

Ambler



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Ambler Main street



- Started in 1992
- A non-profit organization involving more than 100 volunteers.
- Dedicated to making "Downtown Ambler" a social, cultural and business center for Ambler and the surrounding areas.
- Restore and reuse old buildings.
- Improve existing buildings and recruit new ones.
- Host festivals and events in town.
- Create an attractive thriving "downtown" for the entire area.

How was it created?



- **Main Street is a national program formed to breathe life back into downtowns that have been affected by the closing of the industrial sites and influx of malls.**

How is it funded?

- **Businesses in the area contribute to the revitalization by bringing in people into the stores, restaurants, and attractions.**
- **Façade Grant Program**
 - provides professional design services and funding for improvement to downtown buildings.
 - At least 40 businesses have used these grants to make their businesses look better, therefore bringing in more customers.
- **Volunteers help by contributing their time in the following areas.**
 - Marketing
 - Membership
 - Business Development
 - Design
 - Fund Raising
 - Recruiting
 - Coordinating

When and how did it start?



- **In 1992, Ambler embarked on the Main Street Manager program. The Federal government offered guidelines as well as a challenge grant from the office of the Secretary of the Interior. Ambler raised matching funds-- \$20,000 from the state, \$12,000 from the Borough of Ambler and other revenues from special events and memberships.**

What businesses or organizations are part of the district?



- **Act II Playhouse-** Act II Playhouse, a 130-seat professional theatre located in the Philadelphia suburb of Ambler, PA, is committed to creating world-class theatre in a venue whose intimacy draws audiences and actors into dynamic interaction.
- **Addicted 2 Dance-** A2D COMPANY is an elite group of dancers who are not only talented, but also great role models for A2D and the community.
- **Mermaid Art Studios-** In business for over 12 years now, we are truly a "home-grown" studio. We offer an array of classes and for children and adults. Classes are taught by working artists.

Restaurants



- **Shanachie**
- **Bridgets**
- **KC's**
- **Fireside**

How its promoted. What Events are held?



- **Oktoberfest**
- **Race for the cure**
- **Frost bite Run**
- **Ambler car show**
- **April fools Party**
- **Winter Holiday Parade (local High schools)**
- **Dog days of summer (local Dogs and owners)**

What challenges does it face?

- **A down economy**
- **Lack of volunteers**
- **Competition from surrounding areas**
- **Cutbacks from the borough**

What kind of results have the district produced?



- Main street has become much more attractive since the institution of the revitalization project.
- There are approximately 40 more businesses to bring income into the district.
- Roads have been improved.
- SEPTA stations have been improved.
- Improved community spirit.
- Improved night life.

The Revitalization



- http://www.elocallink.tv/clients3/pa/ambler/tourplay.php?movie=ampa_revit&spon=revitali&type=wh&flver=10&brver=6