



[www.atlantadna.org](http://www.atlantadna.org)  
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Submit your articles/events to ADNA  
Newsletter c/o [deboday@yahoo.com](mailto:deboday@yahoo.com)

### ADNA MEMBERSHIP

**The strength of the Atlanta Downtown Neighborhood Association relies on participation by the community members it serves; therefore, we strive to increase membership. Are you a member of the ADNA? Yes, no, not sure? Watch for 2006 membership data to be posted on the website soon.**

**What is the process for becoming a member? It's very simple. Attend three or more ADNA monthly community meetings during the calendar year. Complete the sign in sheet each time so the membership team has a record of your attendance. That's it! Welcome aboard if this is your third meeting in 2006. If you are a carry-over member from 2005, we thank you for your participation. To maintain your membership in 2006 you should also attend at least three monthly meetings and complete the sign in sheets.**

### The Atlanta Downtown Festival & Tour May 20th and 21st

**Tour Tix on sale April 1st!  
\$15 in advance  
\$20 at the door**

Call the Theatrical Outfit Box  
Office to get your tickets now  
(678)528-1500 or at TIX.com

FESTIVAL FOCUS ON ARTS -  
BIGGER & BETTER

# ADNA Monthly Newsletter

## ATLANTA DOWNTOWN FESTIVAL RETURNS MAY 19 & 20 WITH JURIED VISUAL ARTS MARKETS, MORE MUSIC & FAMILY FUN

### April 11 ADNA Community Meeting Museum of Design Atlanta (MODA)

**6:30-8:00pm**

by Whitney Ruser

ADNA Board member Mary-Elizabeth Harmon welcomed 45 ADNA members and guests to the Museum of Design Atlanta (MODA) in the Marquis II Tower. Collonade Properties (thank you Clara Sanchez!) provided meeting space. Visitor/member introductions followed, with announcements by a Jefferson Park resident (promoting their upcoming Festival) and a GaTech grad student (studying the business impact of panhandling legislation.) ADNA President Jay Tribby advised of the next meeting's topic, a grocery store for downtown, and encouraged turnout for the May meeting.

ADNA Festival Chairmen (Jen Henderson, Beth Haynes, Chris Raffield) explained Festival progress and handed out fliers and posters, encouraging attendees to spread the word and to volunteer during the event. Tickets are available at several venues (Tix.com, Theatrical Outfit, The Container Store and at ADNA meetings) up to May 20/21. The loft tour will have 13 homes, and includes several new buildings on the tour.

Chris Ciovacco introduced Warren Snipes and Brett Oliver from Portman Holdings who presented the AmericasMart addition being constructed at Williams and International and the need for a zoning variance to allow for overhead walking bridges

connecting this new building. Issues that were raised by residents were addressed:

- Variance is needed to cross public (street air) space (the city receives "air rights" rental income)
- Traffic implications of the new building include increased bus transit for convention/show transport from hotels
- Plans included a public plaza at Williams & Harris and retail on Williams & International to ameliorate the pedestrian eyesore of existing buildings
- Buyers need the convenience of bridges to make best use of time, AmericasMart needs competitive advantage it gives over other cities

After viewing plans that showed an extensive, publicly accessible retail presence on the ground floor, a motion was made, seconded and passed to endorse the ordinance variance to allow Portman Holdings to build pedestrian bridges. (NPU-M had already endorsed, pending ADNA's vote).

Laura Moody from MODA explained the museum's history. The only design museum in the Southeast, MODA is affiliated with The Smithsonian Institute through the Cooper-Hewitt in NYC. It's current exhibit, "Shaping the Atlanta Scene" was displayed in 3 spaces on two floors and included six landmark projects that are either completed, under construction or in the planning stages.

- 1180 Peachtree Street
- The Beltline Project
- Georgia Aquarium
- Atlanta Symphony Hall
- Atlantic Station
- High Museum expansion

Models, plans and renderings illustrated the unique properties

of these additions to Atlanta's signature architectural scene.

Moody also explained MODA's program for children, "A City of Neighborhoods," which encouraged school age participants to research Beltline neighborhoods and envision trolley stop environments. The project would involve historical research, design and presentation skills and foster a sense of ownership for Atlanta's changing neighborhoods.

The MODA museum store also stayed open late to offer ADNA guests 20% discounted sales on all items.

