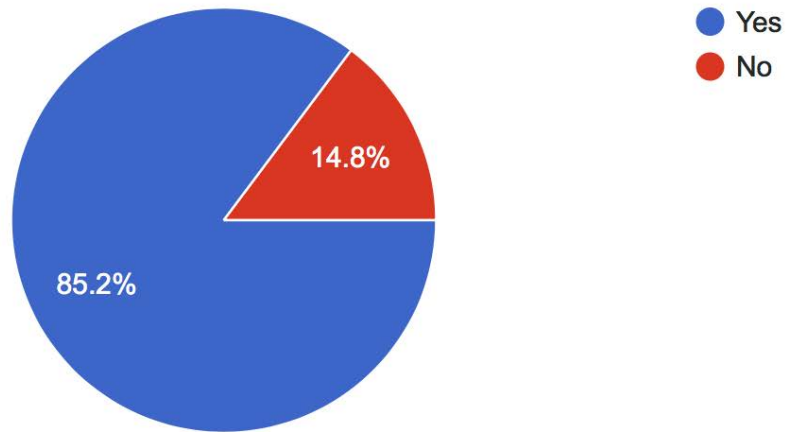


Athens-Clarke County Downtown Event Survey

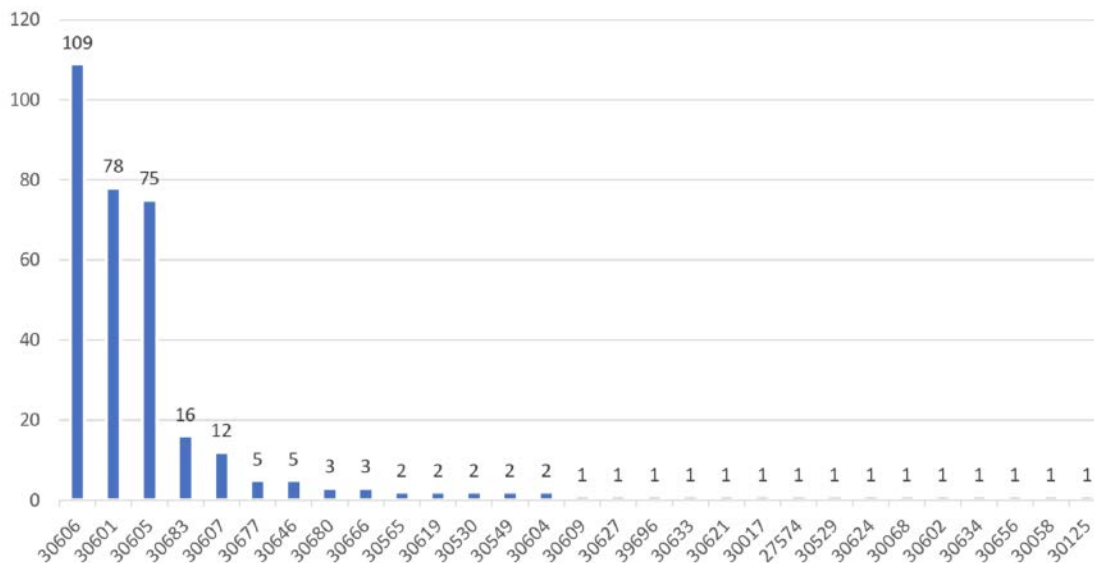
Thank you for participating in the Athens/Clarke County Downtown Event Survey. Athens is a cultural hub of creative energy. Our city's vibe comes from a robust visual and performing arts scene, live music, downtown events and more. Your feedback is important to ensure that we continue to evolve our event offerings and keep Athens a hub of creativity and a vibrant cultural destination. This survey is supplied and information collected by the Wild Rumpus Board.

