



The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority invites applications for
Director of Planning

McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS)
Downtown Island Airport (DKX)
Knoxville, TN

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority

In 1937, the City of Knoxville opened a municipal airport to support the growing number of aviation enthusiasts in the region as well as to capitalize on the city's favorable location in the establishment of an air mail route. Being centrally located within one day's drive or a few hours flight from major cities, Knoxville made its position in the air transportation system critical. As the demand for air travel grew, the city transitioned airport operations to a newly created, independent nonprofit agency that would own and operate the city's aviation system. In 1978, the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MCAA) was established. It is governed by a nine-member Board of Commissioners, who are appointed by the Mayor of Knoxville and confirmed by Knoxville City Council, and are charged with the financial success, future planning and development, and operation of both McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) and Downtown Island Airport (DKX). Within the organizational structure, the Director of Planning reports to the Vice President of Planning and Development.

The MCAA directly employs over 165 staff members to operate TYS and DKX. There are approximately 3,500 additional employees with the various airlines and agencies, and an estimated 14,900 people are employed regionally because of TYS.

The Airports

McGhee Tyson Airport

Located 12 miles from the heart of Downtown Knoxville, 20 miles from a world-class technological research hub at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and 30 miles from the majestic landscape of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) is at the center of East Tennessee's growing region. 2019 was the all-time busiest year reaching over 2.6 million passengers. This trend in passenger statistics can be attributed to strong relationships and operational leadership with incumbent air carriers: Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, and United Airlines (or their regional affiliates). Combined, these airlines operate more than 120 daily nonstop flights to 30 destinations, giving TYS passengers more nonstop options than most other peer airports. Moreover, the market for TYS is found in Knoxville's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) of nearly 1 million people. Airport research indicates that TYS attracts passengers from a much larger MSA of nearly 3 million people.



The Airports (*continued*)

In addition to commercial air service, the airport's two parallel runways support significant general aviation, air cargo and military operations. At 9,000' and 10,000' in length, the TYS dual runway system annually handles over 83 million pounds of cargo; over 100,000 general operations; and is home to world-class fixed-base operator, Signature Flight Support. TYS is also the host facility for the Tennessee Air National Guard's 134th Air Refueling Wing and their KC-135 Stratotankers as well as the Tennessee Army National Guard's Aviation Support Facility and their UH60 Blackhawk Helicopters.

TYS provides visitors with an on-site, full-service Hilton Hotel connected to the airline terminal that completed a significant renovation in 2016. In 2020, the Hotel opened an expanded conference meeting space, making it one of the largest meeting spaces available in the area.

Economically, TYS has an impact of \$2.1 billion annually and DKX has \$19 million annually in the local economies of its five surrounding counties through job creation, recruitment of new businesses, the attraction of new air service and the infusion of tourism dollars into each community. For example, based upon the recruitment package developed through relationships in the community and with state and federal organizations, the airport successfully recruited Cirrus Aircraft's Delivery and Training Center for all worldwide Cirrus Aircraft deliveries as well as their large Cirrus Factory Service Center.

Joining Cirrus in the airport's 50-acre development park, known as the West Aviation Area, is a regional jet maintenance facility operated by Endeavor. The airport's operational budget for the Fiscal Year 2023 is approximately \$33 million.

In 2021, the airport completed construction on the largest project in its 80-year history, the Airfield Modernization Program. This \$130 million, 6-year capital improvement project at McGhee Tyson Airport is a comprehensive airfield project that includes installation of a CAT I ILS and airfield lighting improvements on Runway 23L and a complete reconstruction and elevation change of RWY 5L/23R. It required complete demolition of existing airfield pavement, significant grade change and earthwork, concrete pavement, LED upgraded airfield electrical lighting system, LED airfield signage, CAT II ILS, Approach Lighting System, and markings.

Downtown Island Airport

Downtown Island Airport (DKX) is Knoxville's most successful general aviation airport. Located adjacent to Downtown Knoxville and the University of Tennessee, DKX handles more than 73,000 operations per year on average and has over 160 aircraft based on the island.





The Community

Founded in 1791, where the French Broad and Holston Rivers converge to form the Tennessee River, Knoxville has always been known for its great beauty, but this is a city where more than rivers converge. In this vibrant, progressive city, art meets adventure... and culture meets cuisine... and no one meets a stranger.

