

GEORGIA DOWNTOWNS (GADO)

Georgia Downtowns works with its Main Street clients to revitalize downtowns in Georgia. Since its founding in 2016 and using the economic development tools of strategic planning and community input events, Alice and Joel have planned with 24 Georgia cities, with clients from Cornelia to Valdosta, Calhoun to Tybee Island and Commerce to College Park. In 2017, GADO was honored to represent the Georgia Main Street Program State Office at the National Main Street Conference in Kansas City. The preservation and prosperity of Main Street are GADO's passion and focus.



Joel Cordle has 35 years in economic development, city government, and cultural arts program management. For ten years he was the Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Program for the City of Dahlonega. He is proud to have led Dahlonega in winning the ultimate national honor, 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. For 16 years, Joel served as the Arts Division Administrator for Athens-Clarke County Government. Joel is a certified senior downtown professional and a past president of the Georgia Downtown Association, where he continues to serve on the board as a corporate member. Georgia leads the US in downtown revitalization, and Joel is proud to be a partner with local and state leaders for downtown preservation and prosperity.



Alice Sampson has a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Georgia and is a former faculty member at the University of North Georgia (UNG) where she served 15 years as professor, director, and associate dean in the College of Education. For ten of her 15 years, she was the founding director of the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center, a community engagement center. Alice also served the university's president as the project manager for the REED Initiative, producing and facilitating a yearlong series of

community meetings focused on economic development trends and community needs. Alice is a professionally trained meeting facilitator and process planner. As a lifelong educator and now downtown advocate, she believes that healthy downtowns are key to community vitality and place-making.