

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022

Emily Herrin (Chair)  
Sarah Higgins  
Brentt Cody  
Lindsey Holt

Heath Barrett  
Jason Tanner  
Cagney Meads

## SPONSORS



Thank you!



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Cornelia Main Street & Downtown Development Authority

The purpose of the DDA is to stimulate and sustain economic development in downtown Cornelia by encouraging cooperation and building leadership. Its mission is to continue developing a vibrant commercial base centered on tourism and strategic supported growth while maintaining the peace and tranquility of our small town charm. The DDA serves non-profit and public purposes and is an institution of purely public charity.

## A Note From Jessie

As 2022 comes to a close, I can't express how proud I am of my current downtown development board. We have a really good group of people who care about the community, where we are going, and who are ready to get involved and take the steps necessary to get there.

We have taken on huge tasks and signed ourselves up to make incredible accomplishments, and we have all done it for the sake of our future generations.

We are coming into 2023 with some new board members who have a fresh perspective and are ready to dive in and do the work necessary to see great change in our community.

In 2022, we saw new transformations and revitalization in downtown. We were able to build new relationships, start new businesses, expand existing businesses, and work with prospects to find them a home in Cornelia.

Turning prospects into business owners, working on streetscape projects, redeveloping vacant properties, and improving the aesthetic of our downtown are all things that we are working toward in 2023 to help continue to reenergize Cornelia.

My hope is that Cornelia will continue to grow and begin to thrive under the leadership of this DDA. Let's keep it going!

Sincerely,  
Jessie Owensby

# IN 2022

**96** New Net Jobs    **15** New Businesses

**436** Events    **539** Volunteer Hours

**f 7,814** Current Facebook followers

**\$2,919.43** Sign and Facade Grants Awarded



## HAPPENED IN 2022

-Installed two new bike racks in downtown



-Completed phase two of the Level Grove Road sidewalk project

-The downtown Entertainment District group hosted a series of successful summer festivals in downtown called "Catch me in Cornelia"

-Downtown Cornelia installed boundary markers for its Entertainment District and created informational postcards and maps for distribution at restaurants



-Cornelia was awarded the 2022 TravelBlazer award from the Georgia Convention of Visitor's Bureaus

-Downtown Cornelia hosted Tallulah Falls School for its first field trip with the Entrepreneurship class



-Buck Snyder was honored with a proclamation from Mayor Borrow to have a "Buck Snyder" day in Cornelia and was awarded with a commemorative bench at the caboose in downtown for his service and dedication to the railroad and museum

-Depot Association restored both the TF X5 and Southern Railway cabooses



-Cornelia was awarded the 2022 Visionary City Award from the Georgia Municipal Association and was featured in Georgia Trend- January

-Fire Department purchased two new fire trucks using SPLOST and grant funds



## HAPPENING IN 2023

-Continue working on funding for Rails to Trails project  
-Host business development classes for existing business owners in conjunction with the City of Clarkesville and the Small Business Development Center

-Creation of updated parking map for downtown



-Develop plan for construction of amphitheatre



-Continue beautification efforts in the Downtown District that includes the updated skate park



-Infrastructure improvements to Wood and Edward Streets

-Develop master plan for city park

-Obtain pricing and concepts for multi-ability playground

-Vintage car shows for the community

-Develop comprehensive plan update from 2023-2028

-Paint mural in downtown district



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