Art Meets Adventure

Knoxville is one of America's most vibrant cities for live music. From classical to bluegrass, country to rock, live music is on the Square, on the streets and on the stages of the historic Bijou and Tennessee Theatres, hosting concerts and Broadway shows as well as performances by the Knoxville Opera Company, the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Year round, this diverse and welcoming city hosts more than 70 cultural festivals and events. Highlights include the Dogwood Arts Festival, Rhythm N' Blooms, Women in Jazz Jam, Knox Asian Fest and Big Ears. Research indicates that TYS attracts passengers from a much larger MSA of nearly 3 million people.

The sounds of nature are also part of Knoxville's soundtrack. Located just three miles from downtown, Knoxville's Urban Wilderness is a spectacular 1000-acre outdoor adventure area where you can hike, bike, climb, paddle or just wander in the woods – within the heart of the city. Over 50 miles of trails and greenways connect a nature center, pristine lakes, historic sites, Civil War battlegrounds, quarries, adventure playgrounds, city parks and 500-acre wildlife area. The city also features more than 85 miles of greenway connecting all facets of the city.



Culture Meets Cuisine

Knoxville is home to award-winning museums and attractions that educate, entertain and inspire.

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates the art and artists of East Tennessee. The KMA presents an engaging schedule of exhibitions and is home to Richard Jolley's Cycle of Life, one of the largest figurative glass-and-steel assemblages in the world. To supplement the arts in our community, TYS has its own art exhibition space that features the artistic talents of the region. To grow this program, TYS has invested in an Art Master Plan.





The Community (*continued*)

Other popular Knoxville attractions include the **Women's Basketball Hall of Fame**, an international museum dedicated to preserving the history of women's basketball; the **East Tennessee History Center**, home to exhibits that tell the history of the people, places and events that shaped this region; **McClung Museum**, where exhibits showcase the geological, historical, and artistic past of Tennessee and cultures from around the globe; and **Zoo Knoxville**, one of the premiere zoological experiences in the southeast where guests come face to face with the world's most fascinating animals.

Knoxville has more than its fair share of Culinary Arts as well. With a heavy focus on locally sourced foods, Knoxville's unique culinary scene is shaped by a group of talented chefs including Tennessee's first James Beard Award Winner: Joseph Lenn. Lenn is one of several Blackberry Farm chefs who operate restaurants in Knoxville.

The City is also building a name for itself as one of the best craft beer towns in the Southeast, a place to relax with some of the country's finest beers and finest people.





Downtown and Beyond

The pure walkability of downtown's **Market Square**, historic **Gay Street** and **The Old City** allows people to explore and discover vibrant murals, local music, historic sites, art galleries, shops and more than 80 restaurants (nearly all local), bars and rooftop patios.

For those who prefer not to walk, trolleys provide free transportation throughout downtown, including the riverfront and University of Tennessee campus.

Beyond downtown, from East to West, North to South, Knoxville offers a variety of places and activities to explore. West Knoxville features some of the area's finest shopping. East Knoxville is home to the Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum and two of the city's seven historic homes. And North and South offer their fair share of parks, restaurants and gathering spots.

As mentioned, Knoxville is home to the flagship campus of the **University of Tennessee**, one of the nation's oldest state universities, but it's clearly more than a college town.

The state of Tennessee does not collect income tax. Combine the area's picturesque beauty and many cultural attractions and it is easy to see how people quickly fall in love with this city.

Click here to view a [short video](#) about living in Knoxville.

With a sophisticated mix of culture and cuisine, served up with genuine hospitality, Knoxville will surprise you.

