



PHL PNE

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT

The City of Philadelphia invites applications for
Chief Operating Officer

Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)
Northeast Philadelphia Airport (PNE)
Philadelphia, PA

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

The City of Philadelphia's Department of Aviation (DOA) includes the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), serving the nation's seventh largest metropolitan area, and the Northeast Philadelphia Airport (PNE), the third busiest airport in Pennsylvania.

PHL is a large hub airport — the 22nd busiest in the U.S. — serving more than 69,000 daily passengers and nearly 28.1 million annual passengers in 2023. As an American Airlines hub, it is their main European Gateway for passengers and cargo. As of 2023, 24 airlines, including all major domestic carriers, offer over 326 daily departures to 120 destinations worldwide. Located 7 miles from downtown Philadelphia, the Airport is situated on 2,598 acres, and is easily accessible and convenient to many tourist sites, business centers and cultural hubs. The Airport is self-sustaining and uses no local tax dollars. PHL is one of the largest economic engines in the region, generating \$16.8 billion to the economy and accounting for more than 106,000 full-time jobs annually (pre-pandemic).

Situated on 1,118 acres in the northeast part of the City of Philadelphia, PNE is a reliever airport for general aviation and corporate flight operations and the busiest general aviation airport in Pennsylvania. Its quality airfield systems, large runways, control tower and support services make it an airport of choice for many global corporations who use PNE on a regular basis for their corporate jets. Operations at PNE include business flying, personal and charter flying, law enforcement, skydiving, medevac, and flight school operations. The Airport averages 160 based aircraft, dominated by single engine aircraft, as well as twins, jets, turboprops and helicopters, and is home to the US manufacturing headquarters of Leonardo Helicopters.



The Airport *(continued)*

Our Mission:

Proudly connecting Philadelphia with the world

Our Vision:

World-class global gateway of choice

Our Values:

- People First - Our employees, stakeholders and passengers
- Respect - To ourselves, our customers and our environment
- Integrity - We hold ourselves responsible for what we do, say and think (Talking the talk, walking the walk)
- Diversity - Purposefully inclusive and accepting of all
- Excellence - We hold ourselves to the highest standards of service, innovation, and efficiency

The Capital Development Program

The Capital Development Program at the DOA is bringing innovation to our airfields, terminals and roadways and is strengthening our regional economic impact. Through the program, DOA is continuing a commitment of over \$1.8 billion in approved funding to make critical improvements and develop new infrastructure at both PHL and PNE. These airfield, terminal and landside projects are improving the customer experience, laying the groundwork for future development, and capitalizing on the role that the DOA plays as a regional economic engine.



The Community

Famous as the birthplace of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Philadelphia delivers one destination, five counties and countless things to do: fascinating museums, vibrant parks, national historic sites and famous (and delicious) food. Philadelphia is a city of vibrant neighborhoods with varied options of architecture, amenities and lifestyles.

Whether it's running like Rocky, refueling with a cheesesteak and then wandering along Boathouse Row or touring Independence Hall, devouring a roast pork sandwich at Reading Terminal Market and then visiting an amazing museum on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, these are the experiences that make Philadelphia stand out among the rest.

Museums and Attractions

Philadelphia's museums and attractions are small and massive, historic and modern, interactive and exclusive, eccentric and unexpected. From the highest with the new Comcast Tower to one of the most visited (Reading Terminal Market, welcoming millions of diners and shoppers each year), Philadelphia has something for everyone.

Food and Drink

There's an incredible array of good food to eat in Philadelphia, and according to the New York Times, "the dining scene here is having a moment." Nine James Beard semi-finalists were just announced this year and Philadelphia has dominated past years as well. What makes up Philly's diverse dining scene? Award-winning restaurants, street food, 300-plus bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) restaurants, sidewalk seating reminiscent of European cities, bars with great food, craft pizza spots, vegetarian and vegan eateries (that aren't just for vegetarians and vegans) and the storied Reading Terminal Market and Italian Market. And, of course, cheesesteaks.





The Community (*continued*)

History

The country's first World Heritage City, Philadelphia is also the birthplace of the United States, where our Founding Fathers met, discussed, debated and formed a new country – and the city (and airports) are gearing up for Nation's 250th anniversary celebration in 2026. Lucky for 21st-century visitors, so much of Philadelphia's history has been preserved. That includes, of course, two of the city's most important attractions: Independence Hall (one of the only World Heritage sites in the country and where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were drafted and signed) and the Liberty Bell (a symbol of abolitionist movement).

It also includes the historic houses, government buildings, museums, churches and cemeteries that make up Independence National Historical Park, the "most historic square mile in America" run by the National Parks Service that sees millions of visitors every year.