1. Do you live in Athens/Clarke County?

366 responses

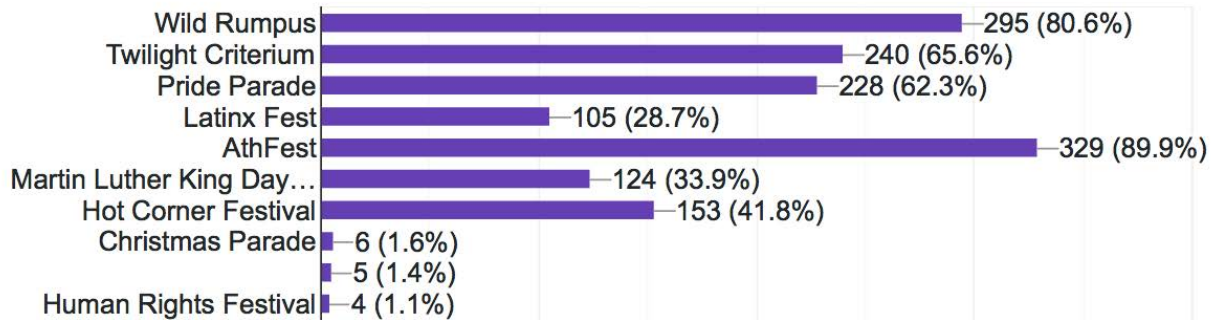


2. What is your zip code?



3. Check all events you have attended, or plan to attend, in Downtown Athens.

366 responses



Other responses:

Christmas Parade
 Human Rights Festival
 Black Market
 AthHalf
 Porchfest
 PorchFest
 Human Rights Festival (...when it was still around)
 Various protests.
 None.
 Concerts
 Parade of Lights, North Georgia FOlk Festival
 have not been to an event in years due to crime and foolishness
 Boybutante Ball and Human Rights Festivals
 Historic Athens Porchfest
 Popfest /Human Rights Fest /4th of July Celebration
 Human Rights Festival, North GA Folk Festival, Christmas Parade, July 4th events, Porch fest
 Athens Pagan Pride
 Lyndon House Juried Exhibitions
 Christmas parade, AthHalf
 International Street Festival, Human Rights Festival
 Various other community fund raisers
 any festival is a good time

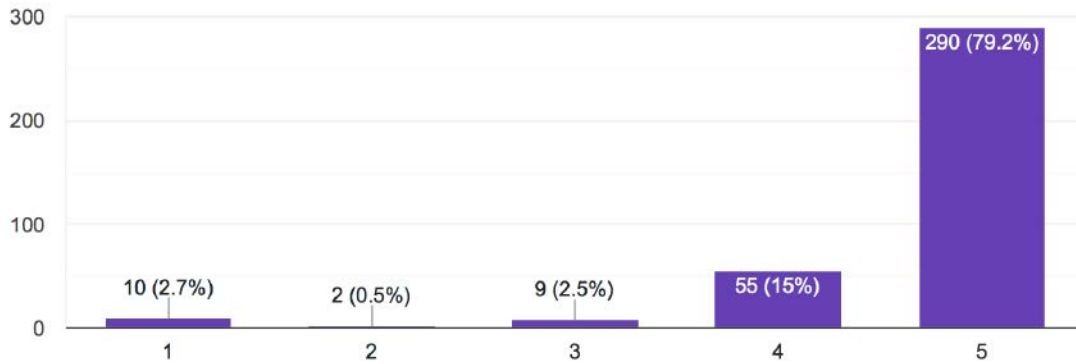
Pagan Festival, Athens Human Rights festival
 Human Rights, Football Gameday
 Fireworks
 N/a
 None
 Big Chestnut annual song writer award
 Human Rights Festival organizer for 10 years, International Street Dancing, Numerous Marches, Rallies, Permitted protests, Get out the Vote Rallies, etc. etc.
 Uni
 Pagan Pride
 International Fest.
 Black Market, political rallies, Christmas parade
 Political rally's
 Human Rights Fest
 Athens Black Market
 Christmas Parade of Lights
 Earth day, 4th of July, more I can't remember
 International Festival, Popfest, Black market, anything we see going on!!
 Black market
 NONE
 none
 Interesting you don't include the Holiday Parade
 Christams Parade
 Human rights festival, Parade of Lights
 N/A

