

# Experience Princeton Executive Director's Report July 28, 2025

# One Big Item

 As required by ordinance, we are submitting our Annual Report one month after the close of the fiscal year.

# **Additional Items**

- Rebooting Stakeholder and Merchant Meetups: Meetup planned for July 31 at Meeting House from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM has 37 RSVPs.
- Working to repair lighting in Hinds Plaza with contractor.
- EP was asked to provide naming and custom wrap design for expanded municipal bus routes.
- Currently working with several prospective businesses looking to open in Princeton.
- Discussion is happening with municipality related to enhanced cleaning services.
- Have received several questions and awaiting to hear timing of Nassau Street Streetscape project.

# **Experience Princeton Annual Report 2024-2025**

#### Overview

- 2.8 million out-of-market visitors (not residents or employees)
- 23,600 employees
- 33,300 residents
- Note: data from Placer.ai for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

# **Recognition and Attracting Resources**

- Designated a Main Street New Jersey community by the NJ Department of Community Affairs and Main Street America
- Secured a \$150,000 grant from Main Street New Jersey to assist with attracting new businesses, physical improvements, promotions around the 250<sup>th</sup>, and tech upgrades.
- Designed logo and launched page for 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- Signed partnership agreements with Morven Museum & Garden, Sustainable Princeton, and Princeton Battlefield Society.
- Economic Development Team worked with stakeholders and Municipality on update to allowable uses ordinance.
- Assisted businesses with finding a new locations in Princeton.
- Attended International Council of Shopping Centers Deal Show and other regional shows to promote Princeton.
- Worked with volunteers on Business Spotlights for Milk & Cookies, Hinksons, Princeton Record Exchange
- Welcomed 3 new Board Members
- Launched Storefront Improvement Program matching grant and completed first three projects for Center Barbershop, Bella Boutique, and Princeton Bridal.

## **Dohm Alley**

- Feature Dohm Alley refresh (photos attached)
- Recognize team lead by Charlie Yedlin and including volunteers Farzana Fariha, Elana Berk, Sheila Nall, George Akers, Brom Snyder
- Installation of exhibit by Einstein Museum

## Meetups

		Princeton Shopping
7/25/2024	Princeton Makes	Center
8/29/2024	The Corcoran Group	195 Nassau St
9/26/2024	1000 Herrontown Rd	206 North
10/3/2024		Virtual
10/24/2024	Maman	Palmer Square
11/7/2024		Virtual
	Triumph Restaurant and	
11/28/2024	Brewery	Dinky
1/23/2025	Sticky Fingers Cooking	Witherspoon

 2/27/2025
 Virtual

 4/24/2025
 Virtual

 6/26/2025
 Virtual

 7/31/2025
 The Meeting House
 Witherspoon

- Virtual meetups continue, total of 5 held
- In person meetups continue, total of 6 held
- Included well attended Holiday Party at Morven where volunteers were recognized
- 340 people have attended at least one in-person or virtual Meetup since first held
- 213 participants represent a business (63% of total)
- 48 Experience Princeton volunteers (23% of total)

## **Gift Card**

- 19710 impressions
- 621 gifts sold
- \$67,947 gifts sold value
- 504 gifts redeemed count
- \$48,751 gifts redeemed value
- 257 bonus cards sold
- \$19,278 bonus cards value
- 76 participating businesses
- \$641.46 average redemption by business
- 3.4 average customers attracted by business
- See Yiftee log attached for additional data should you wish to pull out, make a chart, etc.

# Holiday ad campaign

- Shop Princeton 2 Win campaign had 138 participating businesses
- 582 entries into sweepstakes
- Gave out \$7,500 in prizes to customers and businesses (\$500 each)
  - Winners week 1: Cosmo Bleu Salon / Michele Meyer-Shipp
  - Winners week 2: Witherspoon Grill / James Diorio
  - Winners week 3: Labyrinth Books / Susan Goetz
  - Winners week 4: Princeton Pizza Star / Ally Powers
  - Winners week 5: Whole Earth Market / Lisa Interollo
  - Winners week 6: Cross Culture Indian Cuisine / Joseph Herman
  - o Grand Prize Winner: Adriana Gorza, \$2,500

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Total
Total Number of	72	70	127	117	103	93	582
Entries							
% Growth week		-3%	81%	-8%	-12%	-11%	
over week /							
largest gain							

Unique	36	36	74	66	56	35	218
Entrants/Shoppers							
Unique	38	43	51	58	51	56	138
Businesses							

