



Department of City Development
City Plan Commission
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation

Lafayette L. Crump
Commissioner

Samuel Leichtling
Deputy Commissioner

For Planning Purposes
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City of Milwaukee leaders to celebrate the opening of Gary P. Grunau Memorial Plaza

*New downtown public space will strengthen neighborhood connections
along the Milwaukee Riverwalk*

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson will join city leaders on **Monday, September 28** to celebrate the opening of the **Gary P. Grunau Memorial Plaza**, a new public gathering space along the Milwaukee River designed to strengthen riverfront pedestrian connections between the east and west sides of downtown.

The plaza honors the late Gary P. Grunau, a prominent Milwaukee real estate developer, civic leader, and longtime champion of downtown revitalization. Grunau played a pivotal role in transforming Milwaukee's riverfront by advancing the Milwaukee Riverwalk, and the memorial plaza carries Grunau's legacy forward by creating another welcoming connection to the riverfront he helped transform.

WHAT: Ribbon cutting for Gary P. Grunau Memorial Plaza

WHEN: Monday, September 28 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: West Highland Avenue and North Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, adjacent to the Highland Avenue pedestrian bridge

WHO:

- Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson
- District 4 Alderman Robert Bauman
- Department of City Development Commissioner Lafayette Crump
- Of Counsel, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, s.c. Commercial Real Estate Attorney Bruce Block

The plaza will serve as a new public space within the broader Milwaukee Riverwalk network, improving connections between the Water Street entertainment district, the Deer District, and the Old World Third Street entertainment district. The project also reflects the City's commitment to leveraging public investment and partnerships to strengthen downtown's walkability, vibrancy, and economic vitality.



The City of Milwaukee leveraged tax incremental financing through TID No. 84 to support the plaza and pedestrian bridge improvements. The Milwaukee Common Council approved up to \$5 million for the project in January 2025, with the project advancing through a development agreement with Business Improvement District No. 15.