4. How important are Athens Special Events to the culture of Athens? *

1 2 3 4 5

Not important Critically important

366 responses

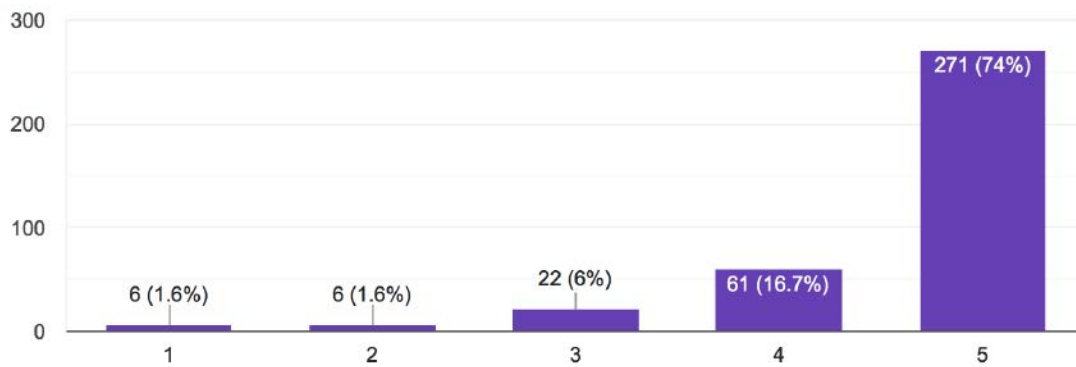


5. How important are Athens Special Events to Athens' downtown economy? *

1 2 3 4 5

Not important Critically important

366 responses



6. Do you support a funding increase for events in Athens?

A "Hotel-Motel tax" collected in Athens-Clarke County is used for the purpose of funding Special Events in Downtown Athens. This funding is available through a Community Enhancement Program (CEP) Grant managed by Athens Downtown Development Authority (ADDA).

This CEP Funding has been instrumental in helping Athens events get started, grow, and offset fees and costs of required services. It is highly valued and appreciated by events in Athens.

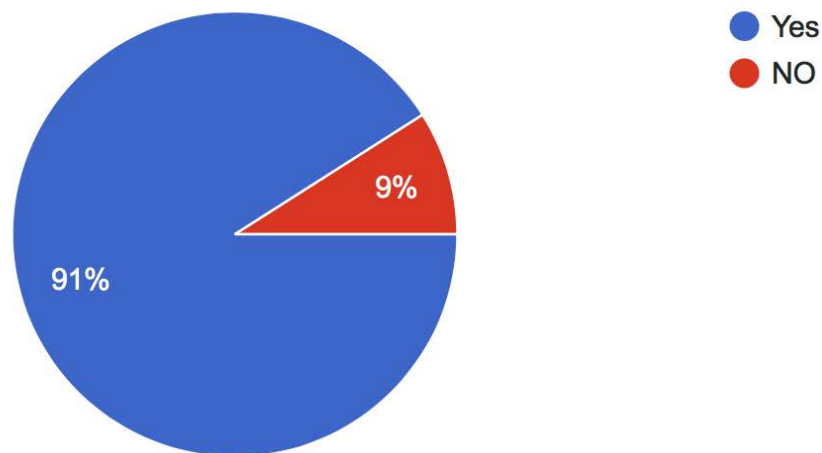
Since the 1990's the CEP budget has been set at \$60,000 annually (with each event limited to \$15,000), to share between all downtown events. \$60,000 represents just \$.47 per capita that Athens invests in its much-loved events. Comparable cities typically spend a range of \$2-8 per resident.

Our events are asking our local government for the CEP budget to be enhanced, recommending \$250,000 total - That's \$1.97 per resident, annually for all downtown events (only \$.13 per event!!) - and raising the limit per-event to \$50,000.

These amounts offset 30 years of growth and inflation, and will provide much-deserved support for the top tier large events, plus much-needed investment in startup and smaller events in order for them to succeed and expand their economic impact.

Do you support this additional funding provided by the city for Downtown events? (There is no change in your current taxes)

366 responses



7. Your stories and experiences regarding Athens events mean a lot!! Please use this space to add a personal message about what Athens events mean to you. Thank you!!

139 Comments:

I moved to the Athens area in 2005 when I was 15. I grew up downtown. I have so many memories from these events throughout the years. They bring everyone together and our community and our local businesses get so much from these events. These events give us all something to look forward to and to be excited for. Our government should support providing the extra funding based off of the amount of business these events bring to our city. They bring culture to our city and so much more.

These events promote a sense of community for Athenians. They bring diverse people together. They give us something to do with our children that is also fun and exposes them to all sorts of folks, therefore diversity and free thought. Not to mention the added economic impact on all of Athens, not just downtown Athens. These events are getting national coverage these days and there is more funding needed to do them correctly. With all the things that could go wrong during these events, we need to financially support them to have those structures in place to make sure they are done as safely as possible.

My relatives came to visit Athens during the Wild Rumpus parade and had an absolutely memorable time largely due to the Rumpus. They will be back. These kinds of events add positive energy to the city and are unique to Athens.

I think these events are essential to the heartbeat of Athens. We aren't just a football town and these events help keep Athens artsy and fun.

Athens events are an important part of Athens culture and one of the many reasons we love living in Athens!

Events have been a way I have been able to connect with community members and fall in love with Athens! I love looking for the next thing to attend!

