

Position Announcement



**DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**

COLUMBIA COUNTY
GEORGIA • USA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Overview. The Development Authority of Columbia County, located in Evans, Georgia near Augusta, has initiated a search for an Executive Director. Robbie Bennett held the position for ten years before departing to serve as president and CEO of the SRS Community Reuse Organization, based in Aiken County, South Carolina. The Authority has retained The Chason Group (www.thechasongroup.com) to lead the executive search process.

Position Summary. The Development Authority of Columbia County delivers economic development services for the community through an agreement with the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. The Executive Director is responsible only to the Board of Directors of the EDO and is charged with providing leadership, long-term visioning, strategic planning and implementing best practices in Columbia County. The role is focused on developing and maintaining the ecosystem necessary to carry out existing business support, new business recruitment, retail development, small business strategy, and film recruitment.

With a professional team, the executive works with the Development Authority Board and other stakeholders to execute plans designed to maintain and grow existing businesses and entrepreneurship as well as attract new investments for Columbia County. The overall goal is to expand the local tax base. Specific responsibilities shall include encouraging the expansion and establishment of commercial, professional, and industrial businesses. The leader shall provide tactical guidance to the professional team; oversight of all daily operations; and, in collaboration with the community, develop, implement, and maintain an economic development plan of action. The Executive Director shall represent Columbia County and the Development Authority at meetings with clients and working with various partners.



THE CHASON GROUP
EXECUTIVE SEARCH

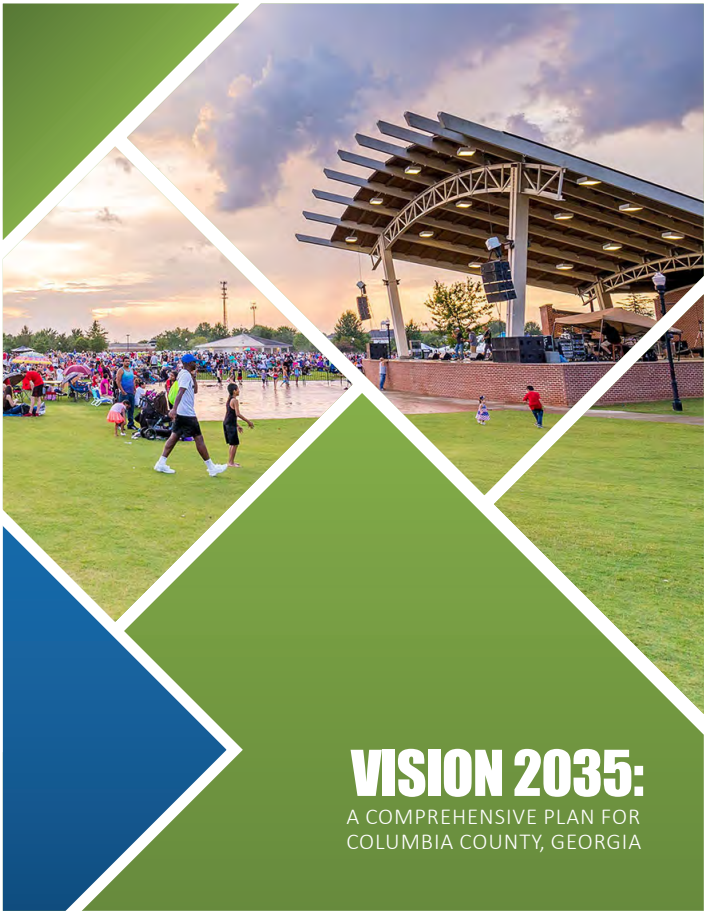
White Oak Business Park is one of the premier sites in the southeastern United States.

About Columbia County. Columbia County, Georgia had a 2021 population of 159,000 according to the US Census. Located just 20 minutes from Downtown Augusta, the area is known for a strong industrial base including John Deere, Amazon, and Club Car. Fort Eisenhower is also located in Columbia County, which is divided by Interstate 20. The base is home to the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and host to a multi-service community of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and multinational forces that has become a center for joint forces activities, training, and operations. Over 30,000 people work as civilian contractors or enlisted service members at the facility.

The region's quality of life is one of the drawing attractions for Columbia County. The Columbia County School System has continued to rank among the highest performing in the United States. Outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, boating, and cycling is abundant in the area.

More about the Executive Director Role. The Executive Director is charged with recruiting the types of business and industry identified by the Development Authority Board and community stakeholders. The professional is responsible for building relationships with economic development partners at a local, regional, and state level. This position is also responsible for overseeing the building and site inventory database for the county. Media relations, marketing and website management are fall within the Executive Director's responsibilities as well.

Day-to-day operations of the office, staff, accounting, and budgeting decisions are also the duty of this position. Special events and activities of the Development Authority will be managed by the Executive Director, including hosting guests during Masters week.



Key Character Traits / Skill Sets Required of Executive Director

Great Communicator	Public Speaker
Leader	Excellent Networker
Collaborator	Strategic Planner
Visionary	Professional



Education and Experience Required of Candidates.

- Bachelor's degree in the area(s) of economic development, community development, real estate, public relations, public administration, business, economics, and/or marketing from an accredited college or university or equivalent experience.
- At least three years of executive management leadership experience in the business, economic development and/or community development field, chamber of commerce, association, or a combination of these.
- A proven tenure in leading an organization through visionary growth and meaningful change to improve the business environment of the community.
- An innovative, creative, and strategic thinker who has experience in developing relevant initiatives and goals to enhance Columbia County's tax base.
- Experienced team builder and leader who will effectively represent Columbia County in many environments.
- A proven track record of successfully working with economic development organizations, governments, and community stakeholders.
- The completion of Economic Development Institute is desired but not required.

How to Apply for the Executive Director Position

The Development Authority of Columbia County, Georgia has retained The Chason Group, an executive search firm specializing in economic development organizations, to lead the executive search process. Candidates interested in applying for the Executive Director position may upload a cover letter and a copy of their resume at www.thechasongroup.com. The deadline for submitting the documents is December 15, 2023. The most qualified candidates will receive an application to complete after the deadline. The start date for the position is first quarter of 2024.