

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

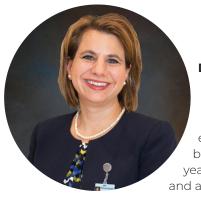
# FISCAL YEAR 2023 **PROGRAM REPORT**











#### Dear Community Partners,

Serving as the board chair for Destination North Myrtle Beach provided an exciting perspective to engage in our community like never before. Fiscal year 2023 was a successful year programmatically for our organization and a year we will look back upon with pride. The Team, including board members, professional

staff, and committee members, took on some initiatives this year that improved our community. Here are a few highlights to recap the year:

- The board of directors rolled up their sleeves and concentrated on the implementation strategies for the destination master plan. Through broad community input, the consulting team from MMGY NextFactor teed up a great plan, and the board and staff focused on the who, what, and when for bringing the plan objectives to life.
- Advocacy and chamber programs enabled us to serve the community through legislative issues at the local and state levels. There were milestone successes from our convening and facilitating input on beach activities during a new ordinance development to working with elected officials to exploring ways to help create a better business environment by tackling insurance-related issues.
- The destination marketing committee accepted the challenge of measuring and tweaking the effectiveness of our tourism promotion messaging efforts. A study was commissioned to examine the destination brand positioning and make adjustments to improve the marketing reach and increase visitation. The good news was that few modifications were necessary, and the updates were adopted and implemented.
- The NMB Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees stepped up to engage in the destination master plan while expanding their fundraising initiatives to provide more funding for community grants.

Our organization is responsible for many programs that the business community requires. We hope this report will remind you of the extraordinary work being done on your behalf and that you may appreciate the successes we can claim in fiscal year 2023. Some of the work completed may go unnoticed without highlighting these achievements. Whether you attended a program, read our newsletter, or served on a committee, our job to make North Myrtle Beach a great place to do business, visit, and prosper continues.

Cheers,

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Monica A. Vehige 2023 Board Chair Monica A. Vehige is the Chief Executive Officer of McLeod Health Seacoast









Waites Island Turkey Flocking **Public Relations** Public Relations & Waites Island Engagement & Leadership Volunteering 🕺 🕺 Visibility Communications Quality of Life Visitor Spending Turkey Dinner Drive Engagement Crants, Communications Community **OICE** OŤ Conversion Econom obment Chamber Programming 5 Digital Influencer Growth Advance Prosperity Destination Optimization Destination Management Growth Chamber Events

Engagement 2 Christmas Parade Research Connect the Dots Change Iourism Promotion Networking Trusted Advisor Hole-In-Fun Facilitator Community Destination Marketing Plan **Business Resource Business Awards** Volunteer Fair Differentiator Visitor Impact Business Builders Trusted Resource **Community Events** voca Destination Leadership Desti ION hat

Convener Economic Impact

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efresh Shop Local Seaside Soiree Content, Content, Content





### WE ARE...

### Informational • Fair • Reliable • Knowledgeable • Logical • Current Helpful • Enthusiastic • Positive • Passionate • Supportive

Your team at Destination NMB knew that fiscal year 2023, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, would include challenges for businesses such as insurance issues, workforce, inflation, and an increase in competition for visitors. These were all areas that Destination NMB faced head on and provided programming, support, advocacy, and many other services that were captured in the word cloud above. Destination NMB performed many tasks serving the community while also planning for the future and responding to market impacts.

The team focused on engagement and implemented programs that helped businesses while also making North Myrtle Beach more competitive. In a nutshell, the year was one of growth and there were several significant achievements. We led with **economic development** – serving the existing businesses while driving a healthy environment for businesses to locate and/or expand in North Myrtle Beach.

Although **tourism promotion and destination management** are part of economic development, the program remained vital to the prosperity of the community, and it is mentioned again here to reinforce its importance to our mission and purpose.

Representing the businesses and community through **advocacy** was a huge initiative. We maintained relationships, remained informed, facilitated, convened, listened, and remained relevant to serve as the voice of business.

