



Manchester Chamber of Commerce Official Statement

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce has had the privilege of working with the City's Tourism & Community Development Commission for many years, serving as the boots on the ground for the programs and initiatives established by the Commission. In years past, we have helped:

- Create videos encouraging sports teams and meeting planners to visit for their next tournament or meeting
- Promote local restaurants and shops (both Chamber members and nonmembers)
- Highlight tourism assets through our Visitor Guide, sent to welcome centers across the state
- Organize The Other Fest music festival that attracted visitors from 20+ states in 2022
- Facilitate the Downtown Manchester Christmas Stroll, bringing shoppers from across our region to shop and dine in our beautiful downtown district
- Greet visitors and arm them with marketing materials and recommendations of places to eat/shop/explore
- Market events in Manchester that attract visitors to our area
- Facilitate grants through the State of Tennessee Department of Tourism Development
- Secure funding through a federal tourism grant to bring a seasonal skating rink to Manchester
- Place billboards on I-24 to attract visitors
- Connect businesses and event organizers with resources to help them attract guests

In addition to tourism efforts, we facilitate Lemonade Day Manchester, an award-winning youth entrepreneurship program that has been recognized at both state and national level. We also host networking events, coordinate adult and middle school leadership programs, market Downtown Manchester as a retail destination, maintain a community gift card program, coordinate quarterly industrial roundtable events, host a job posting board, and enhance programs that support the success of Manchester's business community.

We love Manchester and the people and businesses that make it a great place to live and work. Although it was not our decision to cease tourism efforts, with or without funding, we will always be the City's biggest cheerleader, encouraging visitors to enjoy its natural beauty, and take advantage of the great local shopping and dining options.