



Andy Schor, Mayor

Mayor Andy Schor's State of the City 2020

Speech Highlights

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's 2020 State of the City Address was held at The Abigail on the old School for the Blind property on Wednesday, February 5th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Mayor Schor recounted major investments taking place across the city.
 - **Southside:** Former EDS building will be transformed from a long-vacant building into storage units with a requirement that the developer also make important public improvements at the corner of Washington Avenue and Holmes Road.
 - **Southeast:** Construction of the new McLaren hospital campus is underway. Jolly and Dunkel area is seeing redevelopment with a public infrastructure piece to be included.
 - **Downtown:** Cathleen Edgerly is the new Executive Director of Downtown Lansing Inc. In 2020, we will have 277 new housing units in downtown Lansing. Oliver Towers site has been redeveloped into Capitol View apartments. The Former YMCA property is also being redeveloped into a new housing site.
 - **Eastside/Michigan Avenue Corridor:** Major progress has been made on the new Meijer grocery store and Courtyard by Marriot Hotel. New restaurants including Tannin and Arcadia, new housing and retail space in the Venue Building. The Provident Place development opens this spring with 9,500 square feet of retail space and 33 units of new housing.
 - **Stadium District:** Rotary Park opened. Our partners at the Capital Region Community Foundation spearheaded this project, and more than \$1.3 million was invested in the riverfront park.
 - **Corridors:**
 - In 2019, the City of Lansing awarded 13 new façade grants to businesses all over Lansing including Piazzano's on the north side, The Camera Shop in South Lansing, REACH Art Studio in REOTown, Biggby on the west side and Lam's Sweeper Shop on the east side.
 - Two new Corridor Improvement Authorities were created to continue to help support small businesses, one focusing on South Martin Luther King Boulevard and the other on North Grand River Avenue. This means we have four corridor improvement authorities in the City of Lansing whose goal is to focus on revitalizing these important areas.

ART

- Public Art has been a significant focus of Mayor Schor's administration. In the last year, \$162,500 was invested in funding for the arts.
- The Mayor's Arts Commission has been working diligently for nearly two years to bring more art to Lansing.
- Every year, the City of Lansing works with the Arts Council of Greater Lansing to award a \$75,000 Arts Impact Grant to support a large project intended to have a positive impact on the community.
 - Past winners include: Portrait of a Dreamer sculpture in downtown Lansing and the Below the Stacks Mural Festival. The 2018 project, a projection of Lansing's history in a film on a downtown building, will go live on April 16, 2020.
 - The Arts Council also awards mini grants up to \$500 every year for events or programming with an art focus. This year the arts grant program is supporting wonderful Lansing arts organizations including the Lansing Art Gallery, Impression 5 and the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.
 - In 2020, the Arts Impact Grant has been awarded to Alexandra Leonard to lead the artistic production of a technicolor ceramic tile mosaic mural on multiple wall surfaces and on 25 cement steps on the southeastern wall of the Shiawassee Street bridge near Lansing Community College, Cooley Law School Stadium and the River trail.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- The Public Service Department works tirelessly to make important road improvements with the limited funding that is provided from the state of Michigan.
 - Nearly 15 miles of road were improved in 2019, including East and West Mount Hope Avenues, Miller Road, Capitol Avenue, Martin Luther King Boulevard and Turner Street.
 - The Operations and Maintenance team responded to 2,542 pothole complaints, an increase of 24 percent over 2018.
- Last year the City received funding from the state of Michigan to convert six one-way downtown streets – Capitol Avenue, Grand Avenue, Ottawa Street, Allegan Street, Pine Street and Walnut Street – to two-way. This conversion will take place in 2020.
- In 2015, the City joined AARP's Age-Friendly Communities network to focus on creating an inclusive and accessible environment that promotes active aging. Mayor Schor's team, along with the steering committee, is working to implement the age-friendly community plan that was developed.

