



How to Make The **Cash Registers Ring** for Downtown **Businesses** 

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#### Today's Focus

- Target Market
- Business Promotions
- · Creating a better business image
- **Business** owner participation
- **Businesses** benefitting from special events





#### **Planning Promotional Activities**

- Identify current assets & position
- **Identify target markets**
- Establish promotion outcomes
- Establish overall strategy/calendar
- Design individual events
- Implement

 Evaluate
 An improved business district (Design and Economic Restructuring/Vitality) will also attract people downtown



target marketing increases the economic development potential of promotional activities

Make sure to have balance in all three areas of promotions

#### **Anticipated Promotion Outcomes**

Promotions that meet specific goals

increased foot traffic increased sales

build market share

funds raised

increased publicity for downtown (verses the organization)

- Promotions that target specific customers or better match existing downtown customers
- Develop brand recognition
- Capture a larger market and greater market share



#### **Target Marketing**



- Shotgun v. Rifle Approach
- **Design Events** Based on Target Market
- Where do you find information on customers:
  - Market analysis data Businesses surveys

  - Zip code surveys

  - Customer surveys (during special events or intercept surveys)

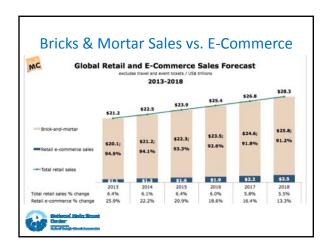
#### Rifle Approach – Zeroing in on a Specific Consumer

- Downtown Employees
- Downtown Residents
- Tourists/Visitors
- Senior Citizens
- Women or Men (separately)
- Students (all levels)
- Govt. employees
- Day-trippers/bus tours
- Nearby major employers
- Military





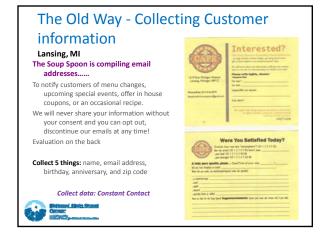












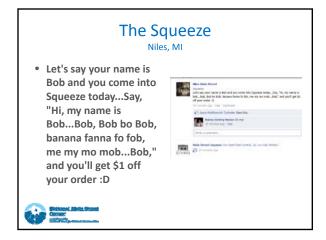




















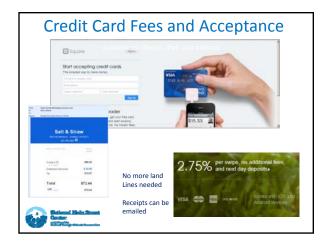














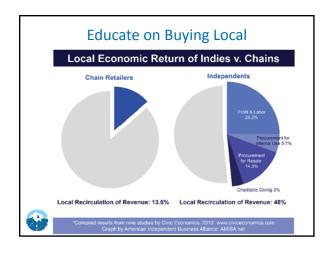


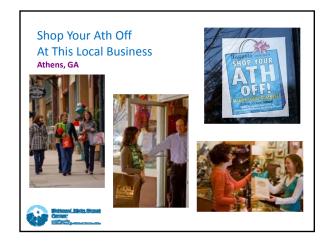
















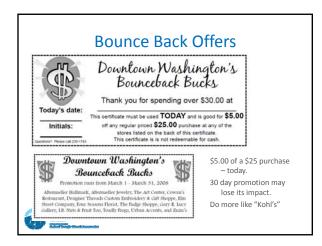












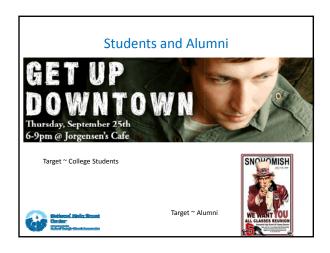






















#### **Summer Santa Bucks** Washington, MO



- Summer Promotion
- \$5.00 Off Coupon good toward a \$25 purchase at all participating businesses
- Low cost
- Targets: newspaper reads and social media connections



#### **Individual Anniversaries**



- 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary = \$13 off a \$50 purchase. (26% off)
- Press releases
- Free cupcakes
- A real celebration
- Store closes quarterly for makeover





Used the passport to:

- Reward volunteers
- Recruit new ones Include businesses outside the BID and explained to volunteers the relationship between both BID businesses and needing support of those outside of the BID too
- Had all volunteer opportunities spelled out in bite sized pieces
- Tomahawk is expanding to use the Passport to other visitors to downtown







### Sip and Stroll

Sumter, SC



- Tickets sold for \$20 (wine food and entertainment)
- Retailers and service businesses included (16)
- 100% renewal by participants for two years

