District has not recorded any reserves, or related accruals for interest and penalties for uncertain income tax positions at December 31, 2022.

The District is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax period in progress. The District believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2019.

Note 3 – Special Assessment Tax Levy

The major source of revenue for the District is funded by special assessments on the property taxes of owners of downtown business property. The portion of said assessment attributable to each property within the Special Improvement District that is not exempt shall be based on the ratio of the taxable land value of the subject property to the total taxable land value of all nonexempt property within the District. The special assessment levy was renewed in 2022 for a five-year period. The City of Canton sends the District the special assessments twice a year.

Note 4 – Deposits with Financial Institutions

At December 31, 2022, cash and cash equivalents consisted \$287,006 in demand deposits and money market accounts. At the end of the year, the bank balance of the Corporation's deposits was insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

Stark County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 5 – Risk Management

The District maintains property insurance through a private insurance carrier. There has been no significant change in coverage from last year. There have been no claims that exceeded coverage in the past three years.

Note 6 - COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ending in April 2023. The District will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

Note 7 – Availability and Liquidity

The following represents the District's financial assets at December 31, 2022:

	2022
Total Assets	\$ 285,006
Financial assets available to meet general	
expenditures over the next 12 months	\$ 285,006

Note 8 - Subsequent Events

The District evaluates events and transactions occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements for matters requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements consider events through July 16, 2024 the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Parma, OH 44129-2550 Phone - (216) 575-1630

Certified Public Accountants

Fax - (216) 436-2411

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District Stark County 222 Market Avenue North Canton, Ohio 44702

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Downtown Canton Special Improvement District, Stark County, Ohio (the District) which comprise the statements of financial position as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows, thereof and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 16, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Downtown Canton Special Improvement District
Stark County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Report and on Compliance and Other Matters
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in
Accordance with Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

However, we noted certain other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated July 16, 2024.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Chowlers Having Assaciation

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. July 16, 2024





AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 10/1/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370