



MAIN STREET  
**FORT SMITH**

DOWNTOWN  
COMMUNITY  
SURVEY  
RESULTS

JANUARY 2026

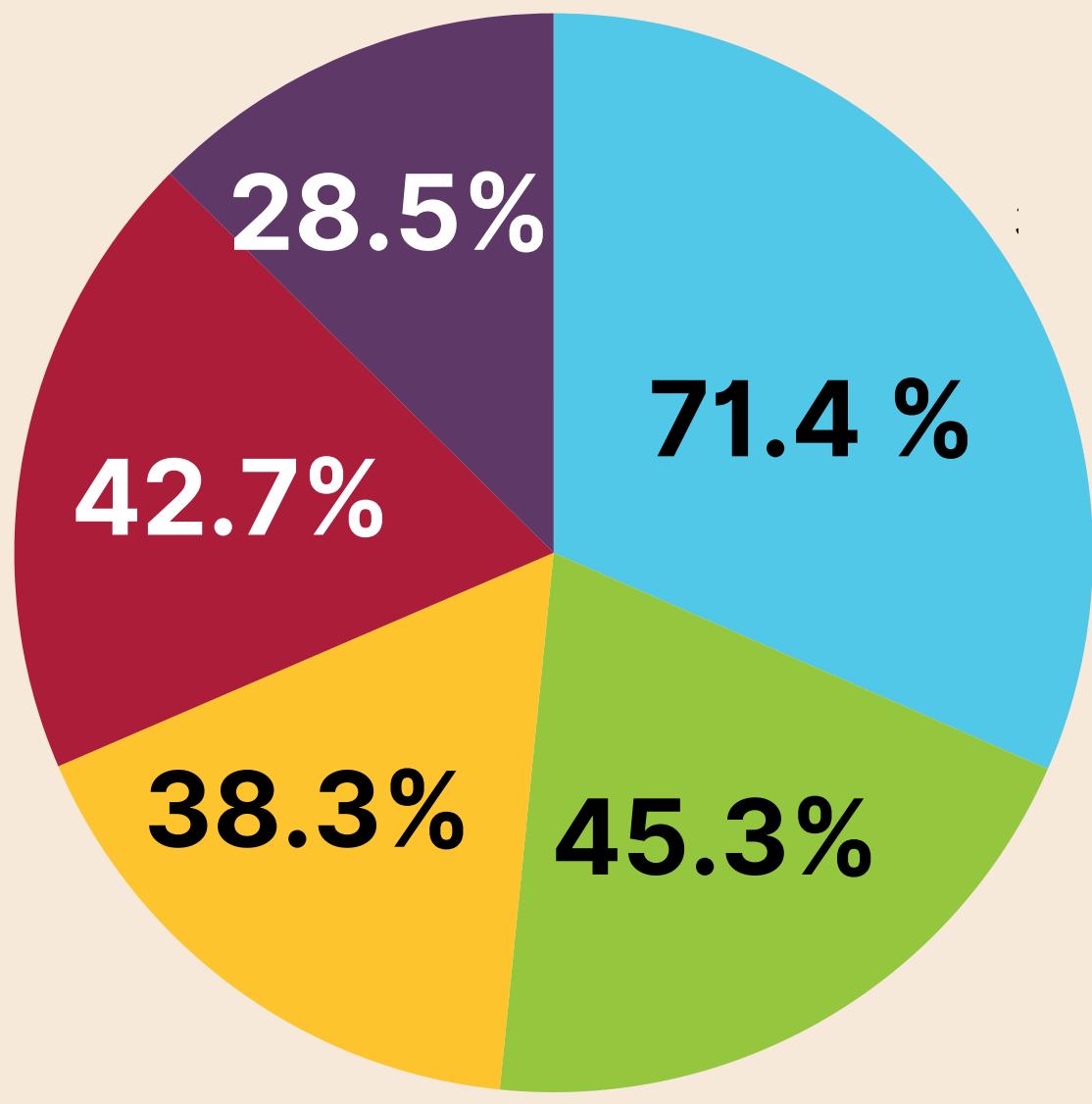
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# Top Reasons for Visiting Downtown

Respondents most often visit downtown for dining, entertainment, and events. These results reinforce downtown's role as a social, cultural, and entertainment hub for the region.



