

Good Evening Mayor and Council

My name is Leasa Gibbons and this is my first time before council as the new Executive Director for Warehouse District. On behalf of our board of directors, I'm excited to present our 2018 budget.

This year we're developing our new comprehensive Strategic Plan that will take us through 2021. The Warehouse District is asking for a 3% BID levy increase in 2018 to support that plan as well as the many exciting events and initiatives coming this year.

The Regina's Warehouse BID was formed back in 2003, but this will be the first year it's had a full time staff, myself as ED and Dee Kitsch as our Marketing Coordinator. We also plan to bring in additional student staff for the summer and fall leveraging federal grants.

Those students will help support some of the placemaking events coming this year like the District's first participation in Doors Open which takes place all across Canada and will highlight the district's heritage buildings and their importance for the future along with our second annual Warehouse Tailgate Party. Regina's Warehouse District will also have, for the first time, a game day shuttle for transport to and from stadium events and Rider games.

As some of you know, I worked with the Regina Downtown BID for 6 years. Downtown and Warehouse are now actively working together to share resources and know-how (after all we're only separated by a couple of train tracks.) Earlier this month, the two districts co-presented a Tactical Urbanism Workshop and brought both district boards together for governance training. In September of this year, both districts will work together to present Park(ing) Day where we take parking spaces and re-imagine them into temporary park spaces.

I wanted to talk for a moment about the Tactical Urbanism Workshop—which also saw attendance by BID representatives from Saskatoon and Moose Jaw. The focus of the Workshop was short term action to inspire long term change. We held the workshop in the old sears bargain centre, which is also known as Centennial Mall and, by the way, is celebrating being a century old this year. Our feature speaker at the workshop was Harold Madi. Harold is the head of Stantec's Canadian Urban Places Group and served as director of urban design for the City of Toronto.

During some of his downtime from the workshop, Harold had taken a drive through the Warehouse District, and he was telling me how amazing the buildings were and the huge potential he can see in the district. This is something myself and the residents and businesses of Warehouse already know.

But we need to make sure more stakeholders, businesses and investors understand the opportunities within the Warehouse District and we're currently developing business recruitment study and materials that will help achieve that goal.

A few other points I want to mention are:

- We value our working relationship with the North Central Family Centre and their collaboration with our Warehouse Clean Up Crew, providing jobs for four individuals that help keep the Warehouse District clean during the summer.
- Speaking of keeping things clean, we are working on a pilot project to install Warehouse garbage cans along Dewdney Avenue and other high pedestrian traffic areas.

The Warehouse BID will continue our advocacy work on behalf of our members. And we hope to build an even stronger relationship with the City of Regina because we have a lot of important items on our to do list, and that includes: crosswalks, the railyard renewal project, adaptive reuse of buildings and investment into infrastructure.

Thank you. I'd be happy to take any questions at this time.