

City of Blue Ridge

480 West First Street

• Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513

• (706) 632 - 2091

AN OPEN INVITATION TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Starting January 2019, the City Council of Blue Ridge expects to have a Downtown Development Authority established and is currently seeking candidates for consideration in service. As Mayor, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to submit an application. Terms for the initial Board are staggered, 6,4,2 years and all reappointments going forward are four years. Participation requires a commitment to the revitalization of the central business district; economic development within the context of historic preservation. Meetings will be held monthly at a date and time to be decided by the Board at the first meeting.

This is an active Board and each member either serves as an officer or chairs a committee or program division. Other obligations include participation in the annual planning retreat a day long planning session, completion of eight hours state training on downtown development and from time to time attendance at City Council meetings.

As an Authority created under 1982 legislation, prospective Board members must be taxpayers residing in the municipal corporation for which the Authority is created and a majority must also be downtown business or property owners or represent an owner's interest and reside within the county. If you meet these qualifications and have an interest in the overall wellbeing of the historic city center of Blue Ridge, please complete the enclosed form and return immediately.

The Council will review applications and make appointments before the end of this year. Please do not hesitate to call on me if you would like to discuss this further before returning the enclosed form (due November 9th) or if you need additional information. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Donna Whitener

Donna Whitener, Mayor

APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION
Blue Ridge Downtown Development Authority



Please Print

Name: _____ Email _____

Home Address _____ C/Z _____

Business Address (Street & Mailing) _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Business _____ Fax _____

I am: (Check all that apply)

- A Resident of the _____ City of Blue Ridge or of _____ Fannin County
- Available for monthly Board meetings (*date, time to be determined at first meeting*)
- An Elected Member of Government: Elected Position _____
- A Downtown Property Owner: Property Address _____
- A Downtown Business Owner: Business Name _____
- A Downtown Employee: Business & Position _____

My Downtown Involvement over the past two years includes: (Check all that apply and list)

- Serving on Committee(s) _____
- Assisting with Projects _____
- Participation in Events _____
- A Financial Contribution _____

Organizations to which I belong, and volunteer service include: _____

Interest/Hobbies/Talents/Skills: _____

I am interested in serving on the Authority because: _____

I will allow my name to be submitted for consideration in service to the Authority; and if appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, I agree to:

- Attend all possible regular monthly Board meetings, committee meetings and any special meetings
- Attend eight hours of training within my first year of service as required by law
- Attend the Annual Planning Session
- Participate in a Board Orientation within 30 days of appointment
- Enter in to full discussion and participation in policy decisions affecting the DDA and its purpose
- Accept responsibility for assignments and offer suggestions on programming or operations
- Maintain matters of confidence
- Serve the Authority, working for its overall well-being and that of the historic business district
- Seek opportunities to learn more about downtown revitalization efforts and best practices

Signature _____ Date _____

___ At this time, I am unable to serve, contact me later ___ I am NOT interested in serving ___ I am interested in serving on a committee

Return by Nov 9th to: Mayor, City of Blue Ridge 480 West First Street Blue Ridge GA 30513 706-455-8280

Downtown Development Authorities

O.C.G.A Title 36 Chapter 42

Downtown Development Authorities (DDA) are used in cities throughout the state of Georgia to revitalize and redevelop municipal central business districts. A DDA is a type of public corporation, a separate legal entity known as a Statutory DDA.

They have been created by the General Assembly in every city in the state of Georgia. However, authorities cannot transact business or exercise powers until activated by adopting and filling a resolution. The resolution must declare the need for the authority, specify the boundaries of the downtown development area that constitutes the central business district and appoint the initial directors. Authorities are required to register annually with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

The Authority must be annually audited in the city's annual audit. It must also complete an annual report of local government authority finances with DCA. They are eligible to apply for and receive state loans and grants and to be a conduit of such funds to the private sector. OCGA 36-42-8 lists the general powers of DDAs. They can own, acquire and improve property, and may enter into contracts and intergovernmental agreements. They may contract with a government entity for a maximum of 50 years through an intergovernmental agreement.

A DDA consists of a board of seven directors who are appointed by the municipal governing authority to serve staggered four-year term. The initial Board appointments are two members for six years, two members for four years, and three members for two years. At least four of the members must have business interest in the district and live in the city or in the county. One of the directors can be a member of the city council with terms running concurrently. One director may also live outside the county, if they own a business within the district. Board members do not receive any compensation but are reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in performing their duties.

Board members must take at least eight hours of training on downtown development and redevelopment programs within the first 12 months of their appointment to the DDA. The Board of Directors adopts Bylaws consistent with the law. They elect officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer.

Authorities are required by law to observe the open meetings and open records acts of Georgia, as well as the state code of ethics. This means public meetings where a quorum is gathered, proper notice of all meetings and meeting summaries, a copy of all minutes are available for public review.

The Authority is generally covered under the city's liability policy as a corporate board and as individuals carrying out board duties.

The geographical jurisdiction of the Authority (downtown development area) may be amended by the City.