

## Activity Report

**From: Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of City of Stone Mountain**

**Date: 05/13/2026**

**Re: Report for the period – February to April 2026**

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The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of Stone Mountain continued to advance downtown revitalization efforts, business development initiatives, tourism-related projects, and community partnerships during the first quarter of 2026. Below is a summary of activities and accomplishments from February through April 2026.

### Enhancement and Commercial Grant Activity

The DDA continues to support local businesses and encourage private investment through its Enhancement and Commercial Grant Programs. During this reporting period:

- Previously approved projects, including the German Restaurant and Live Oak Restaurant, reached completion and are currently being processed for reimbursement through the DDA grant programs.
- In February 2026, the DDA approved a Commercial Grant award for the property located at 955 Main Street (property owner: Hilda Wells) in the amount of \$25,000, contingent upon receipt of all required permits.
- In April 2026, the DDA approved additional grant funding requests for the Stone Mountain Front Porch project, including:
  - Commercial Grant Approval: \$20,288.80
  - Enhancement Grant Approval: \$10,000.00

The approved projects include indoor renovations, plumbing and electrical improvements, as well as exterior enhancements designed to support continued investment and revitalization within the downtown district.

### Public Art and Downtown Beautification Initiatives

The DDA continued discussions regarding downtown beautification, branding, and public art initiatives. During the February 2026 meeting, mural projects, downtown landscaping improvements, branding initiatives, and revitalization of the Farmer's Market were identified as priority projects for FY2026.

In March 2026, the DDA discussed moving forward with the proposed mural project at Stoned Pizza. In April 2026, the DDA formally approved Charity Hamidullah as the finalist artist and approved \$20,000 in funding for the mural project at Stoned Pizza.

Charity Hamidullah was selected as the Finalist Artist for the mural project, which will be installed on the left façade of Stoned Pizza:

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Semi-Finalist Artist: Alexandra Sorto



## **Downtown Events and Community Partnerships**

The DDA continued to support local events and community engagement activities throughout downtown Stone Mountain. During the March 2026 meeting, the DDA approved support for the “Tunes by the Tracks” initiative contingent upon receipt of a formal proposal. In April 2026, the DDA formally approved the proposed agreement between the DDA and Main Street Inc. for implementation of the “Tunes by the Tracks” program.

The DDA also discussed support for future community events and tourism initiatives, including the criterium event scheduled for September 2026.

## **Downtown Development and Strategic Planning**

Throughout the reporting period, the DDA continued discussions on several long-term economic development and revitalization initiatives, including:

- Development opportunities for The Lawn on Main Street
- Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) opportunities
- City branding initiatives
- Business incubator concepts
- Downtown security and camera initiatives
- Visitor Center and Museum operations planning
- Tourism and downtown activation strategies

The DDA also continued evaluating potential economic development tools, including consideration of a Tax Allocation District (TAD), and coordination with regional and statewide development organizations.

The DDA Board looks forward to participating in a joint session with the Mayor and City Council in June 2026, to further discuss downtown development priorities and collaborative initiatives.