

DDA Board Member Application

1. Name: Matthew Thomas
2. Address: 2595 Rod Bud Rd NE
Calhoun, GA 30701
3. Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____ (Cell) [REDACTED]
4. Email: matthew@cartersvillechamber.com
5. Resident of: (Cartersville) _____ (Bartow County) _____ (Other) Gordon
6. Duration of residency: 1 year
7. Are you the owner or representative of a licensed downtown business? Yes
8. Name of business: Cartersville - Bartow Chamber of Commerce
9. Address of business: 122 W. Main St.
10. How long has the business been licensed? 133 years
11. Where are you currently employed? Cartersville - Bartow Chamber of Commerce
12. What is your current position? Workforce Development Director
13. How long have you been with this company? 8 months

Either in the space below, or on an attachment, please list any special skills or experience that you feel would strengthen the Downtown Development Authority. (*Professional experience, previous board experience, volunteerism, personality characteristics, et cetera may all be considered.*)

I have more than ten years of economic development experience with the last seven of those in public service roles that included administration and management of two of Georgia's largest and oldest downtown districts.

From 2013-2018, I served as the very first Economic Development Manager with the City of Canton and staff liaison to the Canton Downtown Development Authority. In those years we saw record numbers of historic properties being repurposed, introduced new events, and received State Opportunity Zone designation on the former Canton Textile Mill property to lure what is now the Mill on Etowah- a 250,000 square foot mixed-use destination that is home to numerous restaurants, retailers, and offices.

From 2018-2021, I was the Economic Development Manager for the City of Alpharetta where I oversaw all the City's economic development programs including corporate office recruitment and retention, marketing and advertising, and downtown development. This included managing the completion of City Center- transformative mixed-use project in Downtown Alpharetta that included a mix of retail, restaurant, and office spaces, 200 new homes, a new library, and green space that brought millions in new investment and tourism to Downtown Alpharetta.

In addition to my economic development background, I have also previously served as President of the Rotary Club of Canton and have twice served as Chair of Teen Leadership Cherokee at the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce. Economic Development is still very much in my heart, and I utilize those same principles every day in my role as Workforce Development Director at the Cartersville-Bartow Chamber. Given my experience and daily work to improve our local talent pipeline for business growth, it would be an honor and delight to serve on the Cartersville Downtown Development Authority Board.

Either in the space below, or on an attachment, please outline your "vision" for the future of downtown Cartersville and how you can contribute to that process.

I would bring my years of economic development and downtown development experience to the Board to help ensure we leverage our community's assets, strengthen partnerships, and take advantage of resources that would further enhance Downtown Cartersville's vibrancy while continuing to attract and increase economic development and tourism in the district.

Given the number of new and existing businesses downtown that see continued success, the historical and cultural amenities in the district, beautification projects, or growth plans, I believe my professional experiences in economic and downtown development can be an asset to the community and it would be an honor to serve.

I have read and fully understand this application for the Cartersville Downtown Development Authority Board. I am willing to make a Board level commitment to the revitalization of downtown Cartersville. I understand that this is an advisory role to help determine policy issues and that the Downtown Development Manager will serve in administrative capacities for the DDA.



Signature

2/9/22

Date

Please return completed application to:

Cartersville DDA
Attn: Lillie Read
1 Friendship Plaza
Cartersville, GA 30120
770.607.3690 (fax)
770.607.3576 (phone)

Or submit electronically to: lread@downtowncartersville.org