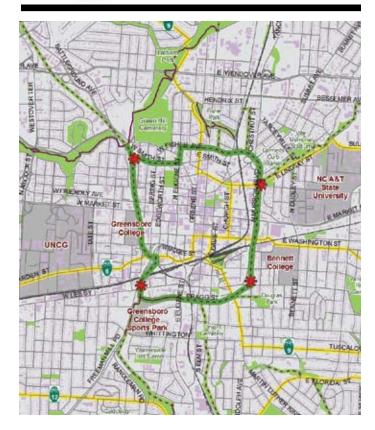


## Action Greensboro Where the lights are bright

reensboro's downtown is its cultural and entertainment hub, with regional theaters and museums as well as a variety of art galleries, restaurants, and nightclubs.



South Elm Street's eclectic collection of historic buildings has been named a National Register Historic District. This pedestrianfriendly arts and antiques corridor is the classic American "Main Street" and one of the best of its kind in the region. Residents of lofts above its commercial establishments add to the downtown energy.

Center City Park, a 1.9-acre green space in the heart of downtown created in 2006, incorporates themes and details that reflect Greensboro's history and culture, representing the city as an open and welcoming place of diverse people. The use of local artists' work in the park is an important part of that statement.

Musical performances and cultural events take place in the park regularly during the warmer months, usually at no cost to audience members. From weekly lunchtime entertainment to monthly outdoor movies, Center City Park serves as a central gathering place for Greensboro's residents and out-of-town visitors in a setting that is both relaxed and lively.

Across Davie Street from the park is the city-owned Greensboro Cultural Center housing the offices of more than a dozen arts organizations. The Cultural Center is home to diverse gallery exhibitions, rehearsal and performance space for music, dance, and theater, and classes for children and adults. On the grounds outside the center, Festival Park provides performance space for cultural



events, music festivals and, in the winter, ice skating.

Seven institutions of higher education exert a strong cultural influence on Greensboro, contributing a large diversity of arts and entertainment events, classes, and of course the presence of tens of thousands of young adults.

The Downtown Greenway is a planned four-mile walking and biking trail that will encircle downtown—the only one of its kind in the state and one of the few in the country. A significant feature of the Greenway will be public art with unique connections to the heritage and culture of Greensboro. Each of the four corners of the Greenway will be set off by major pieces of public art that recognize themes unique to Greensboro's character:

- Motion and education
- Tradition and history
- Innovation and industry
- Freedom and civil rights

There will be at least 12 benches created by North Carolina artists, with each artist working with the neighborhood at the bench location to determine the character of that neighborhood for inspiration in the design.

A \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts has enabled the creative renovation of an abandoned railroad underpass that will be

a key link between the first phase of the Downtown Greenway and a future section. This artistic collaboration will include innovative lighting, sculpture, graphics, and landscaping to create a unique outdoor public

Action Greensboro is a nonprofit organization of foundations and the business community dedicated to projects that enhance business recruitment efforts and community vitality in Greensboro. Project focus areas are: center city, higher education, public schools, and young professionals. For more information, go to actiongreensboro.org.



Opposite page: Proposed map of Downtown Greenway. This page: Center City Park event, cyclists at Center City Park

art space.