Serving as a **community resource** helped individual businesses while also advancing the prosperity of North Myrtle Beach.

Read on to learn about specific programs, metrics for success, and take pride in what we accomplished together!

### **Business Environment**

#### One measure of our business development is through investor/partner investments and engagement.

We experienced a significant boost in member engagement, with a total attendance of 2,601 at various programs, meetings, and events. We modified our strategy for engagement and have customized our approach to enable partners to select their preferences that enabled us to deliver content that interested them. The early signs of success included a better open rate for communications, and the increase in overall program participation.

As a community resource, we provided programs, created connections, and brought opportunities for visibility to businesses. Here are some highlights from FY23:









State Farm\* Callie Wise & Wyman Wise North Myrtie Besch + Lutte River - Myrtie Besch



ea side vacations





Edward Jones

Popular programs during the year included the Annual Business Awards where excellence and recognition were celebrated, the Business Builder Breakfasts that included the State of Series, and the Energy Summit where we convened 34 industry experts to meet with businesses.









New Programming this year included the Economic Forecast that was in conjunction with the Marketing Outlook Summit. Speakers Miriam Arvizu, Finanical Advisor for Merrill Lynch at Bank of America, and Yoav Wachsman, Professor of Economics at the Wall College of Business at CCU, provided an economic forecast.



### Advocacy

Advocacy remained a cornerstone of our organizational mission, embodying our commitment to cultivating an environment that nurtures entrepreneurship, encourages innovation, and promotes sustainable development. Over the past year, our efforts have been marked by a series of community engagement initiatives, networking events, and strategic collaborations aimed at fostering open communication among businesses, residents, and governmental representatives.



Policy Collaboration included working with elected officials locally, regionally, and at the state level on **key issues** including:

- SHORT TERM RENTALS
- INSURANCE LIABILITY
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- LOCAL BEACH ORDINANCE

Destination NMB served as the convener and facilitator where connections, work groups, and alignment was developed.

### **Destination Master Plan**

After more than 14 months of collaboration with businesses, community leaders, and residents, the Destination NMB board of directors approved the destination master plan. Many would suggest that the easy part was adopting the plan. During fiscal year 2023, the board members delved deeper into the implementation strategies recommended by the consulting team from MMGY NextFactor.

#### Community Engagement was utilized to gather input for the destination master plan (DMP):



### **DESTINATION MASTER PLAN VISION**

The vision for North Myrtle Beach is to be a year-round family destination known for our collection of distinct neighborhoods and leadership in the care and protection of our beaches and natural areas.

#### Guiding Principles for the destination master plan:



### THE FOUR STRATEGIC GOALS

### DEVELOP YEAR-ROUND EXPERIENCES, CULTURAL, AND EVENT OFFERINGS

#### IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY

**ENSURE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** 

#### **EXPAND PLACEMAKING IN NEIGHBORHOODS**

The implementation plan includes new, expanded, and enhanced initiatives that will be addressed by a variety of organizations, municipal partners, and resident groups. The destination master plan was developed with broad and inclusive participation and is intended to be a guiding document for the community for the next 10 years.

### **Community Events & Parades**

Community events were back with strong attendance in FY23 and we used the opportunities to engage with residents and visitors alike. We had booths that promoted our consumer brand Explore North Myrtle Beach, but also a Chamber table that catered to residents. For visitors, we provided visitors guides and local tips and recommendations, while at the Chamber table we promoted our Resident Surveys which helped us craft the Destination Master Plan.