I love a parade! And it's important to have community events not associated with UGA.

Athens is an amazing Witt with events that bring culture and money from surrounding areas to our local businesses.

It means community, it means connecting, it means culture. These are how communities thrive!

First and foremost, it's my place of birth. All of the events that I have attended have had good energy among the attendees. Once at the Human Rights Festival a famous long time NAACP leader was speaking and a sweet little much older black lady reached over and held my hand in solidarity. The feeling throughout the crowd that evening was one of love. There aren't many events that I have attended that simply radiated Love Peace and Unity!!! Thank you Athens Ga. for a night I'll always remember fondly.

Athens is where I grew into the person I am today. This community provided me the space to find myself.

I am a US Navy sailor currently living in Japan but a decade ago before I joined the Navy Athens was my home as an adult for the decade before the Navy. Through the years, whether stationed in Virginia or here in Japan, Athens and it's festivals were always an important part of taking leave to visit friends/family and feel like I was normal back in my hometown.

These events were important enough to me that last year I visited home after the first 3 years I had been in Japan and I made sure to plan attending the 2022 Wild Rumpus as part of my US trip. Having been at the inaugural Rumpus and those first few I remember the root of the magic and I was so impressed to see what it had become in 2022.

It means it's not just a college town. Townies keep this town going. We deserve to celebrate and have culture outside of UGA events.

Athens events bring the community together, showcase Athens talent and treasure, and provide economic stimulus to Athens businesses. Without them Athens would not be the same. We need local government to recognize this and support these events to the full extent it is able.

I think the community of Athens is just an experience. We truly care about the town and the people within it!

My family moved to Athens 4 years ago from the DC area and one of the things I was concerned about when moving to a small town was, "What will we do?" I was so wrong to think that there would be less to do in Athens and was delighted when I found out about events such as the Wild Rumpus, AthFest and LatinX fest . These are family friendly events that allow the community to bond and engage. We love Halloween, live music/arts and my husband is from El Salvador so diversity and belonging is important to us.

They've become events that we look forward to and brag about to our families. We have participated in parades and go all out for costumes now thanks to these cultural drivers. It's also helped us become engrained into the Athens community and feel at home.

As long as Paul Kramer doesn't get any of this money, I support it.

Wild Rumpus is the best. that's all I can really say.

Athens wouldn't be home without the downtown events. The citizens need these moments of coming together as one. Things have become polarizing enough. These events keep us united as one, no matter what. Sure they can be stressful and the traffic is atrocious, but these are such amazing moments of joy for our community. If you want peace and neighborly love keep them going. Fund them.

Go Dawgs

The events in Athens are what make us love living here, among many other reasons. We have been residents now for 11 years. Getting ready for the Wild Rumpus is one of my family's favorite things and starts months ahead of time. We have family and friends that visit from all over to join in the fun with this, Athfest, Twilight and a host of other local events. I couldn't imagine Athens without these and hope they continue on in perpetuity. Our almost 14 year old is already planning to live here after college because they can't imagine finding another place that encapsulates the spirit and vibrance of our amazing city and we have these unique events to thank for much of that.

Twilight Criterium, AthFest, Wild Rumpus, and all the other Athens events are what make Athens what it is. My favorite event is definitely the Wild Rumpus. Every year, it's amazing to see the huge influx of people that descend upon downtown Athens on a weekend when the majority of students are out of town for the GA/FL game. WR, Twilight, Athfest have become destination weekends for many out of towners and are a boon to local businesses. It seems only logical that ACC would do all they can to support these integral parts of our success as a community.

I almost never go downtown unless there is a special event.

Many of these events are not only important to Athens' identity, but also personal identity!

Athens downtown culture IS what lends the uniquely inclusive, diverse vibe that only Athenians understand. In a societal climate where statewide and nationwide divisiveness and othering is rampant, Athens stands alone as authentically open and welcoming to our multicultural and event vibes. These events sustain our town community and bring us together, reminding us of the joys and blissful creativity that makes us choose to call Athens home. Please fund events!

Real community!! Love it.

As both a resident of Athens, a participant in an Athens event, and an organizer of an Athens event, I have found that not only are these events vital to the community as a whole as it stands now, but vital in the growth of the community, connecting people with other people, and bringing new ones as visitors and potential residents to the city, thereby not only adding to the revenue from their spending and enriching the education and life experience they have (especially kids) but adding to the vibe of how unique Athens is with its eclectic community.

