

Joel Cordle

Principal, Georgia Downtowns

Senior Downtown Development Professional



As the founder and principal partner of *Georgia Downtowns*, **Joel Cordle** provides professional planning and economic development services to governments and their agencies seeking to revitalize downtowns.

In its first year, his firm has worked with Main Street cities across the state, including Americus, Calhoun, Canton, Clarkesville, Cornelia, Dahlonega, Hampton, Millen, Monroe, Richland, Washington, and Valdosta.

Prior to founding *Georgia Downtowns*, Joel served 32 years in Main Street management and economic development, city government, and cultural arts program management. He served ten years as the Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Program for the City of Dahlonega, receiving the 2016 *Great American Main Street Award* from the National Main Street Center and the 2010 *Award for Excellence in Downtown Development* from the Georgia Downtown Association.

Before joining the City of Dahlonega staff, Joel served four years as a regional downtown representative for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, where he provided Main Street support to 35 cities throughout the north Georgia region. For 16 years, he was the Arts Division Administrator for Athens-Clarke County Government.

Joel is a Past President of the Georgia Downtown Association. He recently moderated a panel on Downtown Living, at the 2017 Georgia Downtown Association Conference in Columbus, Georgia.

Joel lives in downtown Dahlonega, where he plays upright bass, mandolin, and guitar in the Crooked Mile band and serves as a founding member on the board of the Georgia Pick & Bow Traditional Music School, a children's community music program.

