



GERALD R.
FORD International
Airport

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority Board
Invites Applications for

President & CEO

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR)

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Executive Search Services Provided by ADK Consulting & Executive Search

The Airport

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority Board (Board) is charged with the operation and maintenance of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority (GRFIAA) serving the citizens of Grand Rapids, MI and the surrounding West Michigan area. Air service at GRFIAA is provided by five airlines serving 24 major market destinations with nonstop flights. The Board is comprised of seven members appointed on a staggered three-year term basis. Three are Kent County Commissioners, three are citizen members of Kent County, and one is a citizen living outside of Kent County but within the West Michigan Combined Statistical Area. The President and CEO reports to the Authority Board.

Over the last decade, GRR has invested more than \$202 million in Capital Improvements. Most recent accomplishments include the completion of the \$20 million award winning Stormwater/Glycol Treatment System, reconstruction of the Airport's east-west runway with a primary purpose of serving general aviation traffic and flight training activity, additional parking capacity including a new four-level parking garage completed in 2009 and construction on a parking deck roof that was completed in November 2015, recognition as the #1 Airport in North America (by size: 2-5 million passengers) by ACI's Airport Service Quality Awards, completion of a renovated Concourse B with new terrazzo flooring, restrooms, expanded and new gate space, gift shop, MI Tap Room Restaurant & Bar and more, the addition of Southwest Airlines in August 2013, the growth of expanded service on American Airlines with nonstop service to Charlotte & Philadelphia, Allegiant Air's addition of nonstop service to Fort Lauderdale & Punta Gorda, a new logo, brand and website refresh including an interactive booking tool, real-time flight information and parking information.

Operated by a staff of 97 full-time employees, GRR has a current operating revenue budget of over \$37.1 million and a current capital budget of \$22.7 million dollars. Over the next 3 years, an additional \$45 million in improvements are proposed. Large capital expenditures currently planned for FY2016 include the construction of the terminal Gateway Transformation project, reconstruction of the North Parking Lot and the Master Plan update. A number of corporate flight departments and FBO's call GRR home including Signature Flight Support (formerly Landmark Aviation) set to open a new two-story, 22,000 sq. ft. General Aviation & Corporate Arrivals and Departures facility in summer 2016. A separate 18,000 sq. ft. hangar for corporate aircraft storage and maintenance is also among the construction. Furthermore, located on the Grounds of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport is the West Michigan Aviation Academy, a Charter High School which opened its doors in 2010. The academy provides a rigorous educational program through an aviation focus, preparing students for unlimited opportunities, including college achievement, career success, and engaged citizenship.





The Community

Grand Rapids: Creative, Captivating, Cool

Grand Rapids, Michigan is one of the best places to live in the U.S. So said *U.S. News & World Report* in 2016, when it ranked Grand Rapids alongside a handful of other cities that are ranked the highest overall in desirability, value, quality of life, and more. “Located roughly halfway between Chicago and Detroit, Grand Rapids’ low cost of living means residents are only spending about 28 percent of the median annual income on necessary expenses,” the publication wrote. “Other perks include a low crime rate and high college readiness scores among school children.”



The surprises begin in downtown Grand Rapids, where a sparkling convention center is connected to nearby hotels via climate-controlled skywalk. The Grand Rapids area is also home to over 40 breweries and has claimed the title “Beer City, U.S.A.” (Examiner.com) and “Best Beer Scene” (USA Today). Dozens of additional restaurants are located within a five-minute walk of the hotels and convention center as well.

If it’s nightlife you’re after, you’re in the right place – smack dab in the middle of a dynamic entertainment district offering everything from chic jazz clubs to rollicking sports bars. On any given night, you can attend a hockey game, see a touring Broadway show, or attend a professional opera, ballet or symphony presentation. Van Andel Arena, another link in the city’s skywalk chain, regularly hosts some of the world’s biggest music acts, from Taylor Swift to Lady Gaga.

There’s plenty to do before the sun goes down. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, located across the salmon-rich Grand River from DeVos Place, pays tribute to the life and times of Grand Rapids’ most famous native son. It’s a fascinating stop for anyone who appreciates history, politics and public service.

Just a few hundred yards away, the Grand Rapids Public Museum features three floors of exciting exhibits, including a working antique carousel and seven galleries of West Michigan habitats.

Supporting the area’s growth and sustainability is a vibrant and successful business community with over 2000 manufacturing companies in the region; a diverse business base with over 100 from foreign countries; \$1 billion in life science investment; over 7000 new jobs created in just 3 years; and a very engaged business community. It is easy to imagine why Grand Rapids is ranked #3 in the nation for economic growth.



The Community *(continued)*

A Feast for the Eyes – Walk another few blocks and you'll discover the Grand Rapids Art Museum, subject of New York Times and USA Today articles even before it opened in 2007. It symbolizes two core values of Grand Rapids – sustainability and art appreciation. This was the world's first LEED-certified art museum, built to meet stringent "green design" standards that help minimize environmental impact. It's one of many reasons Grand Rapids was christened "America's Greenest City" by Fast Company Magazine.

