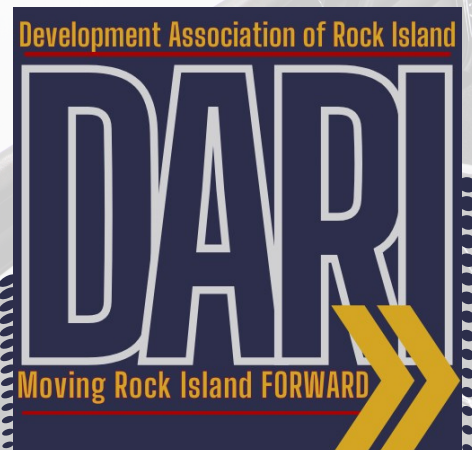




ANNUAL REPORT 2023

www.rockislandforward.com

WWW.ROCKISLANDFORWARD.COM



About DARI

DARI serves as the liaison between publicly and privately funded economic interests. We actively collaborate with the city of Rock Island and our member businesses to identify funding and resources for new and existing businesses.

Meet the Team

DARI is a unique partnership made up of city staff and DARI employees

Elizabeth Murray Tallman

Vice President

Development Association of Rock Island

✉ etallman@rockislandforward.com



Tom Flaherty

*Economic Development Director
city of Rock Island*

✉ thomas.flaherty@rigov.org

Tarah Sipes

*Economic Development Manager
city of Rock Island*

✉ sipes.tarah@rigov.org



Stacey McIntosh

Program Director

Development Association of Rock Island

✉ smcintosh@rockislandforward.com

Economic Development

30

BUSINESSES AWARDED DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

571

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENTS

96

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Congratulations to these Rock Island businesses for investing a total of \$19.9 million in new expansions! Your efforts this year directly impact the lives of our community.



Economic Development

The Development association of Rock Island (DARI) is a true representation of the businesses and organizations who come together and work collaboratively for the betterment of Rock Island. DARI and the city of Rock Island continues its successful public-private partnership and built a robust pipeline of economic development projects to grow businesses, jobs, and the tax base for Rock Island. During 2023, the team provided technical assistance to close to six hundred (600) businesses; managed ninety-six (96) economic development projects; and nearly \$20 million was deployed directly into existing Rock Island businesses.



**\$19.9
million**

**planned
business
investments
in 2023**

**\$70+
Million**

**Private sector
investment
currently
underway in Rock
Island**

Celebrations

**Positive Brothers United Outreach Center
Boetje's Mustard Illinois Made Recognition
Ceremony Rock Island HS Entrance/Commons
Ribbon Cutting Brick & Mortar Boutique Grand Re-
opening Celebration Nest Cafe 1 Year Anniversary
Big T Wear 1 Year Celebration
Liberty Packaging Falcon Machine Celebration
Hauberg Carriage House Ribbon Cutting
Bally's Sports Bar Grand Opening
Rock Island Dental Associates Grand Opening
S Guzman Services LLC Ribbon Cutting
QC Farmers Market 2 Year Celebration
RI Downtown Alliance Launch Event
11th Street Dollar Tree Grand Opening
Spellbound Holiday/Post-Construction Celebration
Theo's Grand Re-opening
APK Academy (Daycare)
Rock Island-Milan School District Office Opening
Happy Joe's Dough Kitchen Commisarsary
YMCA/Library Celebration**

Workforce Housing

LIVE WORK ROCK ISLAND CELEBRATED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR! IT IS A UNIQUE WORKFORCE TALENT ATTRACTION TOOL ONLY AVAILABLE TO DARI MEMBER EMPLOYERS. IT HAS PROVIDED HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO 422 DARI MEMBER EMPLOYEES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND SINCE 2003. THE LIVE WORK ROCK ISLAND PROGRAM HAS PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN HELPING GROW THE RESIDENTIAL BASE IN ROCK ISLAND.



13 HOMES
CLOSED THROUGH LIVE
WORK ROCK ISLAND

\$111,023
PROVIDED IN
DOWNPAYMENT
ASSISTANCE

\$1,835,829
FACILITATED IN REAL
ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Divots FORE DARI

OVER \$18,000 raised in 2023



Proceeds will be used for DARI's "Why Rock Island" High School Scholarship and Campaign, and to help fund business grants.



TITLE SPONSOR



FOOD & BEVERAGE SPONSOR



WHY ROCK ISLAND

Through the "Why Rock Island" Campaign, DARI awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to Keller Mathews, a RIHS Graduate. He submitted written and video essays on Why Rock Island is a great place to live.

Keller is attending the University of Missouri for Engineering.



Membership

- American Bank & Trust
- Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
- Augustana College
- BankOrion
- Blackhawk Bank and Trust
- BiState Regional Commission
- Buckrop & Vandevelde, PC
- Bush Construction Company
- Carpetland USA
- Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse
- City of Rock Island
- Community Health Care, Inc
- Crawford Company
- John Deere
- Environet, Inc
- Estes Construction
- Friendship Manor
- Gas and Electric Credit Union
- Holiday Inn
- IHMVCU
- Illinois Casualty Company
- Bally's Casino and Hotel
- Katz Nowinski, PC
- loanDepot
- McCarthy, Calls & Feeney, P.C.
- MetroLink
- MidAmerican Energy
- Modern Woodmen
- Quad City Bank & Trust Co
- QC Chamber of Commerce
- Rock Island/Milan School
- RSM US, LLP
- Royal Neighbors
- Russell Construction
- SAL Family and Community
- Shive-Hattery Architecture
- Studio 483 Architecture
- TBK Bank
- Terracon Consultants, Inc.
- The Arc of the Quad Cities
- Thoms Family
- Tyson Foods
- UPH-Robert Young Center
- Wells Fargo Bank
- WHBF News Channel 4
- Kale Companies

DARI Executive Board 2023-2025

Troy Green, Chair, Crawford Co.
Jeff Rose, Vice Chair, American Bank
Frank Nowinski, Secretary/Treasurer
John Daly, Russell Co.
John Friedrich, Royal Neighbors
Travis Hankins, Bally's Quad Cities
Steve Ollenburg, Modern Woodmen of America
Isha Reading, Black Hawk Bank & Trust
Daniel Solchenberger, Shive Hattery
Todd Thompson, City of Rock Island

Thank
you