### **Business Awards Program**

We hosted the Seaside Soirée Business Awards program at the Seaside Vista's newly opened Black Drum Brewery. The evening highlights included several business awards and a few individual awards. Harold Worley, Ocean Drive Resort was honored with the Senator Dick Elliott Excellence in Leadership Award. Read the list of honorees below:



SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Roca Roja Cantina



NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Dagwood's Deli & Sports Bar North Myrtle Beach



CATALYST AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE Barefoot Landing

**RISING STAR AWARD** 

Corey Richardson, Carolina Property Specialist



MID-SIZE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Crooked Hammock Brewery



NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR Waccamaw Community Foundation



VALOR AWARD City of North Myrtle Beach Fire Rescue Engineer Andy Hamer

> AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR Bailey Johnson, Monarch Roofing



LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Prince Resort



IMPACT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE DEWS



VALOR AWARD City of North Myrtle Beach Public Safety Officer Wesley Foushee

#### SENATOR DICK ELLIOTT EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Harold Worley, Ocean Drive Resort Destination North Myrtle Beach Published by Erin Graham @ - March 29, 2023 - @

Did you know today is National Mom & Pop Business Day? Our President & CEO, Cheryl Kilday, chatted with Greg Rowles this morning on WFXB FOX TV's Carolina AM Program about the small businesses that are the heart of NMB. Check out the segment and read the article here:



WYR&SUMM Greg Talks with the North Myrtle Beach Chamber on National Mom & Pop Business Day! - WFXB

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| 🖒 Like          | C Comment | ⇔ Share |
| Write a comment |           | 00000   |



### DESTINATION NMB

The Destination NMB Facebook page continued to be a source for us to

promote area business and non-profits, share community news and advocacy announcements and engage with both partners and residents. **In FY23, the page had:** 

375K+

Impressions a **35% increase** over previous year

**38K+** Engagements a **92% increase** over previous year

New followers a growth of over 170%

### Tourism Promotion, Program Highlights and Market Intelligence

Differentiating North Myrtle Beach from other coastal communities was a primary focus for time and resources during fiscal year 2023. Overall marketing strategies generated program results that inspired people to travel to North Myrtle Beach. The destination marketing initiatives, supported through accommodations taxes, had more funds than in prior years and a portion of those funds were used for initiatives that did not require year over year investments. One such project was the completion of a brand study to learn how visitors viewed North Myrtle Beach. The brand study results were used to refresh the tourism promotion positioning and messaging. Measurement techniques with phone and credit card data were used to learn about advertising effectiveness.

#### DIGITAL INFLUENCE REPORT

Destination North Myrtle Beach initiated a project to support small businesses in our community with our collective and individual digital influence, i.e., how our individual presence on platforms such as Google, Meta, Yelp and Tripadvisor help to raise the overall presence of North Myrtle Beach across the web. Online habits of the modern visitor/ consumer continue to evolve, they routinely utilize a multitude of digital channels and platforms. The visitor/consumer has high expectations for digital competence which is why digital excellence is important.

More than 200 businesses were submitted for a digital review of their forward facing and publicly available, digital presence. They were provided report cards, workshops, and the opportunity to receive individual coaching to implement digital solutions to improve their business.

#### MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Market Intelligence expanded during the year and provided valuable insights to find more visitors and how to drive demand and visitor spending. The realization that competition was back, post COVID, and visitors could travel the world, motivated us to remain competitive, use resources wisely, and create demand for visitation to North Myrtle Beach.









#### MARKETING SUMMIT

The 2023 Marketing Outlook Summit was held in May with nearly 100 investors/partners in attendance. Marketing topics included an update on tourism in South Carolina from SCPRT Director Duane Parrish, plus informative sessions on Digital Influence, Research and Reporting, and the importance of short form video from our partners at Simpleview, Zartico and Miles Partnership. Keynote speaker Cathy Ritter spoke about tourism and sustainability in our community, and we were thrilled to introduce our refreshed Explore North Myrtle Beach logo and color palette to the crowd.



### **Visitor Spend**

We used Zaritco to learn the highest frequency spending data for both residents and visitors. This allowed us to see who is spending what within our destination.

We began subscribing to phone device and credit tracking through Zartico and the data has enabled us to define the typical traveler to North Myrtle Beach. This allowed us to understand the visitors from key points of origin and how their spending and behaviors may differ.

