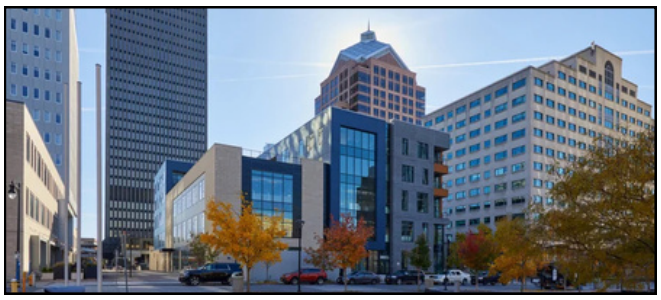
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

President and Chief Executive Officer
Rochester Downtown Development Corporation

Lead the Next Chapter of Downtown Rochester's Growth and Vitality.

The Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC) seeks a President & Chief Executive Officer to unite partners, strengthen downtown's economic base, and translate a renewed strategic vision into measurable progress. This opportunity calls for a visible civic leader who combines imagination with operating discipline and builds confidence through relationships, informed advocacy, and results.

Working closely with the board and Executive Committee, the next President & CEO will guide organizational strategy, lead staff and operations, diversify funding, and advance a coordinated public-private agenda. The anticipated start date is early 2027.



About Downtown Rochester

Downtown Rochester brings together residential neighborhoods, employers, entrepreneurs, dining, cultural destinations, and public spaces along the Genesee River. More than $2 billion in investment over the past quarter century and approximately 11,000 downtown residents provide a foundation for continued revitalization.

The March 2026 strategic plan identifies more than 105 places to eat and drink and 19 cultural and entertainment venues. Downtown's growing residential community, established employment base, and entrepreneurial activity create opportunities to strengthen everyday commerce and attract additional investment.

ROC the Riverway, High Falls State Park, and Inner Loop North present opportunities to connect destinations, improve public spaces, and strengthen adjacent neighborhoods. Realizing their potential requires sustained attention to safety, cleanliness, walkability, commercial occupancy, and hospitality capacity. RDDC's next leader will help partners address these interconnected priorities while advancing a downtown that serves residents, workers, businesses, and visitors.

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The Organization

Founded in 1977, RDDC strengthens downtown Rochester through business and investment attraction, entrepreneurship, advocacy, market intelligence, and public space activation.

The President & CEO also leads the Partnership for Downtown Rochester, a separate nonprofit supporting public-private revitalization efforts, and provides leadership for affiliated entities, including The Commissary, the region's first food business incubator and licensed shared kitchen.

The Opportunity

The President and CEO will translate RDDC's strategic direction into a focused three-year work plan, aligning board priorities, staff, resources, and measurable outcomes around three pillars:

- **Celebrate the Downtown Story.** Restore RDDC's role as downtown's market expert and advocate through reliable data, shared messaging, and investment promotion.
- **Activate Downtown.** Sustain year-round programming while advancing storefront activation, small business support, hospitality, and connections among destinations.
- **Enhance Safety, Livability & Economic Vitality.** Mobilize partners to improve safety, cleanliness, accessibility, and conditions for business growth and investment.

The executive will help define RDDC's potential Genesee Riverway stewardship role and engage on major public investments and hospitality capacity. Funding transitions in 2027 make diversified, multiyear revenue and sustainable programs immediate priorities.

Success will mean stronger partnerships, engaged members, accountable operations, and measurable downtown progress.

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Ideal Candidate Profile

RDDC seeks an approachable, credible leader who builds trust, exercises sound political judgment, and turns shared priorities into results. The President & CEO will unite diverse partners, communicate effectively, and connect downtown investment with community benefit. Internally, this leader will develop staff, support the board, and balance creativity with financial discipline and accountability.

Key Skills and Experience

Candidates should demonstrate:

- Leadership results in downtown revitalization, economic development, or related fields.
- Effective management of staff, finances, strategy, governance, and partnerships.
- Knowledge of downtown markets and real estate investment.
- Fundraising, foundation relations, and grant management experience.
- Strong communication, coalition building, integrity, and inclusive engagement.

Planning, public space, or development financing experience is valuable. Senior leaders ready for a chief executive role are encouraged to apply.

Compensation and Benefits

Salary is $170,000 - $195,000, commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, dental and vision coverage, monthly parking, and a 401(k) program.

How to Apply

Qualified candidates should submit a resume and cover letter via The Chason Group website at www.thechasongroup.com by **November 25, 2026**.

For More Information

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