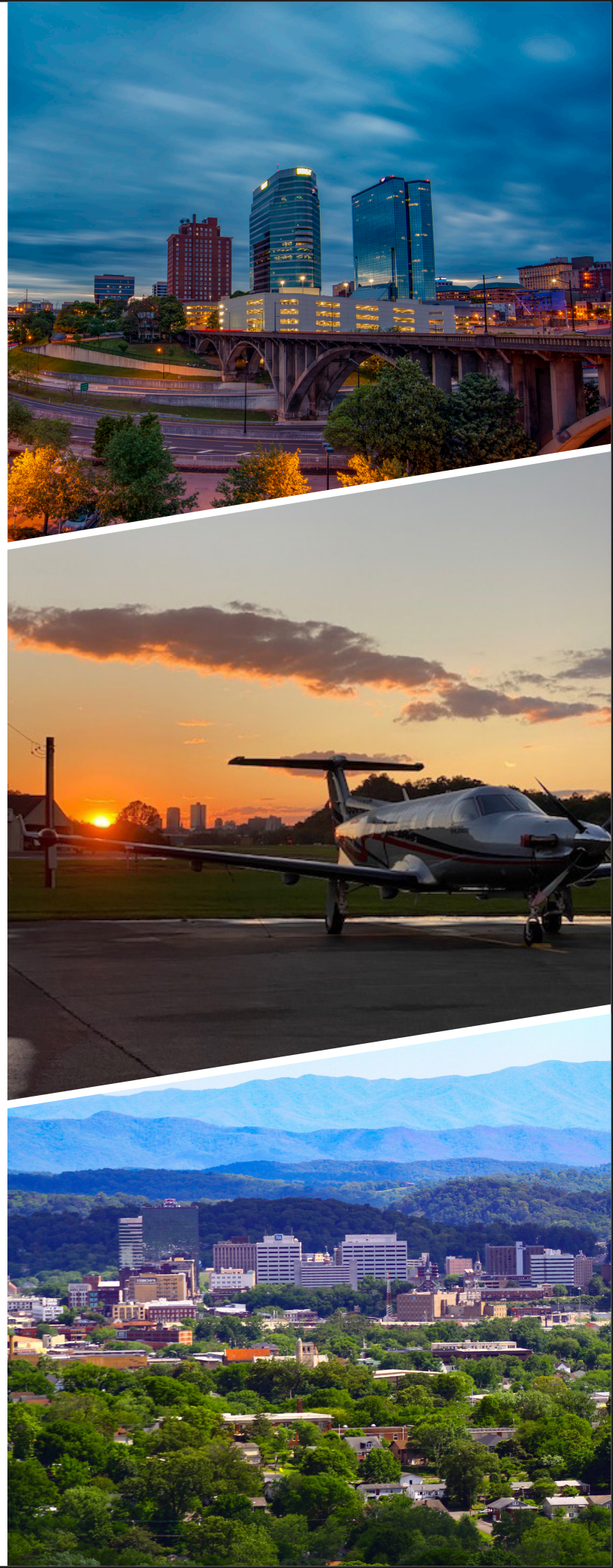
The Position

The Director of Planning for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MKAA) is responsible for directing all aspects of airport planning and program activities management for current and future transportation needs. He or she must be a leader with proficiency in conceptual planning and project development for air carrier and general aviation airports alike. He or she works closely with leadership and other departments on multiple planning projects. This includes working with consultants, planners and developers. The Director demonstrates strong project management skills overseeing multiple planning and development projects or programs on behalf of the MKAA. The Director leads workshops and presentations for the Board and other public agencies. Importantly, the Director manages the complex, multi-level Airport capital improvement program and serves as the primary point of contact for the program.

The Ideal Candidate

The Director of Planning will have a 4-year degree in planning, engineering, architecture, or project management, with at least 7 to 9 years' experience in project management, 7 years working in an airport environment, and experience in professional planning and airport development. The Ideal Candidate will also have a project management certification. The Director must have knowledge of airport and project management; planning and development; modern office equipment and software associated with planning; and Federal and State airport and an understanding of aviation funding resources. He or she must be able to effectively communicate, orally and in writing. The Director must establish and maintain effective working relationships, be able to lead cross functional teams, including guiding and influencing consultants, and be able to provide a bridge between planning and construction.

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





Salary and Compensation

The salary range for this position is \$105,292 – \$136,879. MKAA offers a very competitive benefit package for this position including medical/dental benefits, disability/life insurance, a 401(a) retirement program and relocation assistance. Final salary offer will be dependent upon experience.

How To Apply

To apply online, [click here](#).

Deadline for applications: Open Until Filled

The contact for this search is:
Sybil Murphy, SHRM-SCP, CCP, CBP
sybil@adkexecutivesearch.com

Please note: After your application is complete, you will receive an important email from us. Please check your inbox and your junk/spam folder, and if you have not received our email, please notify us at:
admin@adkexecutivesearch.com.

The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority is an equal opportunity employer.