#### SNAPSHOT OF TYPICAL NORTH MYRTLE BEACH VISITOR

87% **49%** 26% 52%

are from Out-of-state; this map illustrates their point of origin

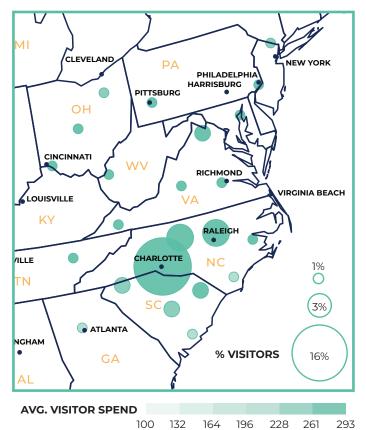
of Cardholders are age 25 – 54

of Cardholders earn more than \$100k

of Cardholders have children in their household

**TOP ORIGIN MARKETS IN-STATE & OUT-OF-STATE** 

ZARTICO



### Visitor Impact on Local Economy



96%

of money spent on accommodations was paid by visitors





of total spending at attractions with an average of \$110





of all restaurant receipts are paid by visitors with an average of \$113



14%

of all retail sales are purchases made by visitors with \$139 average spend



### **Destination NMB Advertising Attribution**



For the first time, we were able to retain the services of a research firm, Adara, to track and measure the advertising attribution for Destination NMB. Adara is the largest data co-op or data partnership of travel loyalty and reward data on the planet. Using pixels in our digital advertising, we were then able to follow who visited North Myrtle Beach after consuming our advertising to measure their spending and learn more about their behaviors and how they may differ from other travelers to the area.

### CAMPAIGN SUCCESS JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2022 - AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> 2023 213,902,116 Individuals Reached by campaign 37.7% Individuals were matched and used in this analysis 0.22%

**Conversion Rate** 

Those who purchased within NMB across individuals matched

### IN MARKET SPEND

JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2022 - AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> 2023

802,453 Travelers\*

2.713.252 Total transactions

\$211.56 Spend per traveler

\$62.58 Spend per transaction

\*Traveler is defined as an individual who traveled to the destination within the time period

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The data from Adara measures credit card spending by visitors living more than 50 miles from North Myrtle Beach who were marketed to with the campaign.

All reported data covers offline spending (spending done in the destination) so data from hotels and motels that were booked online is not included in the total credit card spend.

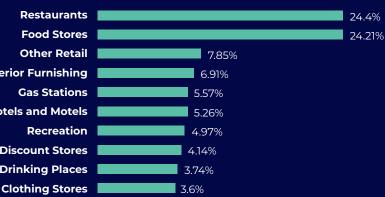
TOTAL DIRECT VISITOR **SPENDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2023** 



### MERCHANT CATEGORIES

This graph shows a breakdown of credit card spend by travelers at the destination by Merchant Category Codes (MCC), which are used by payment networks and card issuers. This chart includes the top 10 merchant categories.

Food Stores **Other Retail Interior Furnishing Gas Stations** Hotels and Motels Recreation **Discount Stores Drinking Places** 



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healthyliving+travel

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GET OUT ON THE WATER IN NORTH MYRTLE REACH

### **PR Coverage**

### **TELLING OUR STORIES**

In mid-year FY 2023 we retained a public relations firm to launch a campaign to build awareness, earn media with experiential coverage of our community, and inspire people to visit North Myrtle Beach. The public relations programming generated early successes with media coverage that expanded the reach of our paid advertising.

Between February 1st and June 30th, there were 24 media placements because of the public relations initiatives. FY 23, we had:

723,492,110 Impressions





\$6.7M

**Publicity Value** 



HANGE

The Biggest And Best St. Patrick's Day Parades Across The U.S.

aint Patrick's Day Parad

CHANG

OURN

Embracing Wellness in North Myrtle Beach

IVIE PARKER

### **Coverage Sampling:**



healthyliving+travel









**RP**<sup>®</sup>



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### North Myrtle Beach Means MORE

We developed a playful, high-performing digital campaign rooted in defining and differentiating the destination. The goal was to elevate awareness about North Myrtle Beach and get potential visitors engaged in its many appealing attributes.