Elsewhere, visitors soak up the region's history in the quaint, explorable alleyways of Old City and Society Hill, at the city's excellent history museums (Museum of the American Revolution, National Museum of American Jewish History, the African American Museum) and throughout the Greater Philadelphia region at sites made famous by the American Revolution (Valley Forge National Historical Park).





The Community (*continued*)

Outdoors

The Philadelphia region is blooming with lively urban parks, re-imagined recreational landscapes, spirited pop-up gardens and scenic running and biking trails. From the massive trail systems of Fairmount Park and Wissahickon Valley Park to the delightful riverside enclaves of the seasonal Spruce Street Harbor Park and Race Street Pier to regional attractions like Longwood Gardens and Valley Forge National Historical Park, residents and visitors enjoy relaxing, exercising and playing in these public spaces that honor Penn's vision.

Sports

Philadelphia is one of just a few cities with a professional franchise in five major league sports. Most of Philadelphia's pro teams play a few miles south of Center City, either at the Wells Fargo Center (76ers basketball and Flyers ice hockey), Lincoln Financial Field (Eagles football) or Citizens Bank Park (Phillies baseball). The Philadelphia Union soccer team plays at the Talen Energy Stadium in Chester, Pennsylvania, just outside of Philadelphia.

The city also hosts top-tier regattas (the Dad Vail Regatta and the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta), the world's oldest relay meet (the Penn Relays), numerous marathons and running events (the Philadelphia Marathon, the Broad Street Run) and much more.

2026 and Beyond

Philadelphia is anticipating millions of new visitors in 2026 as we host the upcoming FIFA World Cup 26™, the celebration of the America's 250th birthday, the MLB All-Star game, PGA Championships and many more major conventions and events. PHL is the first experience for a majority of these guests, and we want to make it a great one! The team at DOA is focused on key projects and will complete nearly \$350 million worth of infrastructure improvements on the airfield, terminal, and landside.



The Position

Do you have energy and an innovative spirit that is eager to lead and contribute to a dedicated team of professionals advancing airport and regional initiatives? The City of Philadelphia is looking for a dynamic Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Enterprise leader to leverage and optimize partnerships, data, technology, service, and innovation. This role is responsible for developing and implementing strategies across the organization and must be a strong and effective leader, able to adapt to a continually evolving environment and thrive in an autonomous deadline-oriented workplace.

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) provides executive leadership and is responsible for managing daily aviation business operations including oversight of airport operations and maintenance, operational and facility asset management and planning, and security and safety. This position requires a leader who will determine priorities, set operational objectives, and implement plans effectively. This position reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and may be designated to act for the Airport CEO when the CEO is out of the office. The COO's direct reports are the Vice President of Facilities Maintenance and Vice President of Operations and Security, and other direct reports as assigned by the CEO including consultants. This leader will play a critical role in ensuring that PHL and PNE are prepared for major events set to take place in the city in 2026 including America's 250th Celebration, the FIFA World Cup 26, the MLB All-Stars game, and the PGA Championships.



The Position *(continued)*

The COO will:

- Have a track record of leading and delivering safe, secure, efficient, and customer-focused environment with the design, development and execution of effective policies, procedures, and operational practices.
- Be capable of exercising considerable independent judgment, initiative, and discretion in determining the optimal strategy for resource utilization and providing support to all users of PHL and PNE.
- Provide supervision and oversight of airport emergencies, heightened security situations, and irregular weather operations.
- Have the ability to effectively communicate, orally and in writing, including making presentations before diverse groups and size audiences.
- Ensure that the Airports comply with all regulatory requirements, business policies, and contractual obligations, and implement modern best practices.
- Foster and practice collaboration and cooperation and ensure the Airports' interests are communicated and coordinated with relevant stakeholders.
- Have demonstrated the ability to manage conflict, build consensus, and facilitate problem solving and collaboration among various stakeholders, both internal and external.
- Has experience developing and implementing standard operating policies and procedures and safety regulations in compliance with Federal, State, and Local government, as well as compliance with FAA standards.
- Directs the plans for scheduled inspections as required by Federal regulations (i.e. Part 139).

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

Preferred Education, Licenses and Experience

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Aviation Management, Finance, Business Administration, Public Administration, or a closely related field. Master's degree preferred.
- 10 years of Airport or aviation industry experience, at least 5 of which are as a senior leader at a US airport with significant air carrier service, with considerable management experience and understanding of legal and financial issues related to security, maintenance, and operation of airport facilities; experience with managing extreme weather situations preferred.
- Preferred certification as an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.), U.S. Airport Professional (USAP) or International Airport Professional (IAP).





Compensation and Benefits

The starting salary range for this position is \$210,000 up to the midpoint of \$230,000. An attractive benefits package is provided. Residency in the City limits of Philadelphia is required within 6 months of hire.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: May 15, 2024

The contacts for this search are:

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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 City of Philadelphia is an equal opportunity employer.