Held mid-November



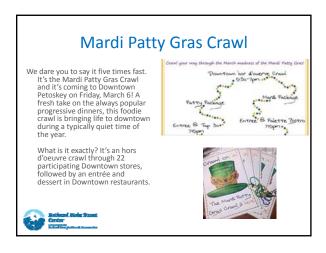


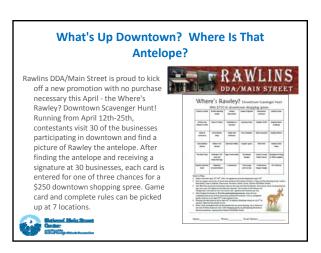


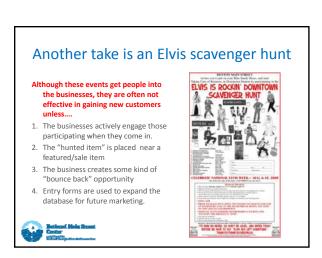
- Tickets sold (wine food and entertainment)
- Retailers, service and professional businesses participate
- Some held mid-November to kick off the holiday season, or held in February where participants can "Wine About Winter"































## The Healthy Main Streets *Healthy Holidays*Boston, MA

Encourage residents of all ages to explore their local commercial districts, while challenging them to put healthy living habits into practice during a time of the year when it is most challenging.



- Brochure with businesses they must visit in order to win.
- Info on how each business might be useful in helping to keep them and their families healthy over the holidays.
- Receive a snowflake stamp on their pamphlet, an ingredient used in making something holiday related (for example gum drops for a gingerbread man or marshmallows for hot chocolate), and a coupon for a 10% discount to the given business.

#### Cash Mobs (Retail and Restaurants)



Using Facebook and Twitter, they're organizing groups of strangers who descend on beloved independent retailers—bookstores, bakeries, wine shops—and spend at least \$20 cash each (maximizes business profits). Participants usually meet beforehand and follow the organizer to the shop.



# Develop a Marketing Plan for Sidewalk Construction/Business Interruption

- Remind people that businesses are open
- Activities during construction
- Hard Hats for kids
- Coupons for car washes
- Posters and T-Shirts highlighting the top 10 reasons to shop downtown during construction
- Communications
- Celebration after the project is \_done

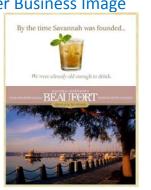


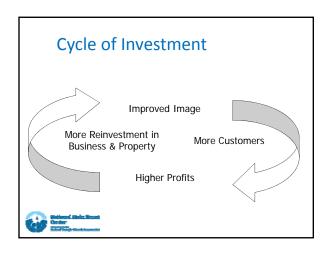


### Creating a Better Business Image

 The Image for downtown and the city is as important as having an individual image for the business.















Together, agree to Establish Business Guidelines to Keep Downtown's Customers Business Guidelines can "set the bar" for business greatness • Ideal hours of operation · Parking practices Frequency of window • Knowledge of neighbors Referrals display turnover Maintenance Investment in marketing • Cleanliness Customer service standards Positive attitude Tracking Customers • Appreciation Hospitality · Other?













## Help your Businesses Track Their Business – From Business Promotions and Special Events

#### Total tickets

Total dollar value Total transactions Average sale amount

Sales compared to sales on the same day the year before Conversion rate (the % of shoppers who become buyers) Time spent shopping per store visit





#### **Business Promotions & Special Events**

- Special Events are not focused on ringing cash registers during the event (although they sometimes have that added benefit)
- Special events often lead to future sales when attendees have a
  positive experience admiring window displays, browsing open
  shops, and chatting with friendly shopkeepers.







# The Best Special Events will Garner Retailer/Business Support....

....and grow, if they include opportunities for attendees to connect with businesses through window displays, browse open shops, and chat with friendly shopkeepers.





#### **Communicate Goals for Promotions**

- Share the strategy on why events are being done and the expected outcomes (market based? impact?)
- Is the goal just to attract people or is it more focuses on support the economic growth of the downtown/district?
- Challenge the organization in measuring the use of resources and goals of events.
- Evaluation of businesses for impact after events





### Snowball/Ping-Pong Ball Drop

Augusta, KS & Sister Bay, WI



- Merchants write specials/gifts on balls
- One gold ball with \$100 downtown \$\$
- Red balls = free turkeys
- Fire department drops balls to adults and children
- 50 year tradition
- In conjunction with Santa's arrival
- Sister Bay, WI Drops from helicopter - 10,000 annually