The destination's core audiences come from a combination of drive and fly markets:

Primary Markets: North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, & Michigan

Secondary Markets: New Jersey, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Illinois, & North Florida

The average visitor to NMB is 48 years old, with females edging out males 54% to 46%. More than half of visitors are married, and 35% have children under 18 in the household. Over 30% of visitors are first-time visitors. Research shows that NMB's audience values include curiosity (exploring and learning new things), having fun and freedom.



Continuing with the conceptual framework of "North Myrtle Beach Means MORE \_\_\_\_\_" as a clear expression of the destination's enticing value proposition, the strategy remained to create a series of statements that literally fill in the blanks - quickly but powerfully explaining why NMB offers more. These themes allowed us to customize messaging to speak more directly to our target audiences.

YOU LOVE

GO EXPLORIN

BEACHY FUN

NORTH MYRTLE

Visually rich creative was developed for a variety of digital executions, featuring a mix of alluring landscape photos to inform and entice travelers as well as compelling hero shots to create emotional connections.



#### **EVERGREEN + AFFORDABLE Programmatic Ads** olecatur. sint labit omnis With refreshed "evergreen" creative for n eum cor the FY in July, we also included a new n derum inctat "affordable" creative messaging that BEACHY FUN began running in August. FOR LESS GET TRIP IDEAS m, quatem ilibuscia nis et sperspit mo MORE OF WHAT ectatur, sim EBEACH nda vendebis YOU LOVE oloreped endis juist, niscipsam tatem. Nam, ratiunda aut WATCH THE VIDEO More beach days. More fun on the water More memories to treasu HERE iosanda • • • • • :: **GO EXPLORING**

### **EVERGREEN + AFFORDABLE** Meta Ads

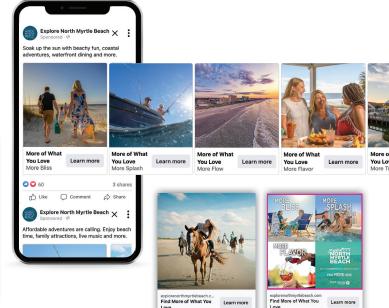






JERNAL

Promoted By North Myrtle Beach



Find Mo

**Special Events** 

This FY, our Special Events Funding grew from \$50K to \$150K, allowing us to expand on our "More" creative and executions, focusing on Spring/St. Patrick's, Summer/Music on Main, and Holiday.







Learn more

Learn more



explorenorthmyrtlebeach.com Order Your Free 2023 Order now **Official Visitors Guide** 

#### **VG CONVERSION ADS**

The Visitor Guide Conversion Ads for the FY promoted both the 2022 Official Visitor Guide (OVG) and switched to promote the 2023 OVG. For the FY months Jan - Jun 2023, the ad resulted in 9,108 Guide Orders at only a Cost per Guide Order of \$0.73. This is extremely efficient as the average cost per guide order is closer to \$5.

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### **Interactive Ad Experiences**

### Undertane.

Undertone creates memorable ad experiences with rich interactive capabilities, completely customizable based on brand goals. We built a custom page grabber, high-impact unit. Attention was captured by utilizing an awareness driving, click producing full screen ad unit that employs creative and encourages audiences to keep NMB top of mind as the vacation destination of choice.

We outperformed both the standard and Undertone destination benchmarks by a wide margin. The campaign was in the top 1% of ALL ads measured by Undertone's System1 with 5-Star Elite performance (above destination average of 3 Stars).