NEIGHBORHOODS

- The City of Lansing’s Department of Neighborhood and Citizen Engagement’s Love Your Block Work through Cities of Service has been recognized internationally.
- Neighborhoods of Focus:
 - For the last several years, the City has designated two Neighborhoods of Focus: The Baker Neighborhood and Southwest Lansing at Pleasant Grove and Holmes. These are two neighborhoods where we needed to bring people together to invest resources and assist in economic mobility for its residents.
 - Pleasant Grove and Holmes – Southwest Neighborhood
 - Opened Beacon Southwest park directly behind the Southside Community Coalition in 2019.
 - CATA installed a new bus shelter featuring community leaders in the artwork.
 - Southwest Action Group (SWAG) has been hard at work focusing on creating a town square at the intersection of Pleasant Grove and Holmes.
 - Baker Neighborhood
 - Bethlehem Lutheran Church has partnered with Lansing SAVE to support 156 students in the neighborhood. Last year, Bethlehem Lutheran collected \$4,368 for Lansing SAVE students in the Baker neighborhood.
 - CATA installed a new bus shelter at the intersection of Baker Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.
 - Victim and property crime are down 33% in this area.
 - New Neighborhood of Focus: Willow Walnut Neighborhood
 - This area will span from Saginaw Street on the south, and includes Willow Street, Walnut Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.
 - The City will partner with Fearless Faith Church, Capital Area Housing Partnership to assist residents in this area.
 - While there are resources in this area, these resources are not directly focused on the neighbors in this area. The City of Lansing will focus on empowering these residents, building wealth and ensuring they have the services they need.
 - Lansing Police Department’s Community Policing Program
 - The City of Lansing currently has 11 Community Police Officers (CPOs).
 - Last year, a new CPO position was created in the Walnut and Old Town Area.

- As of February 1, 2020, Lansing's 12th CPO will begin work in the southeast part of the city.
- A Mental Health Task Force will be formed to create a mental health organization inventory list, as well as a communications matrix to best address issues together.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

- Over the last two years, Mayor Schor's administration has had a tremendous internal focus on the City's financial health.
- Last year, the City worked with the Financial Health Team (FHT) and City Council to create the position of Chief Strategy Officer (CSO). The goal of this position was to review financial and operational efficiencies, and to review our legacy costs. Shelbi Frayer was hired as CSO in August 2019.

BOLD LANSING

- BOLD stands for Believe. Optimize. Learn. Dream.
- The City of Lansing was one of only nine cities in the country to be part of the What Works Cities: Economic Mobility cohort. The cohort worked with many experts to align our economic mobility efforts to increase student success in Lansing.
- BOLD Lansing is a partnership made up of the City, the Lansing School District, MSUFCU, the Capital Area College Access Network, Lansing Promise, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan and the Lansing Financial Empowerment Center.
- It will serve as a centralized resource where students and parents can get information about economic mobility services – from Lansing SAVE, to financial aid application assistance to helping with FAFSA completion or one-on-one financial counseling.
- For more information on this important effort visit: www.BOLDLansing.org.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The Public Service Department will create a Sustainability Manager and Coordinator this spring.
- The City will receive a climate action plan and City energy efficiency plan in the next few months.

BE COUNTED LANSING – CENSUS 2020

- Having an accurate count of all of our residents in the 2020 census is imperative.
- Census count day is April first, and anyone residing in Lansing on that day must be counted whether you are a year-round resident, a college student or an international community member. Citizenship status does not matter – we count ALL Lansing residents, and census forms are 100 percent confidential and protected by federal law.
- Research shows that each person accounts for approximately \$1,800 per year in federal aid.
- The City of Lansing’s internal Complete Count Committee, led by the Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement and the Mayor’s Office, is working with many community partners to ensure Lansing is counted.
- If you have want to join the Complete Count Committee and can help to talk to those in traditionally uncounted communities, or if you want more information, visit www.becountedlansing.com.

LANSING’S TIME IS NOW!