



THE LOOP

March 31, 2026

Dear Mayor Buffaloe:

Please accept the attached nominees for the Business Loop Community Improvement District Board of Directors. We have four terms ending and we anticipate the new appointees starting at our regular monthly board meeting in April pending your approval. The applicants are Daryle Bascom, Michele Batye, James Bayless, and Mary Grupe.

We mailed announcements to all businesses, property owners, and residents within the CID; emailed members with the application link; posted details on our website; and personally met with potential applicants. Applications were available online and paper copies were available in our office as well.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Gartner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Gartner, Phd, LPM
Executive Director
The Business Loop Community Improvement District

Michele Batye, Chair
Flooring America

James Bayless
Fresh Start Sober Living

Ryan Euliss
Boone Electric Coop

Karen Geotz
Dive Bar

Mary Grupe
Hickman High School

Renee Hall
MACC/MACCLab

Jay Rader
Bus Loop 70 Properties

Daryle Bascom

Business/Property representative

The Food Bank Market

701 Business Loop E

Columbia, MO 65203

daryleb@sharefoodbringhope.org

The Food Bank Market is a social service organization yet also a retail space so it represents a number of different constituencies. The Food Bank Market has a large property with unused parking and has long been interested in a better way to use this space for beautification, stormwater management, or community use. Having a representative on the board who was involved in the planning process would be beneficial for them and could help the CID jumpstart the planning for an early revitalization project.

Bascom has been involved with several design and construction projects previously, including Mizzou Arena, East Side Stadium expansion, and The Food Bank Market. This will give him a construction-based viewpoint on the future engineering plans for the corridor.

Michele Batye

Business Owner/Property Owner

Dave Griggs Flooring America

801 Business Loop 70 East

Columbia, MO 65201

dg@carpetandtile.com

Columbia and it's future are important to me, not only for my lifetime but beyond. Having a concerted effort to improve on portions of the city through safety, infrastructure, beautification, growth, attraction and retention of business is one of the most important things we can do for our current and future residence.

I currently hold a seat for a Community Improvement District Board and currently hold board and advisory roles that provide me experience. I believe I am creative, futuristic and fair. Which allows for me to take in data and to be able to put the pieces together to create a long term vision for the betterment of the masses that are fair, functional and aesthetically pleasing.

I am a native of Boone County so I have a historic perspective of the Business Loop dating back to when the Business Loop was the major business hub of the community. I've worked on the Business Loop for almost 3 decades so I know first hand of the changes or lack of changes that the Business Loop has seen. And finally I am a new business owner, which

means I have futuristic visions and skin in the game to make the Business Loop thrive. I'm very excited about the changes that have already been occurring through the Loop CID and would love to lend my time and talents to the continued and future work.

James Bayless

Property Owner
Fresh Start Sober Living Programs
1101 Grand Ave.
Columbia, MO 65203
jbjamesbayless@gmail.com

I am the owner of Fresh Start Property Management and owns residential property at 815 North Blvd and 817 North Blvd, as well as supportive housing in the neighborhood south of the Business Loop. I work to help those who are experiencing homelessness and substance abuse issues acquire housing. I believe I can help navigate the rise of unhoused population in the area, by raising awareness of resources, yet being mindful of surrounding business needs.

I'm also a member of the Substance Abuse Advisory Commission (city commission), board member of Central Missouri Recovery Coalition (Countywide Coalition), board member of Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers (Statewide Coalition), and a volunteer in the Ridgeway Neighborhood Association.

Mary M. Grupe

Property owner representative
Hickman High School/CPS
4008 Quinton Ct
mgrupe@cpsk12.org

I am eager to serve on the Community Improvement District Board because I am deeply committed to the growth and development of The Loop. This area holds significant personal and professional importance to me. As the proud principal and a graduate of Hickman High School, I have witnessed firsthand The Loop's impact on our community. My role as principal, overseeing a staff of 220 and a budget of \$3 million, has equipped me with the skills necessary to contribute effectively to the board's mission of planning, management, and advocacy. I am aligned with the board's mission and dedicated to its success. I will be moving into the administration at CPS but would like to continue my work as the CPS representative to the CID Board. The CID and the city are in the middle of the corridor planning process and my knowledge of this process and how it would positively impact Hickman is critical.

The Loop's 5-Year Plan resonates with my goals for enhancing our community. I am particularly inspired by the initiatives to improve the environment, increase safety, boost the

economy, support marketing and events, and advocate for inclusive policies. These align closely with my work at Hickman High School, where we strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment for over 2,100 students and staff. This role is an extension of my commitment to fostering a vibrant, safe, and inclusive community.

I love this town and our school and will be devoted to making it a place where all people are loved, seen, and supported. I am excited about the opportunity to bring this experience and passion to the Community Improvement District Board to help make The Loop a vibrant, welcoming, and thriving area for all.