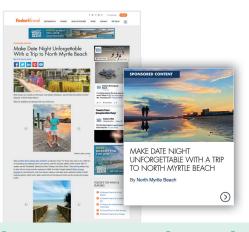
**11.8M+** Impressions 78+ Hours

Engaging with Page Grabber Averaging 54s in unit (2x benchmark) **2.34%** Click Through Rate 13.26% Engagement Rate

### **Targeted Articles**

🔊 Nativo

Nativo is the leading advertising technology platform for brand advertisers and publishers to distribute, optimize, and measure native advertising. We developed custom-produced articles including complementing banner ads. Nativo's proprietary Native Article format is the only format that delivers infeed and lives on-site of premium publisher environments — delivering a true editorial experience for NMB's audiences. The articles were strong performers and because of that also introduced 3 new articles that launched in March of FY.



2.47%

Interaction

Rate

**13.2M+** Viewable Impressions 41.9K+ Website Pageviews 2x Benchmark Time Spent (60s vs 30s benchmark) 2.2x Benchmark Click Through Rate

(5.11% vs 2.3-2.7% benchmark)

### **Trip Itineraries**

### o Tripadvisor

We created a Tripadvisor itinerary along with ads and the results indicated that ad exposed travelers clicked to book in North Myrtle Beach 40% more than unexposed travelers in the same target audiences.



NORTH

2.4M+ Impressions Ad

\$455,179 \$50,000 Ad Exposed Economic Impact Campaign Investment **810%** Return on Ad Spend

### Year Over Year Paid Media Website Results

Prior to the new media campaign, impressions averaged 3 - 6 million per month and postlaunching the new campaign from Mar - Jun, impressions averaged 10 - 16 million per month. Continuing the North Myrtle Beach Means MORE campaign in FY22, we increased our results and continued to perform above industry benchmarks. As we evolved our North Myrtle Beach Means MORE campaign and continued to strategize a highperforming media plan, we also incorporated more research and additional reports to measure our economic impact. In FY23, we continued to increase our results and could definitively account for over \$170M in credit card spend with our media campaign.

|                                     |   | -   |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <b>FY 23</b><br>JUL 2022 - JUN 2023 | <b>118M+</b><br>Impressions*<br>Up Year Over Year without<br>FY22 Tripadvisor inflation | <b>719K+</b><br>Landing<br>Pageviews*               |   | <b>0.61%</b><br>Landing Page<br>Rate*<br><sup>6x Industry</sup>                                |
| <b>FY 22</b><br>JUL 2021 - JUN 2022 | <b>141M+</b><br>Impressions**   | <b>480K+</b><br>Landing Page Views*<br>Up 51.8% YoY | Benchmark (20%)<br>43%<br>Average Engaged<br>Visitor Rate<br>2x Industry<br>Benchmark (20%) | Benchmark (0.10%)<br><b>0.34%</b><br>Landing<br>Page Rate*<br>3x Industry<br>Benchmark (0.10%) |
| FY 21<br>NOV 2020 - JUN 2021        | 72M+<br>Impressions   | <b>316K+</b><br>Landing Page Views                  | <b>34%</b><br>Engagement Rate<br>Above Industry<br>Benchmark (20%)                          | <b>0.44%</b><br>Landing<br>Page Rate<br>4x Industry  |

\*New methodology to calculate results that uses more data points and accommodates Google Analystics 4 updates. \*\*Tripadvisor delivered 5-10x the normal impressions from Nov 21 - Feb 22 due to buying on a CPC vs CPM.





### Web Analytics

Our media success and effectiveness is evident through the volume of web traffic.

In addition to driving all our media campaign efforts to our website, we employed advanced SEO strategies, including keyword optimization and content development, to enhance the Explore North Myrtle Beach website visibility on search engines. This ensured that our content was not only engaging but also ranked higher, driving increased organic traffic and delivering measurable results for our online presence.

