

AriseNow Goals & Governance

ARISE is a bold vision for downtown Janesville's long-term future, solidly grounded in community engagement and focused on feasible action steps. The ARISE Plan is intended to position downtown Janesville as a vibrant neighborhood where commerce, culture, entertainment, and history intersect. On February 23, 2015 the City Council accepted the ARISE plan as the blueprint for downtown re-development and was a key step in what has been a multi-year commitment to downtown.

ARISE Goals:

- Make the downtown the heart of the community and a fun, vibrant and healthy place to live, work and visit for a wide spectrum of the community
- Preserve the historical character and authenticity of the downtown
- Celebrate the Rock River as Janesville's greatest asset
- Facilitate new investment and redevelopment with a market driven and action oriented strategy

ARISENow is a private-public partnership formed in 2016 that strengthens the implementation of the City's ARISE Plan as well as supports other key activities and organizations working to transform downtown Janesville. ARISENow was chartered by founding members City of Janesville, Downtown Janesville Inc , Forward Janesville/Foundation, and Janesville Performing Arts Center. The Forward Foundation, the 501(c)3 of Forward Janesville, acts as the financial agent for ARISENow partnership.

ARISENow has evolved over time as the goals, accomplishments, and challenges of downtown revitalization change. By 2020 seven organizations had joined ARISENow Steering: The original four organizations as well as Downtown BID, Janesville Convention and Visitor Bureau and Rock County Historical Society. In 2022 a new structure was adopted moving away from a fixed group of organizational partners and At-large members to allow for a more flexible three-tiered model that continues to focus on outcomes, execution and coordination.

ARISENow Structure

ARISENow has three levels of engagement:

1. Steering Member
2. Affiliate Member
3. At-Large Advisor

ARISENow Steering Members represent a cross-section of both public and private organizations who form the Steering Committee. The primary purpose of Steering is to set, review and execute the overall direction and goals of the ARISENow public private partnership.

Guiding Principles: Build momentum, be proactive, leverage available resources, engage through education, keep a long-term horizon, solve problems and focus on partnerships.

Steering Membership requirement includes:

- Organization located in Downtown Janesville (Zone B6) unless voted by Steering unanimously

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- At least one member of organization attends 10 of 12 monthly Meetings
- Organizations provide monthly written updates to Steering for agenda inclusion
- Promotion of ARISE Goals
- Lead Strategic Planning for Downtown and adoption of Annual Operating Plan
- Membership voted annually at February meeting

The Steering Committee is guided by a Strategic Operational Plan where joint goals for the year are established that require coordination by partner organizations. The Steering Agenda consists of written updates from organizations and discussion of strategic opportunities as defined by the operational plan set annually at its February Meeting. Notes are taken and maintained by Forward Foundation as hosting site of meeting. Renewal of organizations occurs annually at February Annual Meeting.

Chair: Review and manage the overall direction of the ARISENow Steering Committee and individual committee efforts. Chair will meet monthly with ARISENow staff person to set agenda to review goals, outcomes and deadlines, including reporting mechanisms (i.e. dashboard) and set agenda for ARISENow Steering Committee meetings. Request for updates will be sent on the Friday before Wednesday Steering Meeting and received by EOB on the Monday prior for distribution on Tuesday.

Affiliate Members participate at an important level with ARISENow but not at same commitment level.

Affiliate Membership Requirements:

- Organization located in Downtown Janesville (Zone B6) or demonstrate strong commitment to furthering ARISE Goals
- Organizations provides quarterly written updates to Steering for agenda inclusion
- Promotion of ARISE Goals
- Participate in Strategic Planning for Downtown
- Membership voted annually at February meeting

At-Large Members participate as advisor, expert or key initiative leader and are asked to join at request of Steering and reviewed annually at Annual Meeting in February.

Steering Sub-Committee Goals and Responsibilities:

Sub-Committees are created to manage individual efforts charted by ARISENow Steering. Examples of current or previous committees include:

Fundraising Committee: Raise funds to support the ARISE project scope.

Infrastructure/Town Square Committee: Partner with City Staff to review, understand the scope and make suggestions for priorities and direction of the ARISE project.

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Performing Arts Committee: Continue to develop the financial feasibility, revise and update project goals, design and costs to implement the Downtown Amphitheater project and internal renovations to JPAC. (Not active)

Art in Place Committee: Enhance the appearance of Downtown Janesville through the integration of art in the public environment.

Calendar Committee: Coordinate and maximize the activity of downtown events to ensure maximum exposure and facilitate new event development.

Membership & Voting Procedures:

- The Steering Chair is elected by majority of votes of Steering and holds a 2- year term.
- New steering member organizations are invited to join Steering by the Chair with direction and support from all current Steering member organization. Each organization has one vote. Each organization may appoint two members to attend Steering.
- Chair(s) of Committee shall be voted on and approved by the Steering Committee by majority vote.
- Individual Members of sub-committee may be added by their respective Chairs with notification to Steering.
- The Steering may modify, disband or create a committee by majority vote of Steering Committee members.

Authorization of Expenditures:

Authorization of expenditure of funds shall be reviewed and authorized by the Forward Foundation Board and Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee. Updates to Steering to be completed by Finance Chair and Funds raised reported. Annual audits to be completed as required by regulation. Forward Foundation shall approve and administer the funds for ARISENow.

Charter Amended

Drafted: March 2016

Updated: November 29, 2017; September 4, 2019; July 22, 2021, March 30, 2022