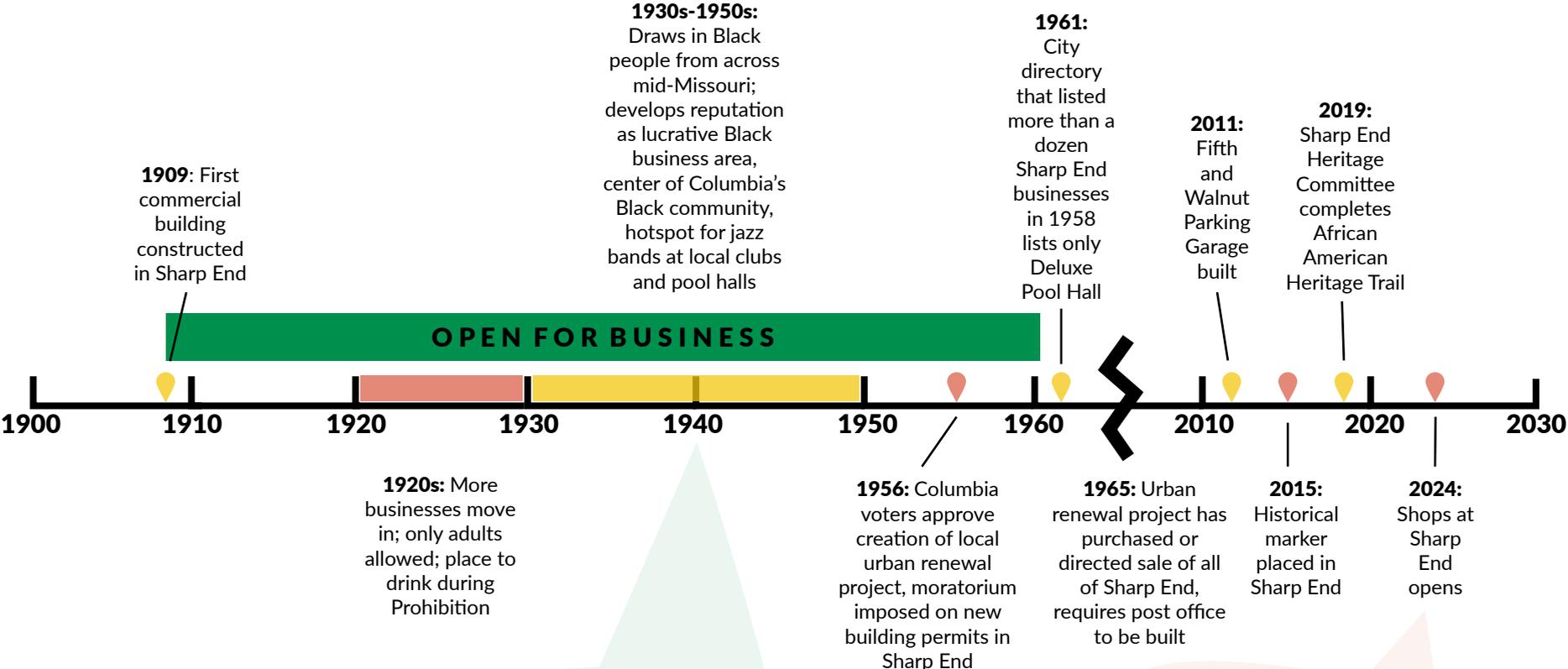


The Shops at Sharp End brings business back to Columbia's historic Black business district

The Shops at Sharp End, a retail incubator with 19 shops, opened Feb. 1 on Walnut Street, restoring commerce to the Sharp End neighborhood after about **60 years of drought**. Sharp End was once the business and entertainment hub of Columbia's Black community, housing dozens of barber shops, pool halls, cafes and jazz clubs at its peak. It attracted Black people from all over mid-Missouri and hosted jazz, blues and R&B legends like Ike and Tina Turner, B.B. King and Ray Charles. It was razed in the early '60s after the city's Land Clearance for Urban Development Authority declared it a blight; this was a practice known as **urban renewal**.



Some notable businesses:

- Vi's Cafe
- Elite Cafe
- Walnut Grill
- Phillips & Williams Barber Shop
- McQuitty Barber Shop
- Ebony Club
- Club Twenty-One
- Arcade Pool Hall
- Chandler's Pool Hall
- Deluxe Pool Hall
- Nu-Way Lumber Co.
- Walnut Apartments