### simpleview

2M+ Sessions a 38% increase year over year

### 2.2M+

Pageviews a **20% increase** year over year

### 970K+

Users a 46% increase year over year

### EXPLORE NORTH MYRTLE BEACH Brand Refresh

The Explore North Myrtle Beach brand is one of our most valuable assets. It is more than just a logo. It is the sum total of all the feelings, perceptions, and expectations a person has for our destination.

#### **BRAND REFRESH PROCESS**

Time On

The Water

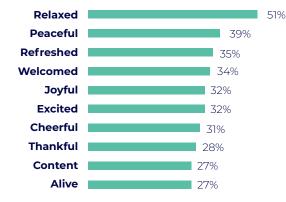
We partnered with Destination Analysts, now Future Partners, to evaluate our brand and media marketing campaign. Research included a quantitative survey and two qualitative focus groups. The results indicated that the current brand and marketing campaign worked but required minor updates to refresh the brand and reflect research.



#### TOP FEELINGS FROM VISITORS AFTER A TRIP TO NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

Timeless

Experiences

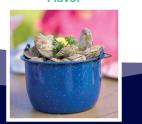


#### NORTH MYRTLE BEACH IS A PLACE...



#### **BRAND PILLARS**

Local Flavor



Pace

Relaxed

Cherised Heritage & Community



#### **BRAND PROMISE**

# In North Myrtle Beach, fun and relaxing coastal experiences flow naturally.

#### **BRAND POSITIONING STATEMENT**

In North Myrtle Beach, fun and relaxing coastal experiences flow naturally. Whether enjoying pristine beaches, boating, outdoor adventures, family attractions, waterfront dining, eclectic shopping, or lively events, you can vacation how you want – savoring familiar favorites and making new discoveries along the way. Like a sunrise, the destination offers the tried-and-true and the new. These timeless, memorable experiences connect friends and families across generations with every visit.

#### **APRIL 2023 PHOTOSHOOT**

Our updated brand platform informed us of our selected photo shoot locations and focus. These behind-the-scenes photos give a taste of the hard work at play by both Miles and the NMB team on this photo shoot, all while having a blast!

These photos and many more are currently being used in a variety of print and digital executions.











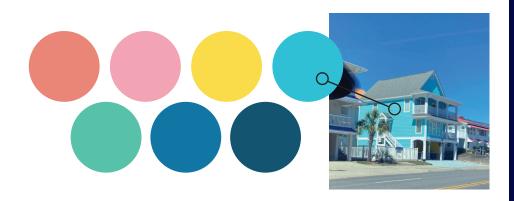


## NORTH MYRTLE BEACH



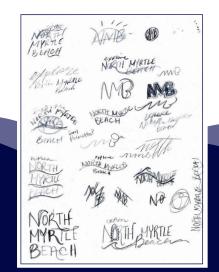
#### LOGO BREAKDOWN

This vibrant logo embodies the spirit of North Myrtle Beach with its fun and refreshing design. The sans-serif font, featuring wide kerning, imparts an open and inviting feel, while rounded letter forms add to the approachability. The slight wave in "North Myrtle" brings a sense of movement. Playfulness emerges as the "R"s extend below the baseline, and hidden waves in the "H" and "E" crossbars create a delightful surprise. The organic graphic element symbolizes fluidity and sophistication, evoking water movement or a gentle breeze. A balanced upper right graphic hints at both sunshine and a compass, subtly emphasizing the "North" in "North Myrtle Beach." Together, these design elements craft a logo that captures the essence of the destination.



#### **COLOR PALETTE UPDATES**

Feedback from user testing indicated that the previous brand colors were too bright and neon, reminding viewers of Florida cities like Miami. We developed an updated color identity that is softened, without losing the bright, beach colors. Many of these colors were pulled directly from the beach homes in the community, creating a palette that will resonate with visitors when they view the brand as well as while they are in the destination.



#### **BEHIND THE LOGO**

Creating a successful logo involves creativity, teamwork, feedback, and decisive choices. Beginning with ideation and research, our team explored similar logos, current design trends, and collaborated to generate diverse concepts. Our Miles team, after sketching and refining over 50+ logo ideas, gathered feedback to narrow these down to five strong options. We meticulously selected logos for user testing, ultimately leading to the adoption of the final logo.

