

Buffalo Place History

1982: Downtown Buffalo Management Corporation, originally created to operate Cathedral Park, is reactivated to operate the future Main Street Pedestrian-Transit Mall.

Downtown Country Market debuts and continues to this day on Main Street between Court and Church Streets.

1983: New York State passes legislation authorizing Erie County to establish a special district for the operation and maintenance of a Downtown pedestrian/transit mall in the City of Buffalo.

1983-4: A 39 member committee of Main Street representatives met weekly for nine months to determine how the pedestrian/transit mall special district would operate. District boundaries, services to be provided and the formula for splitting costs between district properties were unanimously approved.

1984: Erie County passes a law creating the Transit Mall Special Charge District, a cooperative public-private effort to provide additional services and support successful development of the downtown Main Street corridor.

1986: Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration and continues to this day at Fountain Plaza.

1987: Special Charge collected for the first time.

Downtown Buffalo Management Corporation name changed to Buffalo Place Inc.

Thursdays in the Park at Main and Chippewa Streets begins.

Market Arcade Cinema opens in Theatre District.

1988: Lafayette Square is re-dedicated as a public space after the major investment of removing the roadway through the center of the square.

Thursday at Buffalo Place begins a 25-year run at Lafayette Square.

Pilot Field (Sahlen Field) opens.

1989: Buffalo Place partners with Western New York United Against Drugs and Alcohol to produce First Night Buffalo.

1990: Buffalo Place partners with the Urban Design Group from UB School of Architecture to produce Action Plan for 500 Block of Main Street - awarded a \$150,000.00 façade Improvement Grant.

IRS decision to relocate to Apple Tree Mall, Buffalo Place launches an aggressive campaign to keep Federal offices in Downtown Buffalo.

1991: Buffalo Place partners with Cradle Beach to launch the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

The City of Buffalo dedicates Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza.

1992: City reduces Buffalo Place's Contract from \$145,000 to \$80,000.

Buffalo Place forms committee to investigate District Expansion, proposed expansion would generate an additional \$22,000 in Special Charge but cost to provide services is estimated to be \$34,000.

Buffalo Place conducts a comprehensive Lighting Survey.

1993: Buffalo Place forms a Ad-Hoc Security Committee to focus on a Community Policing Initiative for Downtown.

Buffalo Place launches a *Change For The Better Campaign* - anti-panhandling campaign.

1994: Buffalo Place partners with City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Police Department to launch a Bicycle Patrol Unit for Downtown.

Buffalo Place staff begins to meet on a regular basis with Horizons Waterfront Commission to address operational and design issues related to the Inner Harbor.

Buffalo Place forms Traffic Task Force to bring vehicular traffic back to Main Street.

1995: Buffalo Place, the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Police Department launch the Downtown Initiative, a 13-member dedicated Community Police Initiative in Downtown Buffalo.

1996: Buffalo Place awarded AmeriCorps Grant.

1997: Buffalo Place hires first AmeriCorps Ranger class.

Cars Sharing Main Street begins - the project team includes representatives from the City of Buffalo, Buffalo Place and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. The project team begins a series of meetings with Downtown stakeholders and community groups.

1998: With the scheduled expansion of the Augspurger and Adam Ramps Buffalo Place partners with Buffalo CivicAuto Ramps (BCAR) and the City of Buffalo to launch the Park N' Go Shuttle Program.

At the request of Empire State Development, Buffalo Place launches the *Buffalo Place Rocks the Harbor* music festival to focus on the Inner Harbor Development Project. The festival continues to grow in popularity and has evolved into a three weekend, two-day festival each summer at the Harbor.

1999: *Downtown Buffalo 2002!* is launched - a partnership between Buffalo Place, the City of Buffalo and UB's Urban Design Project. The goal is set to create a comprehensive master plan for Downtown Buffalo with funding from the John R. Oishei Foundation, The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, The Baird Foundation and The Community Foundation. This three-year undertaking resulted in the publication of the *Queen City Hub Plan* in December 2003. In 2005, The *Queen City Hub Plan* was awarded the American Planning Association's major planning award - the Oscar of Planning.

2000: Angelica Film Center (formally General Cinemas in the Theatre District) closes.

Buffalo Place partners with the City of Buffalo and Dipson Theaters to ensure 8-screen movie house remains open and renamed the Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre.

