

Downtown crowd

Some of the people most influential in reshaping downtown Austin:

Robert Barnstone

51, developer

The former Austin City Council member is developing the 11-story Nokonah condominiums at Ninth Street and Lamar Boulevard with Perry Lorenz and a two-story office-retail site for the Eclectic folk art and furniture store at 700 Lamar.



R. Barnstone

Charlie Betts

57, executive director, Downtown Austin Alliance

Personable and well-connected, Betts leads an organization that has united downtown land and business owners into a political force.



Charlie Betts

Sinclair Black

58, architect

After three decades agitating for a better downtown, Black is playing a direct role — designing downtown apartments and a retail center for entrepreneur John Wooley and redesigning the State Theatre on Congress Avenue. Black's Cedar Street Bar and two adjacent warehouse renovations helped usher the Warehouse District into being.



Sinclair Black

Ann Ciccolella

46, director, Austin Circle of Theaters

A leader of Austin's arts movement, Ciccolella heads a trade organization that serves 80 theater, music and dance groups. While wealthy patrons make a bigger impact on museums and performing arts centers, Ciccolella is the respected spokeswoman for Austin's 200 home-grown arts groups, now proliferating downtown.



Ann Ciccolella

Alfred King

81, arts patron

An influential visionary behind the Austin Museum of Art, Austin Lyric Opera and other local arts groups, King has captained the fight to build a major art museum downtown, as well as a performing arts center to relieve congestion at Austin's concert halls and theaters.



Alfred King

Perry Lorenz

41, developer

A major landowner along Waller Creek with developer Robert Knight, Lorenz envisions a river walk with cafes, restaurants and a convention center hotel along the creek. Lorenz also is developing the 11-story Nokonah condos on Lamar Boulevard with Robert Barnstone.



Perry Lorenz

Jim McBride

38, chief financial officer, LBJ Holding Co.



Jim McBride

McBride's company is turning the vacant Brown Building at Eighth and Colorado streets into 90 loft-style apartments. LBJ Holding recently bought the Norwood Tower at 114 W. Seventh St.

Mac Pike

49, president, Sutton Lofts

Pike's company is converting several downtown sites, including a former state office building and an ice plant, into loft apartments. Sutton Lofts is in the market to buy other buildings, as well.



Mac Pike

Brad Schlosser

37, principal, Schlosser Development

Schlosser is spearheading downtown's most ambitious retail project, the MarketPlace at Sixth and Lamar. The two-block center, with a Target store and movie theater, could break ground by summer.



Brad Schlosser

Stuart Shaw

46, president, Bonner Carrington

Shaw's development company is busy in the Warehouse District. Projects include a planned retail-office building at 200 Congress Ave. and a 350-unit apartment complex near Second and Colorado streets that may be developed in partnership with the City of Austin.



Stuart Shaw

Jim Smith

49, assistant city manager

Want to know which developers and landowners have downtown aspirations? Camp outside Smith's office. He is the City of Austin's point man on downtown development, particularly the city initiatives to build apartments and the Waller Creek flood tunnel.



Jim Smith

Tom Stacy

44, developer

Stacy has found a niche buying and restoring downtown properties. His firm owns three significant buildings in the 500-700 blocks of Congress Avenue: the Austin Hotel, which is being renovated; the Scarbrough Building, which will be renovated; and the Littlefield Building.



Tom Stacy

Kirk Watson

39, Austin mayor

City government is no longer a passive player in downtown's future. Watson and a sympathetic City Council are committed to making the city core a social and cultural center and an economic powerhouse.



Kirk Watson

John Wooley

49, entrepreneur

Some downtown landowners dream of office towers; Wooley hopes to build a neighborhood in the Warehouse District. One block owned by his family will become apartments at Second and Colorado. Another site could become an office-retail center at 200 Congress Ave. And Wooley has another three acres to play with.



John Wooley