Artists from around the world participate in **ArtPrize** every autumn, and the event has garnered attention from NBC's "Today" Show, The New York Times and USA Today, among many other media outlets. Upwards of 400,000 spectators visit the city center to view the work.

"La Grande Vitesse," the Alexander Calder sculpture that launched the NEA's public art program, still stands outside city hall. This mammoth artwork is so closely entwined with the city's identity that its likeness appears on everything from street signs to garbage trucks.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the reasons Grand Rapids was named #20 in *The New York Times* "52 Places to Go" in 2016, is just a few minutes from downtown via expressway. The stunning grounds include a world-class outdoor sculpture collection, a tropical conservatory, nature trails, children's garden and much more.

The Art of Food – From the exceptional hotel restaurants, to the special eateries downtown, there's something for everyone's taste and budget. In 2014, wallethub.com named Grand Rapids #2 Best Foodie City for your wallet.

Grand Rapids is home to the Secchia Institute for Culinary Education at Grand Rapids Community College where students benefit not just from the challenging curriculum, but also from the rich agricultural bounty of the region.

Thanks to the unique growing conditions fostered by nearby Lake Michigan, Grand Rapids is surrounded by hundreds of family farms that grow everything from apples and asparagus to strawberries and sweet corn. Many local restaurants have been purchasing fresh produce, meat and dairy products from these farms for decades, making Grand Rapids an early model for the sustainable, farm-to-table movement now sweeping the nation.





The Community *(continued)*

At the Fulton Street Farmer’s Market just east of downtown, you’re likely to rub shoulders with Secchia Institute graduates who’ve chosen to stay and open their own restaurants, contributing to an astonishing array of cuisines, foods, wines, beverages, and styles of presentation and serving.

Grand Rapids Downtown Market is also located in the city featuring 24-vendor market hall, cooking classes, rooftop greenhouses, and the nation’s first demonstration kitchen for kids. The market is LEED Gold certified.

A Family Place – Grand Rapids is renowned as a family-friendly spot with an extremely attractive cost of living and some of the best public schools in the country. It is also home to more than 20 colleges and universities, including three of the top ranked liberal arts colleges in the nation, with an enrollment of over 125,000 students.

The fun starts with John Ball Zoo, which offers more than 1,000 animals, a huge chimpanzee exhibit, three-habitat aquarium, four-story zipline, petting zoo and more. The zoo sits at the entrance of a trail system that follows the Grand River to Millennium Park, one of the nation’s largest urban greenspaces. Here, families can swim, fish, picnic, bike and watch wildlife and waterfowl – all just minutes from downtown.



Other attractions include: The Grand Rapids Children’s Museum, minor league professional baseball and hockey, two massive shopping malls, dozens of golf courses and an amusement park with more than 60 thrill and water rides.



Kids and adults alike love the clean, sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters of Lake Michigan –named one of the world’s top 25 shorelines by *Condé Nast Traveler Magazine*. Charming resort towns like Grand Haven, Holland and Saugatuck dot the coastline, offering excellent shopping and dining as well as convenient fishing, boating and jet-skiing opportunities.



Position & Organizational Structure

Under the general direction of the Authority Board, the President and CEO is responsible for all functions of GRFIAA by developing short and long-term plans and strategies to expand airport capacity; attract and retain commercial airline and general aviation tenants; and increase demand for commercial airline service at Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority. The President and CEO ensures that all airport operations comply with federal and state aviation and transportation safety, security rules, regulations, requirement and codes in order to ensure the continuing ability of the airport to provide commercial and general aviation services to West Michigan.

The administrative organization of the Authority is comprised of a professional staff including four direct reports which include the Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Human Resources Director and the Marketing & Communications Director. Additional leadership staff include the Public Safety & Operations Director and the Engineering & Facilities Director.

For a full job description, [click here](#).

Position Requirements

The ideal candidate will have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Aviation Management, Aviation Science, Public Administration, Business Administration, Aviation Technology or a related field, combined with at least ten years progressively responsible experience in aviation administration, including at least eight to ten years airport management experience. Candidates with an equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. A Master's degree in Aviation Management, Public Administration, Business Administration, or a related field is strongly preferred. A.A.E. accreditation required or must successfully complete all accreditation requirements within 24 months of the date of hire. State of Michigan Airport Manager's License must be obtained. Pilot's License preferred.





Salary & Compensation

Salary is \$190,000 - \$225,000 with an excellent benefit package including a vehicle and relocation assistance.

How to Apply:

A. Please submit, **in PDF format**, both a cover letter and résumé. One file is appreciated. *Please do not send your cover letter in the body of an email.* Send your **PDF** files to ADK Executive Search at:

GRR@adkexecutivesearch.com

B. Please complete the ADK employment application form at:

ADK Application Form

(this is a secure link)

Filing Deadline: Monday, May 23, 2016

Only complete electronic submissions will be considered.

Email questions to:

GRR@adkexecutivesearch.com