This process exemplifies the crucial elements of creativity, collaboration, and strategic decision-making in crafting an effective logo for the Explore North Myrtle Beach brand.



### **NMB Chamber Foundation**

The NMB Chamber Foundation was established to support the general welfare and prosperity of the greater North Myrtle Beach area. During fiscal year 2023, the foundation undertook a variety of programs to serve the community and support the development of the destination master plan.

The Board of Trustees were active in supporting Destination NMB in the destination master plan development and participated in community meetings, planning sessions, and the fundraising for specific destination master plan initiatives.



# 2023 Board of Trustees

Mark Lane BOARD CHAIR Sand Dollar Media

Veronika Rachel VICE CHAIR First Citizens Bank

Ben Clyburn IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR Condo-World

**Dave Genevro** Barefoot Resort & Golf

Jamesha Gore-Coggin Jamesha Gore-Coggin State Farm Insurance

Stephanie Chestnut Bay Watch Resort & Conference Center

> **Travis Buis** Clear Mortgage

**Nakia Joe** The Pinnacle Financial Partners

> Brandon Cox Elliott Beach Rentals

Andy Thomas TREASURER Thomas Beach Vacations

> **Gretchen Floyd** The Citizens Bank

Cheryl Y. Kilday, CDME SECRETARY President & CEO, Destination NMB

# **2023 Board of Directors**

### **OFFICERS**

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McLeod Health Seacoast

### VICE CHAIR

**Gretchen Floyd** The Citizens Bank

#### TREASURER

Andy Thomas Thomas Beach Vacations

#### SECRETARY

**Cheryl Y. Kilday** Destination North Myrtle Beach

#### **IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**

Brandon Cox Elliot Beach Rentals, Inc

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Alexa Edge Ripley's Attractions Myrtle Beach

> Angela Seddinger Grand Strand Vacations

> > **Ben Clyburn** Condo-World

**Betsy Hison** Retreat Myrtle Beach, Inc.

**Beverly Race** Greg Norman Australian Grille

**Corey Richardson** Carolina Property Specialist

> **Cyndee Colborn** Seaside Vacations

Denise Ambuhl HTC **Eric Rivenbark** Coastal Carolina University

> **Jim Eggen** Avista Resort

**Jim Hanley** Thoroughbreds Chophouse

> **Kim Kelley** Barefoot Landing

**Mark Lane** Sand Dollar Media

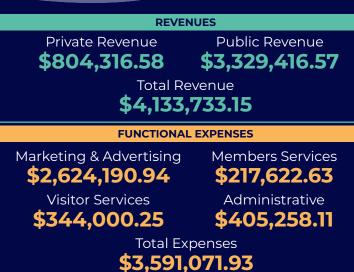
Morgan Jackson Duplin Winery

Weston Parker Myrtle Beach VacationRentals.com

> Whitney Prince Boardwalk Billys

### **Financial Review**

The fiscal year 2023 audit is underway; here are the preliminary revenue and functional expenses for the year. The accommodations taxes were greater than budgeted and carryover funds will be used for tourism promotion. The public funds include allocations from the City of NMB for the restricted accommodations taxes, funds for event promotions from Horry County through the MBACC, and a grant from the SC Parks Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT). Private funds include dues, sponsorships, advertising sales, participation fees, and private contributions to the SMILE Cooperative to match the grant requirements from SCPRT.



ADVOCACY IS IN OUR DNA, WE WORKED DAILY TO REPRESENT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY LOCALLY, WITHIN THE REGION, DIGITALLY IN CYBERSPACE, AND AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

> -CHERYL Y. KILDAY, CDME PRESIDENT & CEO, DESTINATION NMB

The mission of Destination NMB is to advance the prosperity of North Myrtle Beach.

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