Dining



Socializing & Atmosphere



Entertainment



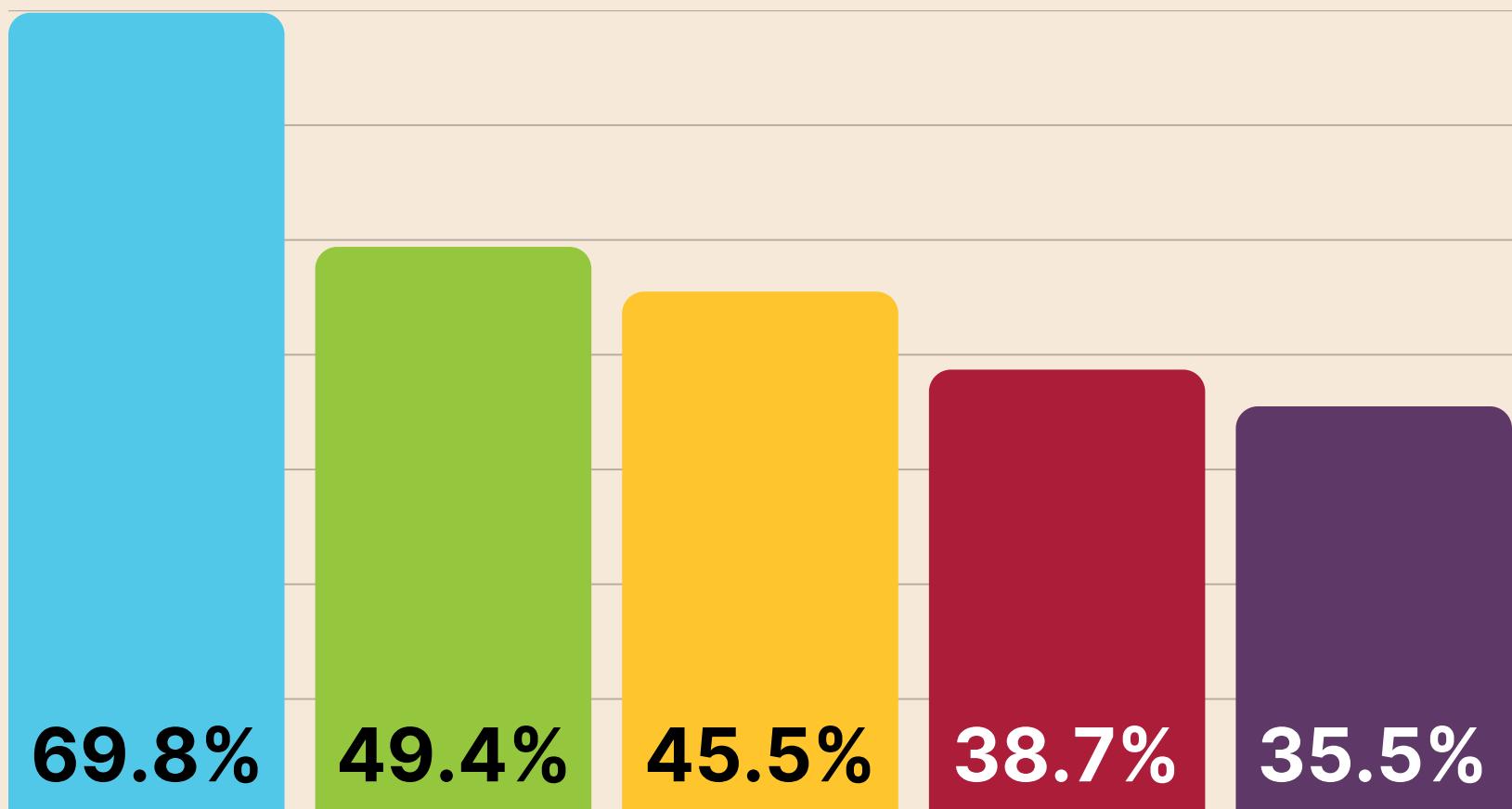
Events & Festivals



Shopping for Fun

# What People Want to See More Of

Live experiences consistently ranked as the most desired additions to downtown. Interest in live music ranked highest across all age groups, with strong demand for arts and entertainment experiences that activate downtown during evenings and weekends.



Live Music Performances

Art experiences

Movie screenings or a movie theater

Games and interactive activities

Sports-related activities

# Business Types in Demand

Respondents expressed interest in a business mix that emphasizes experiences and gathering places. These findings point to opportunities for both short-term activation and long-term business development.

**37.5%**

Family  
entertainment  
(arcades, escape  
rooms, mini-golf)

**29.9%**

Arts and cultural  
venues

Casual or family  
restaurants:

**29.6%**

Breweries,  
wineries, or  
distilleries

**29.1%**

Shared food  
vendor spaces

**25.3%**

# Challenges Identified

Respondents were also asked to identify challenges impacting their downtown experience. While safety concerns were noted, responses suggest that perceptions are closely connected to visible conditions, activity levels, and overall care of the district.

- Homelessness or housing insecurity
- Lack of business suited to household needs
- Vacant storefronts or vacant lots
- Buildings in need of rehabilitation
- Feeling unsafe or crime concerns

**62.2%**

**42.3%**

**34.1%**

**33.1%**

**19.6%**

# Downtown Living and Livability

**Respondents indicated downtown living would be more desirable with improvements tied to activity, amenities, and housing options. These insights reinforce the importance of viewing downtown not only as a destination, but as a neighborhood.**

**Factors that would make downtown living more desirable:**



# How Main Street will use this information



**Expanding events, arts programming, and placemaking initiatives that activate downtown**



**Supporting small business growth, including temporary and short-term activation of vacant spaces**



**Continuing the Mini-Grant Program to improve building façades, lighting, and exterior conditions**



**Implementing strategies to improve the visibility and perception of vacant buildings**



**Coordinating with public and private partners to strengthen downtown livability**