# Top Campaign Businesses Entries

- 1. Cosmo Bleu Salon 96
- 2. McCaffrey's Market 52
- 3. Whole Earth Center 31
- 4. Labyrinth Books 14
- 5. Village Silver of Princeton 14
- OTHER 13
- 7. CVS #1069 11
- 8. Elite Five Sushi & Grill 11
- 9. Jammin Crepes 11
- 10. Paper Source 11
- 11. Homestead Princeton 8
- 12. JaZams 8
- 13. maman 8
- 14. Olive's Bakery & Deli 7
- 15. Princeton Consignment 7
- 16. Kristine's 6
- 17. Miya Table & Home 6
- 18 Pastiamo Pasta Bar and Cafe 6
- 19. The Bagel Nook 6
- 20. The Meeting House 6
- 21. Chez Alice 5
- 22. Jammin' CrÃapes 5
- 23. Maruichi Japanese Food & Deli 5
- 24. Princeton Pizza Star 5
- 25. Princeton University Art Museum Store 5
- 26.30 Burgers 4
- 27. Cloak & Dagger 4
- 28. Costello's Ace Hardware 4
- 29. Delizioso Bakery + Kitchen 4
- 30.La Mezzaluna 4
- 31. Mamoun's Falafel 4
- 32. Mtea 4
- 33. Princeton Soup & Sandwich Company 4
- 34. Small World Coffee 4
- 35. Sunoco gas station 4
- 36. Winberie's Restaurant & Bar 4
- 37. Witherspoon Grill 4
- 38. Agricola Community Eatery 3
- 39. Alchemist & Barrister 3
- 40. Aspendos Mediterranean Cuisine 3

- 41. Bread Boutique 3
- 42. CHOPT Creative Salad Co. 3
- 43. Dandelion 3
- 44. Diesel and Duke 3
- 45. GIFT CARD EXPERIENCE PRINCETON DIGITAL GIFT CARD= 5 ENTRIES 3
- 46. Kung Fu Tea and Noodle House 3
- 47. Lindt Chocolate Shop 3
- 48. Mandalay Trading Co. 3
- 49. Nassau Street Seafood 3
- 50. Princeton Corkscrew Wine Shop 3
- 51. Princeton Garden Theatre 3
- 52. Taste of Mexico 3
- 53. The Blue Bears Special Meals 3
- 54. Toobydoo Princeton 3
- 55. Urban Outfitters 3
- 56. illy At Earth's End 3
- 57. Arhaus 2
- 58. Bluemercury 2
- 59. Chuck's Spring Street Cafe 2
- 60. Concord Pet Food & Supplies 2
- 61. Cross Culture Indian Cuisine 2
- 62. Experience Princeton 2
- 63. Greene Street Consignment 2
- 64. Halo Pub 2
- 65. Hamilton Jewelers 2
- 66. Hinkson's The Office Store 2
- 67. Image Arts 2
- 68. Johnny Was 2
- 69. Jules Thin Crust 2
- 70. Lan Ramen 2
- 71. Limelite 2
- 72. Local Greek 2
- 73. Lucy's Kitchen & Market 2
- 74. Lululemon Athletica 2
- 75. Madewell 2
- 76. Milk & Cookies 2
- 77. Mistral 2
- 78. Nomad Pizza 2
- 79. Olsson's Fine Foods 2
- 80 Pizza Den Princeton 2
- 81. Pj's Pancake House 2
- 82. Princeton Bottle King, LLC 2
- 83. Ralph Lauren 2
- 84. Rojo's Roastery 2
- 85. Salon Pure 2
- 86. Studio Copacabana 2

- 87 Sustainable Princeton 2
- 88. Tacoria 2
- 89. Teresa's Caffe 2
- 90. The Mint 2
- 91. Theo's of Princeton Salon 2
- 92. Thomas Sweet Chocolates 2
- 93. Triumph Brewing Co. 2
- 94. Walgreen's #17580 2
- 95.4 Elements Wellness 1
- 96. Art on Hulfish 1
- 97.B + B Hair Color Studio 1
- 98. Barbour Inc. 1
- 99.CVS #5871 1
- 100. Casa Aziz Salon 1
- 101. Charbellem 1
- 102. Color Me Mine Pottery Painting 1
- 103. Cyndi Shattuck Photography 1
- 104. Dunkin Donuts 1
- 105. Dvaraka Indian Restaurant 1
- 106. EXPERIENCE PRINCETON DIGITAL GIFT CARD 1
- 107. Exxon 1
- 108. Ficus 1
- 109. Fruity Yogurt 1
- 110. H1912 1
- 111. Historical Society of Princeton 1
- 112. J. Crew 1
- 113. J. McLaughlin 1
- 114. Junbi Princeton 1
- 115. Lace Silhouettes Lingerie 1
- 116. LiLLiPiES Bakery 1
- 117. Mavis Discount Tire 1
- 118. McCarter Theatre 1
- 119. Metro North Bar & Grill 1
- 120. Metropolis Spa & Salon 1
- 121. Mi Espana 1
- 122. Mi España 1
- 123. Morgenthal Frederics 1
- 124. Morven Museum & Garden 1
- 125. NIC + ZOE 1
- 126. Princeton Farmers Market 1
- 127. Princeton Makes: An Artists' Cooperative 1
- 128. Princeton Public Library 1
- 129. Princeton Record Exchange 1
- 130. Princeton University Store 1
- 131. Say Cheez Cafe 1
- 132. Signature Cleaners & Tailors 1

