



For Immediate Release  
April 22, 2024

## **South Milwaukee's Bucyrus Commons Project Receives Wisconsin Main Street Award for Best Revitalization Initiative**

South Milwaukee, WI – The [Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation \(WEDC\)](#) celebrated the best downtown revitalization projects of 2023 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Main Street Awards ceremony in Green Bay on April 19, 2024.

“As Main Street goes, so goes Wisconsin’s economy, its well-being, our way of life in the Badger State,” said Missy Hughes, WEDC Secretary and CEO. “And these awards prove once again Wisconsin communities are thriving. Congratulations to the winners. We salute and celebrate you, our partners in creating an economy and improving the quality of life for the betterment and benefit of all.”

South Milwaukee’s [Bucyrus Commons](#) project was honored for Best Revitalization Initiative for Connect Communities with a population over 5,000. The criteria for being selected required demonstrating a proactive approach to historic and commercial district revitalization.

In February 2020, the Bucyrus Foundation committed to a \$2 million gift to the City of South Milwaukee to enable two projects to help transform the downtown. \$1.5 million was dedicated to the renovation of 1919 12th Avenue, now known as the [Bucyrus Club & Event Center](#), and \$500,000 was to be put toward the Bucyrus Commons at the corner of 11th and Madison Avenues.

After several stakeholder committee meetings and two public surveys throughout 2020 and 2021, the Bucyrus Commons design was finalized to include greenspace, an open-air pavilion, a restroom/concession building, a children’s digging area, and a covered stage. The Bucyrus Commons officially opened on May 21, 2023.

“The Bucyrus Foundation gift in 2020 served as the catalyst for our downtown revitalization. With their support, we have been able to create a five-year strategic plan for downtown South Milwaukee, establish grant programs for our small business owners, commission a community mural, and invest in placemaking amenities,” said South Milwaukee Mayor Jim Shelenske. “Thank you to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for this award. I am confident that South Milwaukee will continue to be a leader in Wisconsin when it comes to economic development and redevelopment.”

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