### **Trolley Service starts back in Downtown Atlanta! Toohey's Trolleys ready to roll**

Atlanta, GA – May 1, 2006 – Tom Toohey, a local Atlanta entrepreneur, will launch a new Trolley service for Downtown Atlanta on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. The kickoff event will be held at the Downtown Days Inn, 300 Spring Street starting at 4:00pm.

There will be 3 Trolleys in operation that will service a 2.3 mile route running from the Georgia Aquarium through Fairlie-Poplar, Five Points and Underground, up Peachtree Street to Baker Street back across to the Aquarium.

The Trolleys will operate seven days a week from 10am – 8 pm in Downtown and will also run from Atlantic Station to Downtown at night. The Trolleys are also available for charters, parties and corporate outings.

The fare is \$1.50 and kids 6 and under ride free.

For more information, please contact Tom Toohey at 404-658-9283 or Ron Slotin at Trio Media Group at 404-255-1970.

**Theatrical Outfit** is proud to present a world premier play, KEEPING WATCH, by Thomas

Ward. It tells the story of six young people in a small Alabama town navigating their way into adulthood. Confronting death, complex relationships, the meaning of life, and each other, it is a reminder that oftentimes grace comes where you least expect it. Directed by Atlanta favorite Tom Key who calls the play "a sure sign that great new playwrights are indeed on the horizon," KEEPING WATCH is a funny, moving, and compelling look at friendship, faith, and what it truly means to grow up. This play has adult language and should be considered PG-13 material.

KEEPING WATCH won the 2005 Christians in Theater Arts National Playwright's Contest and was chosen by Arts Within (Bryan Coley Artistic Director) to be developed and showcased for a national network of producers and artists.

KEEPING WATCH is playing at the Balzer Theater at Herren's from May 10 through June 10. Special \$10.80 ticket pricing is in place for the first two weeks of the run, May 10-May 21 (except May 12, 13, 17). This offer is also subject to availability. Please call the box office at 678-528-1500 to place your order!

### **DOWNTOWN SECURITY**

by Glade Johnson

This week I attended a security forum for downtown, and we were advised by the APD that pedestrian robberies are escalating in all parts of the city. They appear random at this point. Some of these are armed robberies. People need to be careful where they walk, they need to walk with someone, and they need to be careful about how much cash they carry. The worst hours are between 10 PM and 2 AM. I don't want to alarm anyone, but it is better to be aware than be surprised in a situation like this. I don't know when your next newsletter goes out, but I wanted you to have this info to do with as you see fit.

### **Please join us for upcoming social events with ADNA!**

By Amye Walters

In lieu of our regularly scheduled Happy Hour, we'll be partying a little early this month with the Festival and Tour Kick-Off Party on May 18. Look for more info within this newsletter or at atlantadna.org.

As we head into summer, look for details about our June and July Happy Hours. The Sundial Restaurant, Bar and View will host us on June 30. And to coincide with this year's Downtown Atlanta Restaurant Week, the July Happy Hour will be on July 28 at one of Karen Bremer's downtown eateries! Learn more about these Happy Hours at the next ADNA meeting or by emailing [toast30303@gmail.com](mailto:toast30303@gmail.com).

### **MEET THE ADNA BOARD**

This month's board member is none other than me, Deb Day, VP of Communications for the ADNA Board

When I moved to Georgia from Canada in 1996, everyone told me not to live south of Dunwoody (the only thing Canadians know about Atlanta comes from watching the series "COPS"). So I settled with my daughter in Roswell, and that was fine for a few years while she was growing up but after she moved out to go to college, I headed downtown. I can't imagine living in the suburbs now! Downtown is such an exciting place to be, with something going on all the time. I've met many great people through my affiliation with the ADNA that I can truly call friends. Living over at CPW, I call Centennial Park my front yard, without the maintenance. They even decorate it for my pleasure at Christmas!

I work as a Corporate Payroll Manager at a company just off of 285, and now the only time I venture to the suburbs is for church on Sunday. My whole world consists of Midtown and Downtown, and I'm excited that we are finally getting on the map. I tell everyone what a great place

it is to live! Who would ever want to live anywhere else!