- 133. The Pastry Room 1
- 134. Tico's Eatery & Juice Bar 1
- 135. Tiger Noodles 1
- 136. U.S. Postal Service 1
- 137. Viburnum Designs 1
- 138. Whole Earth Center Deli 1

# New business openings

- 1. The Corcoran Group, 195 Nassau St
- 2. Haru Grab and Go, Spring St
- 3. The Rain of Spain, Palmer Square, 28 Palmer Sq E.
- 4. Ayat Palestinian Cuisine, Spring St
- 5. 4EverYoung, 301 N Harrison St
- 6. Alo Yoga, 23 Hulfish St
- 7. Alfalfa, 140 Nassau St Dec 6, 2024
- 8. Kids United, 301 N Harrison St, #110
- 9. Belle Journee Bakery, 15-19 Chambers St
- 10. Capriottis, 301 N Harrison St
- 11. Sticky Fingers Cooking, 28 Spring St #395
- 12. Anej Skin Ribbon Cutting, 10 Nassau St
- 13. Ooika, 300 Witherspoon St
- 14. House of Ishan, 16 Spring St
- 15. Ohm Fitness, 301 N Harrison St
- 16. The Tox, 23A Witherspoon St
- 17. XiBei Cuisine, 43 Witherspoon St
- 18. Tropical Smoothie, 301 N Harrison St
- 19. Form By Two Lagree + Pilates, 301 N Harrison St
- 20. Madras Dosa Company, 180 Nassau St
- 21. House of Cupcakes, 142 Nassau St
- 22. Tiger Treats, 55 Witherspoon St
- 23. Chickbomb, Nassau St
- 24. Back Nine Golf, 301 N Harrison St
- 25. Princeton Makes, 301 N Harrison St
- 26. Ooika, 94 Nassau St

# **Restaurant Week**

- \$142,939.50 in Restaurant Week offers sold
- 2,298 Restaurant Week offers sold
- Does not include off menu purchases for non-Restaurant Week offers
- In order of most sales from highest to lowest.
  - 1. Blue Point Grill
  - 2. The Meeting House
  - 3. Kristine's
  - 4. Lan Ramen
  - 5. Witherspoon Grill
  - 6. Ani Ramen

- 7. La Mezzaluna
- 8. maman
- 9. Nomad Pizza
- 10. The Blue Bears Special Meals
- See Restaurant Week Debrief document for more details

#### Newsletter audience

- Increase in subscribers (4311 to 5811) 34.8% increase
- Average open rate 51%
- 2,808 clicks
- 27,519 opens

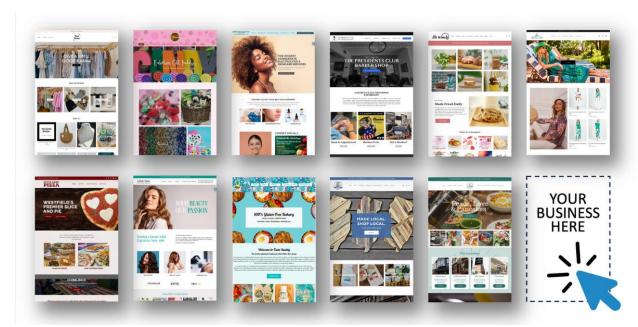
# Website stats

- 144.637 views
- 50.8333 active users
- 2.85 views per active user
- Top pages:
  - Restaurant Week (21.93%)
  - o Princeton Events (13.18%)
  - Home Page (8.92%)
  - o Visit (5.05%)
  - Directory (3.99%)

# Social media stats

- 181,270 Instagram users reached
- 46,649 Facebook users reached
- 1,026 Facebook content interactions
- 5,011 Instagram content interactions
- 144,637 views unique views of the EP website
- 7,908 Linkedin impressions

# **New Jersey Economic Development Authority Grants**



- \$10,000 grant through New Jersey Economic Development Authority
- Websites produced for
  - LilliPiES
  - Homestead Princeton
  - Charbellem
- David Sorkin, President of New Frontier spoke at April 24 Meetup.

# Thank you to donors

Experience Princeton Restaurant Week 2025

- Princeton Federal Credit Union
- Avalon Princeton Circle
- Acrisure
- Palmer Square Princeton
- Stark & Stark
- New Frontier Storefront
- Triumph Restaurant and Brewery

In-kind contributions: Town Topics, Edible Jersey, Jerseys Best/NJ.com, US-1, TapInto, Garden Theater, Princeton Mercer Chamber, Nassau Inn valued at \$28,000

Grants from Mercer County in support of Princeton250



Made possible by Mercer County Executive Dan Benson, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

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