REKINDLING KENMORE'S CORE





Kenmore Boulevard – The BLVD – is not only Akron's largest neighborhood business district, it is also Akron's emerging Music Row, with a dozen music related businesses in a 3-block area: music retail, recording studios, live music venues, and music schools. With a new K-5th elementary school and 4-8th visual & performing arts school being built just one block north of the BLVD, Better Kenmore's plan for 2024–26 is to develop the BLVD Historic District in a way that is catered to students and their families, with an arts focus and music at its core. Here's how:



Create Spaces That Sing

Enhance the BLVD's sense of place through clean, safe & creative spaces

Goal: Expand the BLVD branding and wayfinding plan

Goal: Create and implement a public art plan

Goal: Engage the City to build safe pathways between the incoming school campus and the BLVD

Goal: Beautify the BLVD and keep it safe and clean



Fill buildings with music, arts & resident-friendly businesses & housing

Goal: Be Akron's go-to organization for BLVD development

Goal: Develop 2-3 additional commercial & mixed-use buildings

Goal: Vet and recruit brand-supporting businesses that reflect our diverse neighborhood

Goal: Work with incoming and existing businesses to help them thrive



Engage Community

Convene the community around critical issues that impact the BLVD

Goal: Work with APS, City, other community partners and stakeholders to ensure that the new APS Kenmore Campus and surrounding infrastructure are optimized for incoming students and their families, together with current Kenmore residents

Goal: Engage City & community around beautification, safe & clean efforts

Goal: Convene diverse neighborhood music & arts collaborative



Make the BLVD a hub - both for budding musicians and artists, and for Kenmore residents

Goal: Improve upon our popular Kenmore First Friday, Boo on The BLVD, and Light The BLVD events

Goal: Plan (2024) and implement (2025) a huge Bicentennial party on the BLVD

Goal: Implement digital communication plan profiling the BLVD's music, people, businesses, and history

Goal: Implement PR campaign to promote positive BLVD news

betterkenmore.org