



Columbus Airport Commission invites applications for
Executive Director

Columbus Airport (CSG)
Columbus, GA

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Airport

Columbus Airport (CSG) serves Columbus, Georgia, and the surrounding area, providing convenient commercial air access for residents and visitors. Known as the community's "Hometown Airport," CSG serves Georgia's second-largest city and accommodates more than 140,000 passengers annually. The Airport is owned and operated by the Columbus Airport Commission.

Located just six miles from downtown Columbus, CSG encompasses approximately 680 acres. The Airport's terminal complex totals 66,000 square feet and includes two terminal buildings with three gates. Passenger amenities include more than 1,200 public parking spaces, rental car services, concessions, ATMs, vending options, and an Executive Conference Center located on the second floor for the convenience of business travelers. The Airport also owns and operates its fixed base operator (FBO) as an Airport department.



The Airport *(continued)*

Airfield and Aviation Activity

CSG supports both commercial and general aviation activity. The Airport has two runways, 123 hangar and/or hangar bays in t-hangers, and more than 120 based aircraft, supporting a range of aviation activity in the Columbus region.

Located just minutes from Fort Benning, CSG also serves as a convenient gateway for the region's significant military community. Fort Benning is a major U.S. Army installation and home of the Maneuver Center of Excellence. The Airport provides convenient access for military personnel, their families, and visitors traveling to the installation, including those attending graduations and other events.

The Columbus metropolitan area, with a population of approximately 260,000, offers cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities for military families. CSG further contributes to the region by generating more than \$94 million in direct economic impact for the Columbus metropolitan area.