Downtown events are a huge part of why I moved to Athens, and why I stayed to raise my kids here. AthFest was a huge part of why I decided to move here! I was visiting UGA and wandered into AthFest and new, immediately, this is where I should be. Shortly after I moved to town, I wandered into Twilight and my decision was confirmed. Hot Corner got me interested in the cultural and historical aspects of Athens. I've now been here for almost 18 years, worked, raised a family, and contributed to my town. These kinds of events are the heart of Athens, especially as chain stores and student apartment development has changed our downtown so much.

Seeing my kids connect with music and culture at Hot Corner, LatinXFest, and AthFest are some of the best memories of my life. Seeing them enjoy the creativity and playfulness of WildRumpus is a beautiful, beautiful thing. Signing my child up for their first kid race at Twilight brought tears to my eyes. These events are the heart of Athens.

Have spent most of my adult life supporting Athfest and hope to see it continue to grow each year!

Event creators need more support for this vital service. I've participated in and/or observed so many special events here and it makes our town what it is.

I highly support the Wild Rumpus and believe ACC government should too. This is a very unique event that brings in a lot of people from surrounding areas and sometimes further. This event makes Athens, Athens, I feel. The bike race is just a bunch of drunks now a days and AthFest is just too hot. Maybe you've heard of the term "as hot as Georgia asphalt during the summer"? And it's literally held on asphalt during the middle of summer. I do think our tax dollars are better spent on bringing people into Athens for special events, rather than a \$400K toilet that cost \$80K a year to clean or a homelsss camp run by people with no experience and that likes to assault people.

I hate taxes we pay enough already and are barely getting by.

Space for people to gather and celebrate is a lovely part of honoring the various contingencies that make Athens special. I loved the lantern parade and Porchfest this year too. Let's put Athens even more on the map for special events.

Government help should stay at a minimum. That's what sponsors are for.

haven't been downtown since you moved the monument. look forward to the day, i sell my house and move from this town.

Community is more important now than ever!

The annual events I participate in are very dear to our community and offers opportunities for us to come together for causes bigger than ourselves and is extremely important to the culture and spirit of Athens.

N/A

Athens is not an inclusive place, especially when they install expensive toilets downtown, art from non-local artist, a firefly trail, while citizens of Athens are still asking for proper representation and things like sidewalks and street lights. The county should NOT be adding to event budgets when the art budget is already very exclusive. If any budget where yo increase, it should be for Hot Corner Fest and Latin Fest. I've been living in Athens for 15+ years.

Athens rocks! No place like it! Let's keep it that way!

If it was for these events there would be nothing of substance for family to do in this town besides visit restaurants. They bring diversity downtown.

It is kinda crazy that all of the major and smaller events in Athens are put on by nonprofits and not by the city. But the city makes money off of these events through permits, street closures, equipment rentals, security requirements and more. It only makes sense that the city should off set these expenses with CEP funds. Athens is lucky to have organizations that care enough to shoulder the expense to put on events that benefit the whole community!

While all of this exists because of the University, it's nice that we can enjoy these things as a community. I wish there was more we could do as a county to force the hand of the university to contribute in a greater financial way. I would hate to see artistic celebration die. I love some football, but there's more to life than football. I appreciate the men and women, and everybody who puts in so much hard work to make these events happen

Volunteering with Ath-fest, Wild Rumpus, and Human rights has been extremely fulfilling for me over the years and given me a deep sense of community. Seeing my friends from all over the world every year for Twilight is something I look forward to. Athens would not be Athens without the events and as a born and raised Athenian, the events hosted downtown are CRITICAL for not only the culture, but the economy in downtown. As a 15 year veteran in the service industry downtown, I can say with complete confidence that without these events that bring more than just students into town, the service industry workforce would not survive. These events are critical to bringing money and customers into town as well as helping bridge the gaps on finances during times when the town isn't flooded with students. Please, from a hometown local, increase the budget for these events events. I truly believe it is critical for the continued growth economically of Athens, as well as the preservation of our city's culture.

Athens means everything to me! My beloved home since 1976δŸ©·δŸ©·δŸ©·δŸŹ¶δŸŹ¶δŸŹ¶best music scene everrr

Athens is an incredibly special place because of all the fabulous events it has- Wild Rumpus is one of my all time favorite events- but there are SO many that are meaningful and we need to alert sure they are funded adequately.

This is why I live in Athens. Diverse community and events make Athens special.

These events have made me feel like I belong in Athens as a non student. With UGAs growth and the dominance of students in downtown, these events are reminders that we townies live here too and belong here too. Especially events that center and celebrate those with marginalized identities.

