

Peoria Area CVB presents 12 Days of Christmas

A new campaign from the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and ArtsPartners of Central Illinois is set to help restaurants and non-profits this holiday season.

The campaign will feature 12 local restaurants over the course of 12 days with 20% of the proceeds going towards 12 local non-profit organizations.

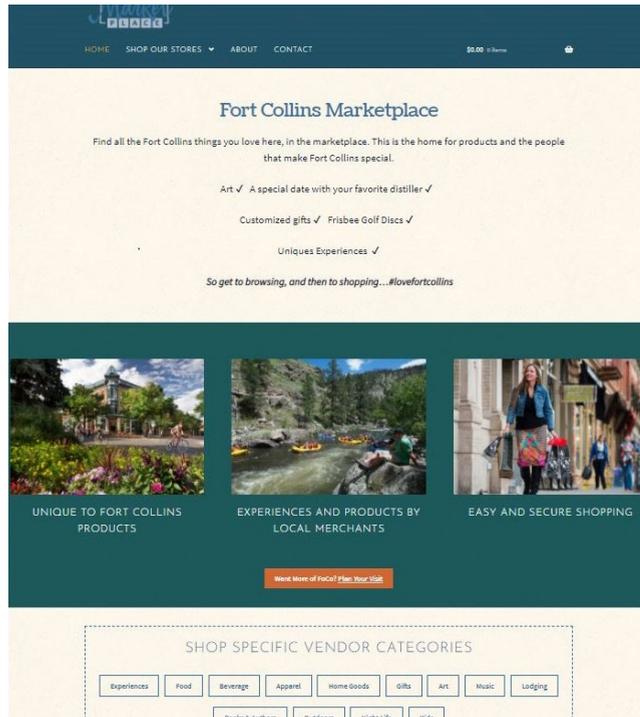
“Shopping and dining local is investing in your own community, it not only builds economic growth but also strong social connections. This campaign will allow for local restaurants and local non-profits to continue to thrive,” said JD Dalfonso, president/CEO of Discover Peoria. “During these incredibly difficult times, now, more than ever is the time to support our local restaurants.”

12 Days of Carry-Out started Dec. 10, with Cayenne and the non-profit being Big Picture Peoria.

Highlights of the 12 days will include virtual performances from local arts organizations on select nights in December.

Participating performing arts groups include the Peoria Ballet with a favorite holiday tradition, “The Nutcracker.”

– week.com



The website fortcollinsmarketplace.com also allows companies to sell future passes to events, such as exclusive brewery tours or whitewater rafting.

DMO programs to benefit local businesses include online retail portals, gear ‘rental’

After months of development, **Fort Collins’ (CO) visitor bureau** has launched a new service to let customers in the city and across the country buy goods and services from local vendors from one centralized website and payment system.

The Visit Fort Collins Marketplace, at fortcollinsmarketplace.com, counts more than 40 retailers and businesses as participants, says Visit Fort Collins CEO Cynthia Eichler.

The idea for the marketplace formed early during the pandemic as shutdowns shifted overnight the sales patterns for local businesses. As consumer spending overwhelmingly went online, the visitors bureau and its partners spent 13 weeks developing the site and bringing on merchants.

If people couldn’t come to Fort

Collins, they reckoned, the online marketplace would bring Fort Collins to the people during the most important time of year for a retail industry that has taken a beating during the pandemic.

“It really was that desire to also make sure that when we come out on the other side of this, our folks are in their buildings,” Eichler said.

– reporterherald.com

In Manitou Springs, CO, the eCommerce platform ManitouMade.com is now up and running. The site allows shoppers to purchase items from the city’s unique stores and galleries.

It’s a brainchild of the **Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce** and the **Visitors Bureau & Office of**

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Tables, chairs, tents, and heaters are available to Rhode Island businesses for free. Photo: WJAR

DMO programs to benefit businesses include gear ‘rental’

Continued from page 1 Economic Development.

This new online shopping venture is possible thanks to CARES Act funds aimed at the city's economic recovery.

“It’s a way of us showcasing the people and the products of Manitou Springs, which is so unique,” Manitou Made Project Manager Maria Navartne said.

Participants include furniture and jewelry makers and other artists.

– koa.com

The **Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing** (VDTM) has launched a new online holiday shopping guide, Buy Vermont Made.

The new directory connects shoppers with Vermont retailers and Vermont-made gifts in six categories – wearables, craft beverages,

specialty food, home goods, personal care and toys and books.

The Buy Vermont Made directory was developed in collaboration with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to encourage shoppers both in Vermont and regionally to buy Vermont-made products and support Vermont-based retailers this holiday shopping season.

The directory was created and marketed using federal CARES Act funding. A promotional campaign includes broadcast TV and radio, newspapers, social media, direct mail, digital advertising and email marketing.

– vermontbiz.com

Businesses and organizations temporarily in-need of items like tables, chairs and tents to get through the pandemic can now

borrow them for free. It's thanks to a new effort by the **Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau**.

It comes as Rhode Island businesses and organizations have spent big bucks to comply with social distancing guidelines. Now, the nonprofit is hoping to ease the financial burden.

“We’ve amassed a collection of about 600 items: tables, chairs, tents, sanitization equipment,” said Kristen Adamo, president and CEO.

Adamo said all of those items can now be borrowed for up to two weeks, for free, through what's being called the “lending library.”

The group acquired the equipment through grant funding under the state’s Take It Outside initiative.

– turnto10.com