

Small Business

Support the local entrepreneurship and retail ecosystems

Make business districts more attractive and welcoming.

Help merchants beautify their storefronts and streets.

Expand grant programs for storefronts, signage, and art projects.

Support business district efforts.

What are business districts?

A business district is a region of businesses, retail stores, and other services with a clear identity. Local businesses within these districts can collaborate or organize to promote their business, advocate for merchants, and pool resources.

Support existing businesses and attract new ones.

Attract and keep businesses that offer a range of goods, dining, and entertainment.

Support the creation of a small business concierge service.

What is a 'concierge service'?

A small business concierge service would help guide people through the process, answer questions, and connect them with the right departments and resources to get their business started.

Make local rules and processes more business-friendly.

Make it easier to test new business ideas.

Simplify the overall process for registering and opening a business.

How can we simplify the process?

Simplifying the process may include standardizing forms and timelines, making clearer instructions, or combining multiple steps into one.



The Cargo District is an emerging business district with a distinct identity, walkable grid, and unique businesses. The nature of the development, shipping containers, also creates a natural space for business incubation.

Small Business

Support the local entrepreneurship and retail ecosystems

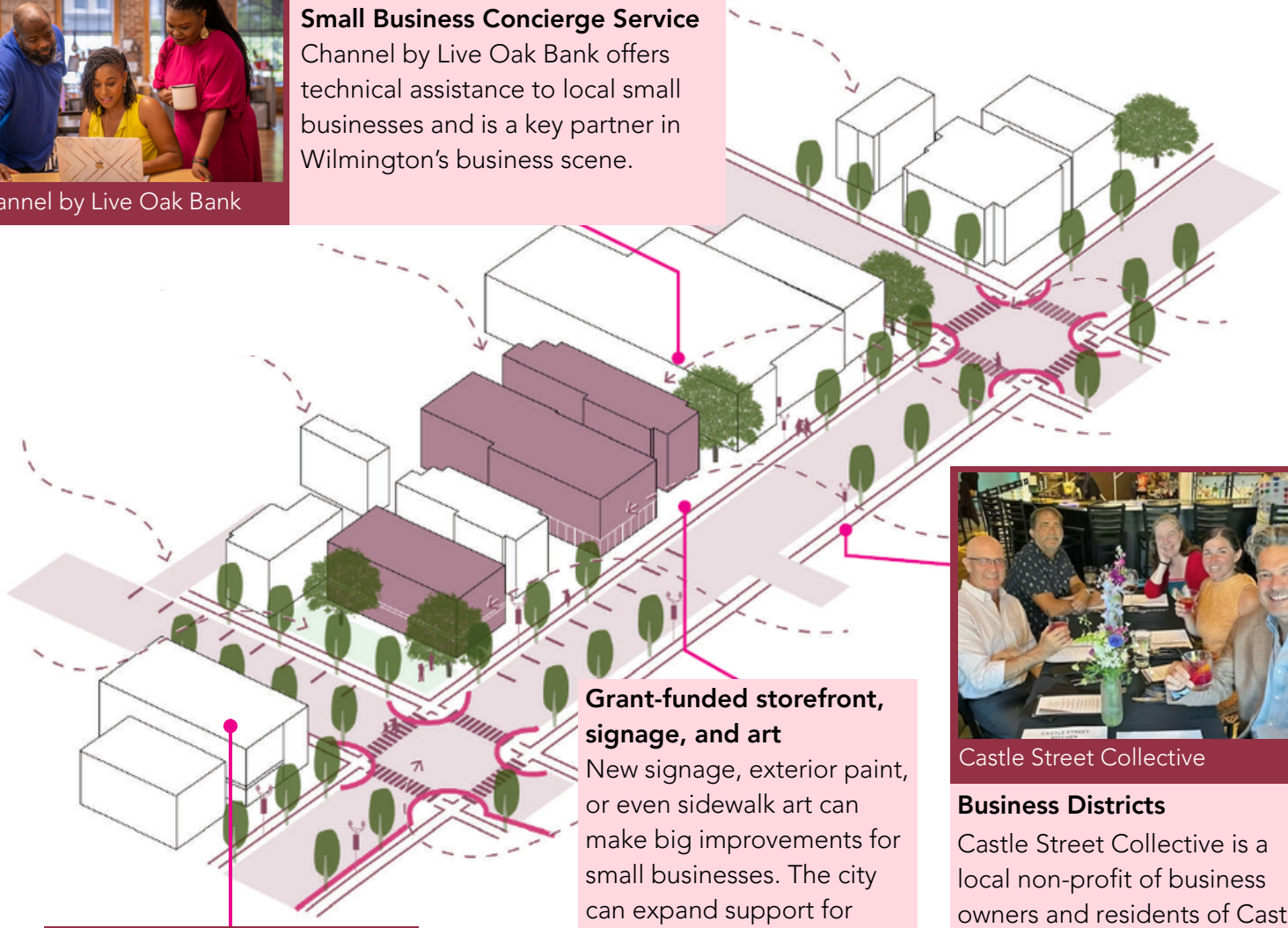
Actions on the Ground



Channel by Live Oak Bank

Small Business Concierge Service

Channel by Live Oak Bank offers technical assistance to local small businesses and is a key partner in Wilmington's business scene.



Grant-funded storefront, signage, and art

New signage, exterior paint, or even sidewalk art can make big improvements for small businesses. The city can expand support for improving the physical retail environment through grant programs and guidance.



Block Eatz food hall incubator by Genesis Block

Test New Business Ideas

Creative and collaborative business incubator spaces make it easier to test new business ideas.



Castle Street Collective

Business Districts

Castle Street Collective is a local non-profit of business owners and residents of Castle Street. They help to create and maintain a clear identity for the district and ensure business owners' needs are met.



Wilmington Downtown Inc.
Façade Improvement Grant



Scan for more
information