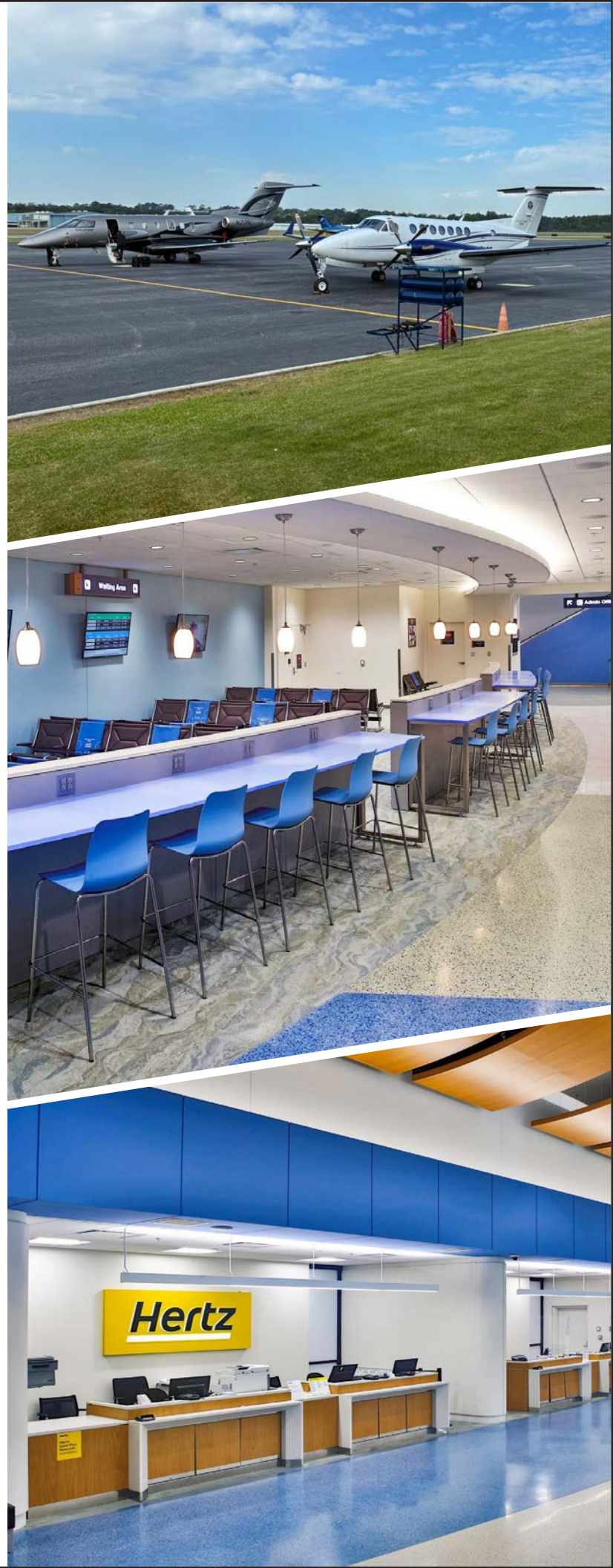
Investing in the Future

Columbus Airport recently completed a major reconstruction of Runway 6/24, an infrastructure investment designed to support the safety, reliability, and long-term functionality of the Airport. The project involved full reconstruction of the runway and included replacement of storm drains, reconstruction of the gravel base, concrete pavement, installation of longitudinal drainage, a new blast pad and runway lighting system, and grading of adjacent runway safety areas.

The construction contract totaled approximately \$24 million, with project funding provided through Federal Aviation Administration and Georgia Department of Transportation grants. Construction began in August 2025 and was completed ahead of schedule on November 26, 2025.

With convenient access to downtown Columbus, commercial and general aviation activity, established passenger facilities, and continued investment in critical infrastructure, Columbus Airport serves as an important transportation and economic asset for the region.

For more information, visit the Columbus Airport Commission [website](#).





The Community

Located along the Chattahoochee River on the Georgia-Alabama border, Columbus offers a strong combination of economic opportunity, education, recreation, arts and culture, and community amenities. Phenix City, Alabama, is located directly across the river, creating a broader regional community connected by the Chattahoochee.

Columbus also has a distinctive form of local government. The City of Columbus and Muscogee County merged in 1971, creating Georgia's first consolidated government. Today, the Columbus Consolidated Government serves the city and county through one unified organization. Columbus is a welcoming, business-friendly community that offers an appealing environment to live, work, build a business, and enjoy an active quality of life.

Economy and Employment

Columbus supports a diverse regional economy with significant employment in healthcare, education, financial services, government, manufacturing, technology, aerospace and defense, and food production. Major employers in the Columbus metropolitan area include Piedmont Columbus Regional Hospital, Aflac, FIS, Pratt & Whitney, St. Francis-Emory Healthcare, Columbus State University, Synovus, the Muscogee County School District, and Columbus Consolidated Government.

The region's workforce is supported by local higher education and technical training as well as veterans and transitioning military personnel. Columbus State University and Columbus Technical College are among the institutions contributing to education and workforce development in the region. The Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce also works to strengthen the regional business environment, support existing industries, attract new companies, develop a talented workforce, and encourage a diversified economy.



The Community *(continued)*

Fort Benning, located just south of Columbus, is another important part of the metropolitan area and regional economy. The installation is home to the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence and contributes to a strong connection between the military and the greater Columbus community.

Looking Ahead

Columbus is taking a coordinated approach to its future through Columbus Ahead, the regional strategy for 2026–2030. Developed through collaboration among public, private, and nonprofit partners, the initiative is organized around three primary pillars: Jobs, Talent, and Place.

The Jobs strategy focuses on creating a vibrant economy through job and workforce growth, entrepreneurship, and visitor activity. Talent initiatives are designed to develop prosperous people by increasing educational attainment and improving student readiness. Place initiatives focus on building a thriving community through connectivity, civic pride, community engagement, and quality of life.

The strategy brings together organizations throughout the region, including Choose Columbus, the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Visit Columbus, Uptown Columbus, StartUP Columbus, Dragonfly Trails, and other community partners. This coordinated effort builds on years of regional work focused on economic development, education and training, infrastructure, talent, and quality of place.

Recreation and Quality of Life

The Chattahoochee River is a defining feature of Columbus and provides a focal point for recreation and community life. The 22-mile Chattahoochee RiverWalk follows the river through the city, providing a paved route for walking, running, and cycling. Columbus is also developing an extensive interconnected trail system through Dragonfly Trails, expanding opportunities to explore the community by foot and bicycle. The river itself provides additional opportunities for outdoor recreation, including the whitewater course through Uptown Columbus. Parks, golf courses, recreation facilities, and other outdoor attractions provide additional ways to enjoy the area throughout the year.