2001: Buffalo Place partners with the Buffalo Niagara Partnership and the City of Buffalo to host the Regional Urban Design Assistance Team (R/UDAT) to focus on Downtown Housing.

Reform of the antiquated NYS Building Code is added to the *Downtown Buffalo 2002!* agenda and Professor Robert Shibley joins the NYS Code Review Panel charged with recommending changes to the existing NYS Building Codes.

2003: The NYS Building Code Review Panel adopts the International Building Code, significantly reducing the cost of the adaptive re-use of existing buildings.

Buffalo Place produces the *Buffalo Bike Blast* as part of the Harley Davidson Ride Home. The *Buffalo Bike Blast* is designated an “Official Ride Home” event - celebrating the 100th anniversary of Harley Davidson. The event also takes place in 2004 and 2005 but is cancelled due to loss of sponsor funding.

Environmental Review for the Cars Sharing Main Street project is underway. The preferred alternative is for cars to share with trainway with Metro rail cars.

AmeriCorps grant ends.

2004: With a 3% increase to the Special Charge Buffalo Place retains the Ranger Program and debuts the Buffalo Place Ranger Program.

Buffalo Place produces *Uncle Sam's Jam* - a Fourth of July Celebration in Niagara Square featuring Buffalo's own *Goo Goo Dolls*. The event draws tens of thousands of people and the concert is filmed for a DVD.

2006: City of Buffalo presents plan for returning Cars to Main Street and provides details on sidewalk widths, parking spaces, trees, landscaping and Metro stations - with the goal of creating a pedestrian friendly environment.

2007: At the request of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Buffalo Place produces the visit of the Lois McClure - a replica canal boat visiting 25 ports in 100 days. The two-day festival showcases the best in Buffalo entertainment and culture. Buffalo sets the

mark for the fourth highest attendance record of the 25 participating cities.

2008: At the request of Empire State Development Buffalo Place hosts the visit of the Earth Voyager and produces a two-day festival *Healthy Lakes/Healthy Lives Expo* on Commercial Street - adjacent to the Commercial Slip where the Voyager was docked. The 70-foot trimaran was travelling the Great lakes in support of Great Lakes health and ecology.

At the request of Congressman Brian Higgins, Buffalo Place develops a management plan for the Erie Canal Harbor site and enters into a management agreement with the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation for site management. Through 2013, the agreement remains a one-year contract.

2009: The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Cars Sharing Main Street project is released by the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA), clearing the way for the start of construction.

Cars Sharing Main Street construction begins in the 700 Block of Main Street.

2011: As part of the 25th Anniversary season of *Thursday at the Square*, Buffalo Place holds four (4)

final concerts in Lafayette Square and moves to the Harbor for six (6) remaining concerts of the 2011 series.

2012: Buffalo Place makes a permanent move to the Erie Canal Harbor site and debuts *Thursday at the Harbor* with twelve concerts - along with six *Buffalo Place Rocks the Harbor* concerts for a total of eighteen signature events.

2013: Buffalo Place produces final season of the *Buffalo Place Sumer Concert Series*, including twelve *Thursday at the Harbor* and six *Buffalo Place Rock the Harbor* concert events.

2014: Buffalo Place's management agreement with Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation comes to an end.

2015: 500 & 600 Blocks of Main Street open to vehicular traffic as part of the Cars Sharing Main Street project.

The City of Buffalo invests \$750,000 into a newly designed Fountain Plaza.

Buffalo Place assists the City of Buffalo in successful \$18 million TIGER VII application for Lower Main Street.

2016: Buffalo Place is awarded \$300,000 New York Main Street Program Grant for the 400 & 500 Blocks of Main Street.

Pearl Street Two-Way Conversion begins and is completed from Tupper Street to Lower Terrace.

Buffalo Place begins a new Happy Hour series at Fountain Plaza, the original location of *Thursday in the Park*, called the *Queen City Social*.

2017: Buffalo Place completes the 400 & 500 Blocks New York Main Street Grant.

Queen City Social continues for a second year at Fountain Plaza.

2018: Cars Sharing Lower Main Construction begins.

Queen City Social is produced for a third season. Buffalo Place presents national talent and draws large crowds to Fountain Plaza.

AMC Market Arcade 8 Movie Theatre opens at 639 Main Street, formerly the Buffalo Place managed Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre.