



City of Yakima

# **News Release**

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**Subject: Downtown Yakima Master Plan Workshop**

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## **First Yakima Downtown Master Plan Workshop Set for May 9<sup>th</sup>**

The first in a series of public meetings to discuss the future of Downtown Yakima is set for **Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel. The meeting, which will begin at **6:30 pm**, will provide community members with an opportunity to give input on the development of both a comprehensive master plan for the downtown core and an approach to attracting new retail businesses to Downtown Yakima.

Earlier this year the City hired two consulting firms to help develop strategies for downtown. Crandall Arambula, a Portland, Oregon-based urban design, architecture, and planning firm that specializes in downtown revitalization, is heading up the downtown master planning process. Thomas Consultants, an international retail strategy company headquarter in Vancouver, B.C., is responsible for crafting a retail recruitment plan.

"Public participation in the workshops will play a key part developing a successful approach that will lead to redevelopment and make Downtown Yakima a vibrant destination for both residents and visitors alike," said City of Yakima Economic Development Manager Sean Hawkins. "The workshops will provide community members with the chance to share ideas, to ask questions, and to gain a better understanding of the master plan process."

The downtown master plan will provide guidance on a variety of issues including parking, traffic, pedestrian and bicycle access, artwork, the Yakima Farmers Market, new retail development, public safety, and additional public gathering spaces.

In addition to the May 9<sup>th</sup> public meeting, two other workshops are planned during the year to allow for additional public comment as the downtown master plan document is developed.

The final master plan, along with a strategy for implementation, and the retail development strategy are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

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