Uptown Columbus combines the riverfront with restaurants, shopping, entertainment, and community activities in a walkable downtown setting. The area connects residents and visitors with the RiverWalk and many of the city's cultural and recreational attractions.





The Community (*continued*)

Arts, Culture and Attractions

Columbus offers a broad range of arts, cultural, historic, and family attractions. The community is home to museums, galleries, performance venues, and destinations that reflect both the city's history and its continuing investment in arts and culture.

Local attractions include the Columbus Museum, Coca-Cola Space Science Center, National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, and RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. The community also offers galleries, live entertainment, sporting events, restaurants, and locally owned businesses.

Columbus' military heritage is especially visible through the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, located near Fort Benning. The museum honors U.S. Army Infantry Soldiers and preserves the history and contributions of the Infantry through exhibits, artifacts, memorials, and educational experiences.

With a diverse economy, higher education and workforce resources, a strong military connection, an active riverfront, and continued investment in jobs, talent, and quality of place, Columbus offers a well-rounded community for professionals considering their next career opportunity.

For more information about the community, visit [Visit Columbus, GA.](https://www.visitcolumbusga.com/)



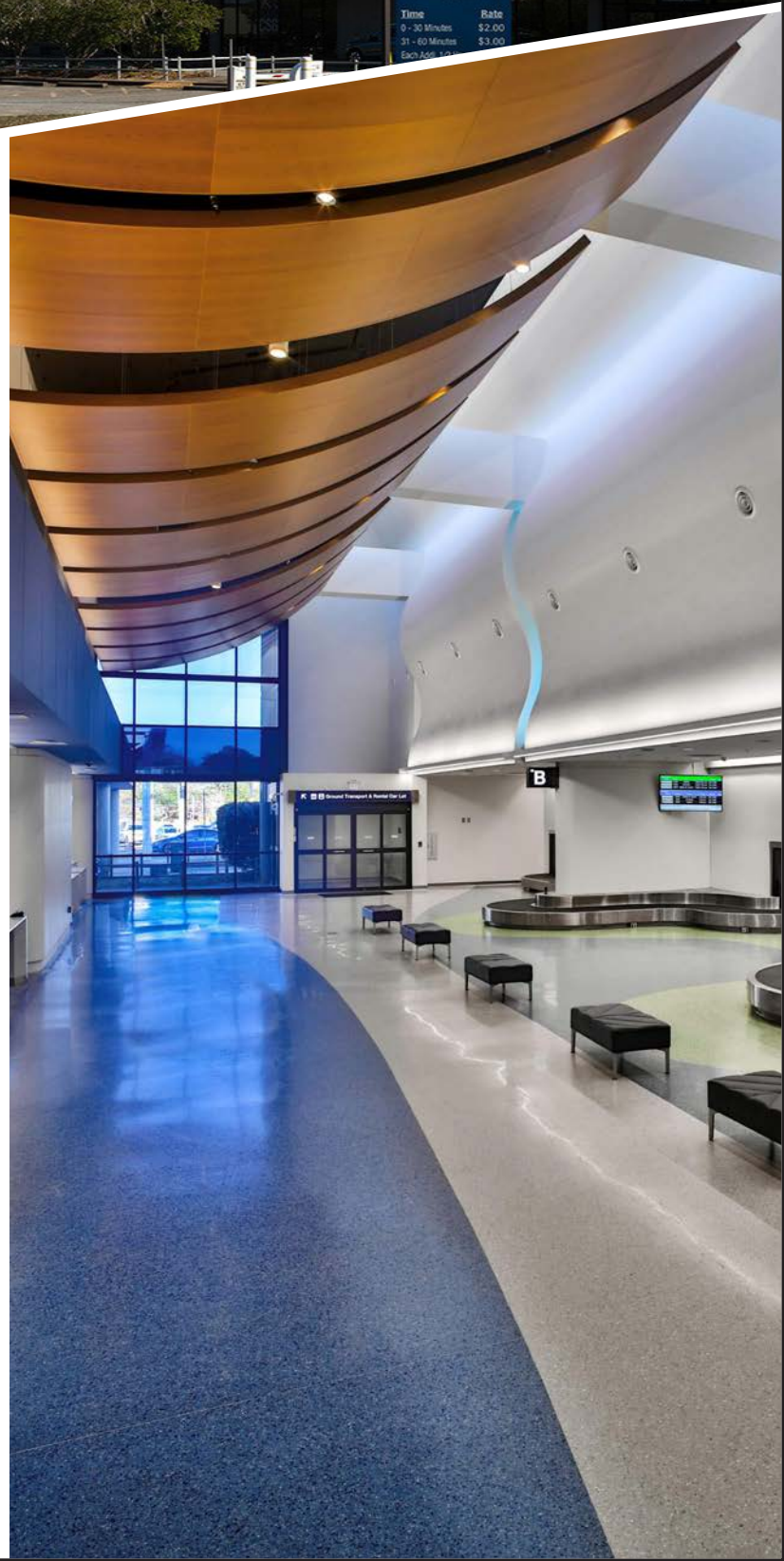


Position Overview

The Executive Director will provide leadership for the Airport's operations, administration, financial performance, development, and long-term strategic direction. Reporting to the Columbus Airport Commission, the Director ensures CSG operates safely, efficiently, and responsibly while continuing to provide high-quality commercial and general aviation services to Columbus, Georgia. This executive will guide the Airport's continued growth by advancing aviation and non-aviation activity, strengthening revenue opportunities, maintaining regulatory compliance, and aligning airport development with the needs and interests of the community.

About the Role

The Executive Director balances day-to-day executive oversight with long-range planning, business development, capital investment, and stakeholder engagement. The Director works closely with the Airport Commission, staff, tenants, airlines, government agencies, community leaders, and industry partners to advance airport priorities and identify opportunities for growth. The role oversees financial planning, airport facilities and capital programs, tenant and contractual relationships, regulatory compliance, and initiatives to attract passengers, air service, general aviation activity, and new business. The Director also represents CSG in community, governmental, and industry forums while positioning the Airport as an important economic and transportation asset.





Key Responsibilities

