

Group Project Synopsis: Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)

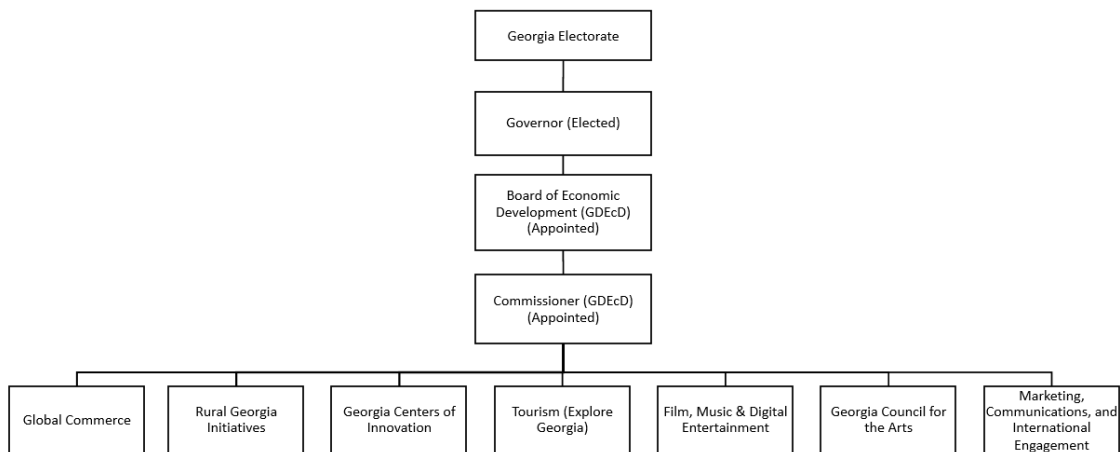
Team 2: Horrace Bearden, Brady Begin, Delicia James, Langston Leake, Francis Oliver

PADP 6930, Public Financial Administration

Department within State Structure + Chart

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) exists as an arm of the state's executive office. GDEcD is a statutory agency, meaning it is not a department specifically called-for in the state constitution and was created by legislation to aid the governor in stimulating the local economy and encouraging tourism. The Governor appoints members to the Board of Directors; many of these members are high-ranking employees of companies in important state industries such as poultry cultivation and construction. The Governor further appoints a Commissioner of Economic Development to directly oversee GDEcD operations. This commissioner reports directly to the Board of Directors, who serve at the behest of the governor. The Georgia Department of Economic Development is further subdivided by 7 divisions: The Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA); the Georgia Centers of Innovation (COI); the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Office; The Global Commerce Division; The Marketing, Communications & International Engagement Division; the Rural Georgia Initiatives (RGI) Division; and Explore Georgia (the state's official destination marketing organization).¹

Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) Organizational Chart



2

Legislated Purpose³

The Georgia Department of Economic Development is the sales and marketing power of the state. The GDEcD is the lead agency for attracting new business investments and

Group Project Synopsis: Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)

Team 2: Horrace Bearden, Brady Begin, Delicia James, Langston Leake, Francis Oliver

PADP 6930, Public Financial Administration

encouraging the expansion of existing industries and small businesses. The Department supports the efforts to improve economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the state. The GDEcD believes that aligning workforce education and training for in-demand jobs can improve the state's employment rate and provide citizens with the necessary skills for the work environment. The Department also seeks to strengthen emerging technology and industries with the potential to create more economic prosperity.

Authority

Authority is granted to the Department of Economic Development by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Title 50, Chapter 7. First and foremost, the Department is authorized to make agreements and contracts in accordance with applicable state laws. The GDEcD may join with public and private groups in joint marketing projects for economic and tourist development with the use of state-appropriated funds.⁴

The rest of the Department's authorities are organized by division, starting with the GDEcD Board of Directors. The Board is authorized to accept gifts and grants from public and private organizations and individuals⁵ and, in the case of federal funds, may administer and disperse funds for "any and all purposes...in a manner consistent with the terms of the grant or gift and other applicable laws".⁶ The Department is also authorized to contract with public and private organizations and individuals to promote marine research and industrial activities.⁷

The GDEcD was also authorized to acquire land for the Georgia World Congress Center⁸ and, subsequently, lease the property to the Georgia World Congress Center Authority.⁹ A similar authorization was granted for the Savannah Convention Center.¹⁰ These commercial centers are not the only economic initiatives authorized by the OCGA. The Department may also accept loans, grants, and other gifts of funds, property, or services from public and private organizations and individuals to administer the Civil War Commission and the State of Georgia Civil War Sites Heritage Plan.¹¹

Not all of its authorizations are so broad. For example, when it comes to the Georgia Film and Television Trail, the Department "shall be authorized to exercise any power heretofore provided by law for the department, except for the powers of eminent domain."¹²

Group Project Synopsis: Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)

Team 2: Horrace Bearden, Brady Begin, Delicia James, Langston Leake, Francis Oliver
PADP 6930, Public Financial Administration

Responsibilities¹³

Georgia's Department of Economic Development is one of the nation's top-ranked state agencies for business. Its responsibilities are to market Georgia to the world by encouraging business investment and trade, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a go-to location for film, music, digital entertainment, and the arts. Georgia facilitates the economic development of Georgians by offering various incentives and tax credits. For example, Georgia invites businesses to come to Georgia and create "high paying jobs" by giving tax credits to companies that pay 10% above the county's average wage in which they are located. In addition to healthy tax credits, the department also helps facilitate the process of assisting businesses to find a site or available space for the business to call home. The reason why Georgia has remained the number one state for business is simple; it has the best incentives, infrastructure, education, and workforce.

Every initiative that the department funds work in cycle to ultimately make Georgia stronger. Even grants geared to make education more accessible make the workforce here very attractive. An example of an industry that Georgia is making its move to be the best in is the film industry. In this push, everyone can participate in production efforts – you can list your home as a film location or work at one of the film locations with a click of a button. Many famous productions like the Walking Dead are filmed here in Georgia and facilitated by GDEcD initiatives. The responsibilities of this department are expensive and exciting.

Group Project Synopsis: Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD)

Team 2: Horrace Bearden, Brady Begin, Delicia James, Langston Leake, Francis Oliver
PADP 6930, Public Financial Administration

Citations

¹Board of Directors Briefing Book, August 26, 2020. Georgia Department of Economic Development. https://www.georgia.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/fy20_q4_board_book.pdf

²Georgia State Organizational Chart. Carl Vinson Institute of Government. University of Georgia. November 2016. <https://cviog.uga.edu/resources/documents/services-and-research/georgia-organizational-chart.pdf>

³About Us, September 16, 2020. Georgia Office of Economic Development. <https://www.georgia.org/about-us>

⁴ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-8 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

⁵ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-10 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

⁶ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-11.1 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

⁷ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-30 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

⁸ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-40 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

⁹ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-41 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

¹⁰ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-51 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

¹¹ Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-61 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

¹² Ga. Code Ann. § 50-7-113 (Lexis Advance through the 2019 Regular Session of the General Assembly and HB 276 and HB 444 of the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly).

¹³ “#1 State for Business.” Georgia Department of Economic Development, www.georgia.org/.