Athens is the town where I grew up and returned to in my 30s. It's a wonderful town with a creative spirit. I would love to see more events for families that can pull crowds.

Our community's vibrancy is reflected in the quality of the downtown events we host for ourselves and visitors.

Athens is a destination. We have friends and family come to visit simply because they want to come to athens.

I love Athens so so much. There are few places like it in the world and I am so grateful to those that help to hold on to its unique culture.

I love the Parade of Lights (Christmas parade) the most. I love the events that draw crowds of Athenians of all stripes.

Fix infrastructure so we can get downtown. Time red lights better so when you get green light, you can't get over because those folks have a red light

I love Athens because of its cultural events, music and art.

I'd like to see more events . I'm not a football fan and don't like the UGA football culture that seems to drive everything in the county.

The Athens events are something that led me to loving the community and deciding to live here long term. The service industry is what makes Athens Athens and the special events play heavily into that.

We've just been in Athens for one year and hope that the city will continue to grow its support for local cultural and arts events! Having these feels important for us to remain in Athens as a long term home

Events are critical to the vitality and relevance of downtown Athens. Wild Rumpus is like no other event I have ever been to - unique and funky- purely Athens.

"Coming home," seeing old friends, visiting old stomping grounds, art, culture, MUSIC!

Originally living in north Georgia, it was events like AthFest, the Wild Rumpus, and the Christmas parade that brought me to Athens and helped me fall in love with the city. There are plenty of people here like myself that are not a part of the university, but are very much a part of Athens.

Attended the Wild Rumpus last year for the 1st time. Really enjoyed the music and kudos to the event planners . I loved that it was for all ages.

I grew up in Athens. Twilight and Athfest were do-not-miss social events as a child and I love the memories that resurface every year when I attend both events. I make sure to mark the calendar as soon as dates are announced for both so as to not miss them each year. They're both incredible events that are beloved by Athenians and bring people to The Classic City.

You can still see the smeared shit a homeless guy took in front of Heery's on GDay. It fronts on College Square. Good luck with your survey.

Something todo

Last year's Pride Parade was the absolute highlight of my daughter's year. I have never seen her so radiantly happy. We are in Oconee and she faces harassment and bullying daily at school. The Pride Parade brought her so much joy, happiness, and a sense of belonging. We are SO glad it is back this year and hope to see it in years to come.

Love the community spirit and variety of folks who attend these gatherings. So special!

I look forward to the Rumpus, Hot Corner festival, Pride, Latinx festival every year. I specifically work my schedule around being able to attend these events. There's not much like that anywhere else in the state or in other nearby cities.

Athens events define Athens!! It's a great way to bring the community together.

Athens is such a magical place. I wish we'd moved there instead of Oconee County. ðŸ™„, I work in Athens, we shop, eat, and go to church in Athens, and we love participating in the community there.

Love the recent emphasis on sustainability and waste reduction at downtown events! Please keep pushing for zero waste and carbon neutral events!

Athens events are what make down town so different and special. I've lived in college towns that relied on football for revenue, but Athens is different and should stay that way. It's what drew me to move here in the first place.

I used to go downtown 4-5 times a week. Now, the landscape is primarily bars, safety is an issue, the stench is repulsive, panhandlers can be aggressive....you know the rest. As a result, I rarely go downtown anymore. It's sad. Downtown caters to a specific population...and, that's what has made the drastic, disappointing change for me and my family (and so many of my friends).

As a student at uga I love having events that attract people to come visit that's not just football! Athens has so much more to offer!

Charge an air b&b tax similar to hotel tax

I quit going downtown except when absolutely necessary. The lack of free nighttime parking, the bars full of underage drunks, it's not enjoyable anymore.

Community events are what set Athens apart from other cities. They give it character and heart. And something for people who aren't solely focused on football.

One of the main reasons I want to stay in Athens are the Athens specific events that aren't linked solely to UGA! Keep Athens somewhat separated from UGA by maintaining and valuing these events!

These downtown events are what make Athens Athens!

We don't want Athens Events,
We need Athens Events. (Full Stop)

A- CC used to be great to work with. The ADDA is not. I don't trust them to be fair to small, diverse events. Their goal seems to be the destruction of Downtown Athens by any exclusionary means necessary.

It's obscene to put them in charge of public event funding. Make them put in more free handicapped parking - at least twice the very minimum they do now.