- Lead all airport operations, administration, and organizational functions in collaboration with the Airport Commission.
- Develop short- and long-range strategies that advance air service, general aviation, business development, and airport utilization.
- Direct financial planning, budgeting, fiscal controls, and strategies that support responsible airport stewardship.
- Oversee airport capital improvement planning, grant funding, and major facility and airfield development projects.
- Ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local aviation, safety, security, and operational requirements.
- Manage tenant leases, contracts, negotiations, and relationships to support compliance and business growth.
- Represent CSG with community, governmental, aviation industry, and economic development stakeholders.
- Advance innovative operating and revenue strategies that strengthen the Airport's long-term performance and community value.

Leadership Qualities and Style

The successful candidate will be a strategic, collaborative, and community-minded executive who combines sound business judgment with a strong understanding of airport management. This leader will communicate effectively with the Commission, staff, tenants, government partners, and community stakeholders while building consensus around important initiatives. The ideal candidate brings flexibility, creativity, and confidence to complex decisions, embraces innovation, and develops practical solutions in a changing aviation environment. A relationship-oriented leadership style and genuine commitment to the Airport and the Columbus community will be essential.

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Airport Management, Public Administration, or a related field.
- Five years of progressively responsible airport management or directly related experience, including senior management experience at an FAA Part 139 airport with scheduled commercial service.
- Demonstrated knowledge of airport finance, operations, development, capital projects, grants, and applicable aviation regulations.
- Proven success leading a growing airport and building consensus with diverse internal and external stakeholders.
- Strong negotiation, communication, organizational leadership, and complex problem-solving capabilities.
- Certified Member (C.M.) or Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.) designation desired; Private Pilot Certificate preferred.

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

Salary and Benefits

Salary is dependent on qualifications and will be based upon the knowledge and experience of the individual selected. The annual salary range for this position is \$200,000 – \$250,000 and is accompanied by a competitive benefits package.

How To Apply

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

Deadline for applications: October 4, 2026

The contacts for this search are:

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Columbus Airport Commission is an equal-opportunity employer. We support diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for employees.

