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**DSI to Suspend Summer Markets & Seasonal Festivals in 2024**

Southport, NC - Downtown Southport Inc., a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization will be suspending its outdoor markets and festivals for 2024. These events include the Spring Festival, the Southport Summer Markets and the Winterfest Festival. The suspension is a result of Franklin Square Park being closed by the City of Southport due to heightened concern over the condition of the park and trees.

Due to the lack of good alternative spaces within the City of Southport, the directors of the non-profit organization voted to suspend these events while exploring options.

DSI's mission statement reads: *Downtown Southport Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage and charm of downtown Southport. DSI encourages and supports preservation projects, cultural activities, educational programs, tourism as well as reasonable economic growth in the downtown area, making Southport a vital vibrant year-round community for citizens and guests.*

Since 2013, DSI has donated more than \$170,000 to achieve its mission and support worthwhile projects and organizations such as the Friends of the Library Reading Garden, John N. Smith Cemetery preservation, Up Your Arts Banner Project, Wooden Boat Show, funds for the preservation of Franklin Square Park and so many more. Projects have included: Joint ventures with the City to fund wayfinding signs and maps for the City, sponsorship of the City's concert series, shred events within Southport, ads for Southport in 'Our State Magazine' and much more. In addition, DSI was the grantee/program administrator of the Southport Hometown Revitalization Grant Program, funded by the Duke Energy Foundation in early 2022. Funds were granted to qualifying local businesses to assist with recovery from the pandemic.

Downtown Southport Inc.'s income for donations and sponsorships comes from the fees the market and festival vendors pay to exhibit/sell. DSI has approximately 100 members; primarily business owners throughout the City.

For more information on Downtown Southport Inc., please visit  
[www.DowntownSouthport.com](http://www.DowntownSouthport.com).