Cover the meters around City Hall from Thomas to Hancock, and at the Planning Department during vital public meetings and then talk about giving them more money to homogenize Athens.

Which is obviously their mission.

'Let's make Downtown Whiter than Ever' and 'Poor People Stay Away' are their real agendas, and it shows.

Athens- Clarke County doesn't need the ADDA anymore at all. It's disgusting, and a barrier to participation in Athens by Athenians.

It's fun getting out and going downtown Athens

We moved back to Athens in part to participate in downtown's vibrant events.

I have lived a lot of places, and expected Athens to just be another, but it's genuinely special; these events have a lot to do with how great Athens is.

The kids rumpus event was the very first Athens event my family attended when we moved to Athens 6.5 years ago, when we came to town to search for a place to live. It was one of the first impressions of the town that we got to experience, and the quirky, fun atmosphere of that day turned out to be a perfect representation of our home!

Athfest needs to pay their bands more

I wish Athfest could get bigger musical acts so the local bands would get more exposure and people to play in front of.

Athens' special events are important because they bring our community together and demonstrate what Athens is really about. The MLK Day Parade, Latinxfest, and Pride Parade demonstrate that we are a community that values justice, equity, and love. Hot Corner Festival gives people a chance to learn about the history of our community, support the Black-owned businesses we still have and encourage Black entrepreneurship. AthFest and Wild Rumpus bring out the weird, wacky, and extremely talented music scene that has been a part of our landscape for generations. Twilight demonstrates how active our community is and draws bikers and runners from all over to our downtown area. Special events are important to our economy, culture, and community cohesiveness.

Multi-generational, multi-racial, multi-cultural events helps make Athens a vibrant welcoming community!

Twilight is a world class event! And Rumpus is gaining nationwide attention! Keep Athens weird and wonderful!

We need misting machines like they have at Disney to keep people cooled down at Pride and latinx. Or we need to have these events in the evening.

These events are the live blood of the city and give us a beautiful cross-cultural community for those outside of the university.

I have marched in every MLK parade and will do so as long as I can. I have really enjoyed Latinofest and the Pride events.

Athens events make Athens what it is today! Downtown Athens is so popular and one reason I love Athens and moved here is because of all the events. I love being somewhere that whenever you are free, you have options for different events going on and places to go.

Holy cow! These events are amazing and help keep Athens wonderful and fun.

I grew up in Athens and attending all of the amazing events every year keeps me in the county and not that I have a family of my own is a big deciding factor to keep our kids in this county. Access to free public events is critically important especially with non-profits like AthFest and the grant funding given to the public schools for music and art education. To hinder the ability to do AthFest, a free public event that also benefits your local schools would be a drastic misstep.

I live for these special events we have in Athens so I'd like to see them properly funded.

I liked Athens more when it was smaller and quieter

Athens events MAKE our little town what it is to the outside world. They are so critical to our identity.

Athens events are what make it a community rather than a suburb of Atlanta. These are the things we need to do to create a vibrant group of living people who care about each other and their city.

These events draw in racially and ethnically diverse communities in Athens that otherwise do not frequently visit or feel welcome downtown.

Athens is a wonderful oasis of art and culture, downtown live events are the jelly on the peanut butter sandwich. You can't have one without the other.

I don't attend as many special events as I have in years past. As I have gotten older and had a family a lot of the event didn't seem as "kid friendly" as I liked. It would be great to sponsor more events that can appeal to families without as much drinking. The events I attend now all seem to have that aspect to them at some point.

Lived in Athens before, and plan to retire there. Keep up the good work!!

The more that can be done to retain, preserve, and expand the cultural vitality of Athens, the better.

These events are a huge part of the culture of Athens that make us different than just another suburb town.

These events are what make Athens unique, it brings people from around the community and outside of it together. These events are critically important to the character and appeal of Athens. Also making these events open-container where appropriate is a no-brainer.

This special tax should apply to football weekends

The energy of our town is on full display.

Downtown events bring the community together!

Always a good time!!

I have friends from all over the country I have bulldozed into coming down for athfest. My first full time year here, athfest is where I discovered local bands, beers, artists, and vendors I continue to patron now (8 years later). That it supports much needed music and arts education is vitally important to continue to build well rounded human beings who can be a part of self and community expression. Wild rumpus has been my favorite thing to introduce newcomers to. There is so much creativity and joy as folks rush to the streets to celebrate one another. As a lover of esoteric crossover multi-person costumes as well as classic themes or funny puns, you can see all of this at rumpus. The energy is palpable and it makes Athens a unique spot for Halloween festivities. Always grab a coffee from walkers for pre parade energy and a hot toddy from Manhattan after for the vibes :) I've also loved seeing markets pop up and especially love how much more can be done with college being pedestrian only - having these pop up events as well as annual regular events makes it always a fun time to see what's happening downtown and keeps feet on the ground even when students take off for summer. We need these events to continue to build a vibrant downtown center that reflects Athens diverse and creative communities and supports Athens businesses by securing foot traffic all year long.

