



The District • Downtown Community Improvement District  
11 S. Tenth Street • Columbia, Missouri 65201 • (573) 442-6816  
[discoverthedistrict.com](http://discoverthedistrict.com)

October 13, 2017

Mayor and City Council  
City of Columbia  
701 East Broadway  
Columbia, MO 65205

Re: Gateway Plaza MOU

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The Downtown CID would like to request a Memorandum of Understanding with the City in order to launch a capital campaign and build the Columbia Gateway Plaza. Located at the intersection of Providence and Broadway, the Columbia Gateway Plaza will feature illuminated columns and a large sculptural globe used to spell out "Columbia". This iconic downtown landmark will enhance our civic identity and let visitors know they've arrived in The District.

The Downtown CID has been dedicated to the Gateways Project since 2014 when the master plan was created with a public process. In 2015, the City Council adopted the master plan. In early 2017, the first three light hubs were installed to celebrate the North Village Arts District, the Sharp End Neighborhood and Flatbranch Park. The Downtown CID, demonstrating our commitment to this endeavor, has invested over \$265,000 thus far in light hubs and planning expenses. Another \$500,000 of Downtown CID funding is budgeted as matching dollars by the 2019 goal to begin construction.

Our next step includes launching a capital campaign and partnering with the City and community to design Gateway Plaza. Our hope is to build the project for the community, commensurate with the spirit of the 2021 Bicentennial.

We welcome the opportunity to partner together on this historic project.

Sincerely,

Katie Essing  
Executive Director  
Downtown Community Improvement District

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