## Start It Up Downtown

By Pablo Henderson

On June the 6th, 2006 The Downtown Neighborhood Association will launch the Downtown "Start it Up" Program. The program encourages people to start up their own group, club or society around any personal interest. Participants enter a competition to organize a group by July, people who must meet Downtown monthly at least 3 times before Tuesday November the 7th. The group must be linked by a common passion or curiosity varying from hobbies and activities to intellectual or cultural pursuits. Groups will submit a final package by the competition deadline that may include photos, scrapbooks, video or personal accounts describing the group's formation and why they should WIN the Grand Prize valued at \$5,000 including \$1,000 in cash. The competition is open to everybody. Contestants can visit [www.atlantadna.org](http://www.atlantadna.org) for a the application and competition rules. "The purpose of this program is to connect more people Downtown, and it's one of the many ways the ADNA continues to promote good quality of life in our neighborhood." said Vice President of programs Maria Balais.

## Small Business Focus: Dorsey Finishes

Submitted by Camille Smith

Thomas Sheets and Kirk Dorsey own Dorsey Finishes, Inc., a company that provides superior paint, wallpaper, faux finish, stain, carpentry and hardwood refinishing services. Begun in 1999 as an experiment, it has grown to 4 crews and over 150 clients a year.

Thomas was a public school choral music teacher and Kirk was a drywall finisher/painter for a plumbing company when they began to work at night and on the weekends. Their very first client was a friend in Columbus, GA who

needed her house painted. It must have been a comical sight to see the two drive up in Thomas' Mercedes loaded to the gills with supplies and a ladder sticking out of the trunk. Even then, their commitment to quality showed in their choice of "work truck"!

Kirk was the first to quit his job and go full-time with the business in 2001. Thomas stopped teaching in June of 2003 when the business grew to the point that it could not be managed part-time.

It was not long before Dorsey Finishes was called to do their first historic property, a 1906 Craftsman bungalow in Grant Park. That experience was the springboard into the historic market, which requires extreme skill and patience. Because of their skill, the company has been tapped as the Metro Atlanta painters for Lynchburg Stained Glass Company, a stained glass restoration firm. You can see some of the work of the two companies at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Grant Park, The Church of the Apostles at I-75 and West Paces Ferry Road, and at Grace United Methodist Church on Ponce de Leon Ave.

In 2005, Dorsey Finishes was invited to be a part of Home Reports Magazine ([homereports.com](http://homereports.com)), a prestigious referral service. The magazine staff required that the company open its books and files for full inspection. One hundred personal interviews with clients was done and all insurance certificates inspected. While this process was long and cumbersome, Home Reports admitted Dorsey Finishes to their magazine. Customers who use Home Reports can be assured of integrity and quality.

Even though Dorsey Finishes has become recognized as a high-quality company, they never forget the regular clients who gave them their start. They are just as likely to paint a ranch-style home in Decatur as a mansion on Northside Drive or a new loft in The Spire Midtown. They seek to keep their prices moderate so that their services are well within the reach of

everyone who cares about a job well done.

Links:

[HomeReports.com](http://HomeReports.com),  
[ConsumerVoted.org](http://ConsumerVoted.org), [Kudzu.com](http://Kudzu.com),  
[dorseyfinishes.com](http://dorseyfinishes.com),  
[atlantabbb.org](http://atlantabbb.org) (The Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan Atlanta)

## President's Corner

At tonight's Community Meeting, the ADNA will begin a conversation with developers and grocery retailers about our commitment to a truly livable Downtown, the kind of Downtown where you can walk, bike, or otherwise perambulate to... a grocery store.

So much of what neighborhood associations do in Atlanta is react to crises. Tonight, we're hoping to start something positive that the 7,000 new residents who will become our neighbors in the next few years will thank us for doing on their behalf.

Legacy leadership is a concept that folks in the corporate and nonprofit sectors are talking about a lot these days. This year's ADNA Board is doing a lot to leave a legacy of leadership to the neighborhood. Last month, we hosted an historic Joint Boards meeting with the Castleberry Hill Neighborhood Association and the Marietta Street Artery Association to discuss common challenges. As a result, members of both groups are in attendance tonight, to lend support to the eventual opening of a grocery store that we all can call our own.

Another way that we are leading for the future is by giving current Board members an opportunity to preside over our Community Meetings. I am so proud to be a colleague of the 2006 Board. With your support, we're developing a stellar crop of leaders for you.

It's never too early to start thinking about running for the Board in November. If you'd like to learn more about Board service, please contact me at 404.406.5296 or [jtribby@hotmail.com](mailto:jtribby@hotmail.com)

**Jay Tribby**