In answer to the question above this field: I would support an increase in the percentage given to special events, even if less than what is proposed here. That amount might be more than is likely or possible.

It was great when AthFest was in the fall.
The trestle opening was lovely.
Thank you for all you do.

These events are huge for building community in town and are critical for many local small businesses

Athens events are not only important to keeping community culture alive and thriving, but creative entrepreneurs and small businesses as well. I myself am an event facilitator, and it is very important that there are public spaces that we can share our gifts and services with the public.

I've always loved events in Athens. I remember the Human Rights Festivals. Those were so special. Now my favorite is the Wild Rumpus. I love getting dressed up each year and seeing all the costumes. I like to see the Parade of Lights too. Usually I bring my 7-year-old son to these events. Let's keep funding--and increase the funding--for these things. Also I've enjoyed the Art Fairs, such as IndeSouth and the Athens Farmers Market. I know all of these aren't maybe in this proposal... but it shows that Athens has many incredible events. The big ones, such as the Rumpus, bring many people to town. Cheers!

Things like AthFest and Wild Rumpus make Athens so unique. It lets people far and wide know about our cool little town. We look forward as a family and extended family to the events every year.

Events are very important for this community. Love Wild Rumpus!!

Thank you

It's good to have events in downtown Athens. But when you have homeless people begging that's a problem if you all get them somewhere to live things will be a lot betyer

My friends and family frequently come to downtown Athens, particularly when there is a fun event like Wild Rumpus or AthFest. These are the events (and others like them) that make Athens such a unique, quirky place to be.

I love all the events. I even created a Facebook group 7 years ago. Events in Athens ga

I came to Athens after attending and falling in love with Athfest in 2011. I visited on a whim and found myself moving here the next week. If it weren't for special events in Athens, I wouldn't be here today!

The pride parade last year was INCREDIBLE. I dearly love Athens. It is so lively, welcoming, creative, and full of its own special character. The events are a huge part of that.

The human rights festival and the international street festival are also fun events that I hope get included in the future. The Rumpus is so unique and it's been really cool to see it grow. I missed it last year for a different event and I will not be missing it again. It's the best Halloween event in the region for sure.

As a family, these free, day long events are beloved and much anticipated. They provide a great way to connect with our community. also, we always end up grabbing a treat or a meal (or both) downtown.

The Athens pride parade was amazing. Probably one of the most successful in its inaugural year I've seen. A very worthy cause in our political climate.

They're a joy to share, please pay artists and keep it going !

Don't need to set up a bunch. Stalls and companies make the events much WORSE. Let people get together provide safety and clean up. Don't ruin it with sellers, advertising and any of that crap.

Having moved here from CA 19 years ago, I have loved the diversity and brilliance of the downtown scene.

It creates a wonderful sense of community and it makes Athens the fun town that it is!

Athens needs way more family friendly events. Not just one mini area blocked off. Look at other similar cities €so many things to do with your kids!

Athens events are the MAIN reason why I still live here. It creates the culture. There is always something to do. I love it and I tell others who are thinking about re-locating to Athens

Info about the funding increase seems unclear. Does this mean the hotel/motel tax will be raised to support the increase or was the paragraph just mentioning the history of where past funding came from? If the tax increase is exclusively in regard to hotels/motels, my answer is yes to the raise.

My first memory of Athens, years before I moved here, was Twilight when I visited friends who went to UGA. I had a ball and remained convinced that Athens was a magical place. Later when I moved here, I enjoyed more events, played at Athfest myself (club event), and over the years these events have shaped the life of my own kid/kids, who have enjoyed live music at Athfest, marched in the MLK Day parade, performed at the Human Rights Festival, had the time of their life at the downtown Parade of lights. I wasn't wrong. Athens is indeed a magical place. These events are good for business, for real estate sales, for UGA recruitment, for tourism.

Although I am not able to attend anymore I still consider all events to keep city competitive and prosperous.much needed.

Events in Athens bring the community together, allow us to explore and learn about different parts of the city and their history, and offer a space to have a good time.