

# *“The Plan for a New Downtown”*

## Downtown Spokane

### TIMELINE

*The “The Plan for a New Downtown” was the first of its kind since 1961. The 1961 planning process ultimately resulted in the creation of Expo ’74.*

**1995** The Downtown Spokane Partnership non-profit organization was formed.  
The Downtown Business Improvement District was created by City Council at the request of over 70% of the area’s business and property owners.

**1998** City Council and Downtown Spokane Partnership partner to begin the first neighborhood specific plan as part of the Plan Commissions’ Spokane Horizon planning process.  
More than 1,500 community members from a wide variety of locations (see the zip code chart) participated in the planning process.  
Hotel Lusso boutique hotel renovations completed.

**1999** “The Plan for a New Downtown” was unveiled.

City Council unanimously adopted “The Plan for a New Downtown.”

Received Top Award from the Washington American Planning Association for the community visioning process.

Received Silver Circle Award for the National City County Communication Managers Association (3CMA) for the community visioning process.

The Downtown Spokane Partnership created Spokane Ventures Associates (Ventures), a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation to carry out Downtown projects.

Phase I of the River Park Square redevelopment project and renovation and expansion of the parking garage are completed, including a new Nordstrom store and 14-screen AMC Theatre.

Steam Plant Square historic renovations completed.

Downtown’s first condominium project, the Riverside Court Townhouses, completed.

Newsweek features story on Spokane’s Downtown living.

West End Historic District designation established.

**2000** City Council adopted Downtown Zoning & Design Guidelines.

Downtown Spokane Partnership adopted the ten-year 2010 Strategic Plan.

Spokane Symphony purchases the Fox Theatre for renovation.

Statewide Tax Increment Financing secured.

Phase II of River Park Square is completed, including Pottery Barn, Banana Republic, Abercrombie & Fitch, Abercrombie, and Restoration Hardware.

Bernard Street converted to diagonal parking and the Fruci / Kinko’s project is complete.

**2001** Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture (MAC) expansion complete.

Terabyte Triangle contains “hot zone” of buildings with high-speed, broadband data-transfer networks of up to gigabit capacity.

WSU Health Science Facility completed.

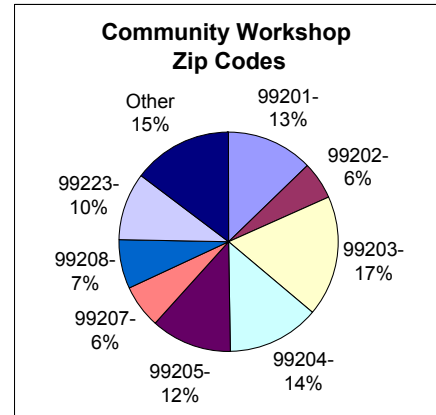
New 225 W. Main Building, architecturally designed to look like an old building, completed.

Spokesman-Review Production Facility completed with pedestrian-friendly façade.

New KHQ news station revitalized West End.

Riverfront Park Master Plan completed.

First Annual First Night Spokane Celebration held.



- 2002** The Business Improvement District was reauthorized by City Council.  
 Voters approve Convention Center expansion.  
 Newly renovated Davenport Hotel reopens and the Davenport Garage has a pedestrian-friendly marbled façade.  
 Gorge Park concept plan completed with Friends of the Falls.  
 Courtyard Office Suites renovation from hotel to office suites completed.  
 Davenport District Strategic Action Plan completed and projects started, including the Metal to Magic art auction to raise money for artistic metal benches within the Davenport District.  
 Terabyte Triangle celebrates fifth anniversary.  
 Spokane leads the state in historic rehabilitation: total investment of over \$27.3 million in Spokane, while developers in all other cities combined spent \$30.3 million.
- 2003** Downtown Spokane boasts \$1.2 billion in new investment since 1999.  
 Downtown Spokane Housing Study predicts growth of 300 new housing units per year, or up to 1,500 new dwelling units over the next five years.  
 Loft Ordinance adopted by City Council to facilitate housing development.  
 Blue Chip Lofts completed with eleven units.  
 Post Street pedestrian-friendly enhancements and two-way conversion completed.  
 East End Historic Warehouse District designation established.  
 Center Stage Theatre opens on West End.  
 Metal to Magic artistic metal benches are installed within the Davenport District and the Downtown Spokane Partnership installs “The Proposal” sculpture on Wall Street.  
 People’s Alley completed with Greg Green Foundation between Wall Street and the Parkade Plaza.  
 Freeman Center renovation completed.  
 Street Car Feasibility Study begins.  
 Comprehensive Parking Management Plan in place.  
 Secured funding for Gorge Park (\$250k) and West Central Community Center from the state.  
 West link of Spokane River Gorge, Sandifur Memorial Footbridge begins construction with private donation from Paul Sandifur of \$2 million.  
 Terabyte Triangle boasts 133 high-tech companies and is working on making Downtown entirely wireless in the near future, the only known fully wireless Downtown of this type.  
 Community discussions held with leading national speakers, Kurt Watson and Richard Florida from the Creative Class.  
 Spokane ranked Top USA Intelligent Community from World Teleport Association.  
 Spokane ranked among Top 10 Mid-sized Cities in the West for Entrepreneurs by Entrepreneurs.com  
 Spokane ranked among Top 100 Best Places for Business & Careers by Forbes, up from #162 two years ago.  
 Spokane is one of the nation’s leading Business Improvement District’s. Both the Downtown Spokane Partnership and Business Improvement District featured in the Urban Land Institute’s book “Business Improvement Districts.”
- 2004** The Big Easy opens with 4,500+ people in the first weekend.  
 Legion historic building renovation completed.  
 Spokane River Gorge Strategic Action Plan begins and kayak park feasibility study.  
 Leveraging the rich fiber fabric, widely-recognized Terabyte Triangle, and the recent Top USA Intelligent Community designation, began implementing a “wireless” Downtown pilot network covering the 100 block core, with rollout of future phases to include the Spokane Arena, the South Hill medical complexes, and the Spokane International Airport.  
 \$1.6 billion in new investment since 1999 including nearly 500 projects.  
 More to come...

*This timeline includes some of the major projects and milestones related to the Downtown Plan, but does not include the nearly 500 projects that contribute to the Downtown Renaissance.*