



“The Williamsburg Economic Development Department has been an incredible support throughout the pandemic. The grant programs they launched, the resources they offered, and their extreme efforts to remain accessible to businesses over the past year have made a world of difference to our business community.”

– DENNY ZAHAROPOULOS,
Owner of Sal’s Ristorante Italiano



LEADERSHIP

Williamsburg City Council:

Douglas G. “Doug” Pons, *Mayor*
W. Pat Dent, *Vice Mayor*
Edward F. “Ted” Maslin
Barbara L. Ramsey
Caleb T. Rogers

City of Williamsburg Economic Development Authority (EDA):

Rick Overy, *Chair*
David Trichler, *Vice Chair*
John Cale
Harold Philipsen
Adam Steely
Adria Vanhoozier
Robert “Robby” Willey

EDA Attorney Joseph F. Phillips, Jr., Of Counsel
Secretary to the EDA Attorney, Marie Caulford

The Williamsburg Economic Development Authority (EDA) was chartered by Williamsburg City Council in 1975. The EDA’s seven Directors are appointed by City Council and it is a political subdivision, independent of the City. The EDA works to assist existing businesses, attract new businesses, and market the City as a premier business location. The EDA strives to be aware of the needs and concerns of City businesses and to identify, encourage and assist in the implementation of programs and activities that will contribute to the City’s economy.

**CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**
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The City of Williamsburg Economic Development Department (EDD) is a one-stop shop resource for businesses of any type or size looking to take advantage of the City's unique economic assets and premier business location by locating or expanding within City limits.

With an experienced, dedicated, and enthusiastic staff team, the EDD provides business concierge services – supporting all business owner needs through the process of opening and sustaining a business. From applying for a business license to finding a location, from talking through incentive opportunities with the EDA to coordinating with our Codes Compliance staff and navigating our Architecture Review Board standards, from applying for re-zoning with our Planning department to organizing and staffing a ribbon cutting – we are here for it all. We also administer grant programs and work closely with existing businesses through those application processes.

In addition, we leverage our regional and state economic development resources to tell the story of Williamsburg as a business destination – one that can provide business owners and employees alike with the best opportunity to join a vibrant community, find professional success, and benefit from a region rich in history, culture, market access, and modern amenities.

WHAT WE DO

SUPPORT existing businesses

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CULTIVATE new jobs and investments

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FOSTER entrepreneurial and creative growth

Launchpad 10
 Start Peninsula 10

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MEET OUR TEAM

Michele Mixner DeWitt, CE&D, AICP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Michele joined the City of Williamsburg as its first Economic Development Director in 2005, building a productive, efficient department that now includes three staff, provides concierge services to

existing and new businesses, manages the \$5 million City Tourism Development Fund, serves as landlord of the Triangle Building, and staffs the Economic Development Authority.

Prior to Williamsburg, Michele's public sector career has included work on the Middle Peninsula, West Point, and for the Commonwealth of Virginia. In Middlesex, she was the first environmental planner in a locality with 135 miles of shoreline. At the state, Michele started as the manager of a new economic development program called the Regional Competitiveness Program and managed several other economic development programs as she advanced there.

Michele's community involvement includes volunteering with Housing Partnerships (where she is a former Chairman of the Board) and sitting on the Williamsburg James City County Superintendent's Advisory Committee and the Williamsburg Farmers Market Board. She is an active member of the Williamsburg Garden Club and serves on the Finance Committee of the Garden Club of Virginia. Additionally, Michele is a Past President of the Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA).

Michele grew up in Virginia Beach and received her undergraduate degree from the Architecture School at the University of Virginia. While managing economic development programs at the state level, she received her master's degree in public administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Michele lives in downtown Williamsburg with her husband Chris, son Anderson, and dog Charlotte.

Yuri Adams, BREC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST



Yuri is a born and raised Virginian and has lived in Williamsburg for nine years. Since 2017, she has served as the City of Williamsburg Economic Development Specialist.

In this capacity, she manages the department's Business Retention & Expansion program, acting as staff liaison between the City of Williamsburg and its existing businesses. Additionally, she manages all Economic Development social media and newsletters, administers the Economic Development Authority grant programs and incentive packages, and maintains the Williamsburg Wayfinder app and the Yes Williamsburg website. She serves on several regional economic development initiatives including The Home-Based Business Resource Fair & Conference and Start Peninsula, an annual entrepreneurial pitching competition.

Yuri's community involvement includes serving as Chair for ASPIRE Young Professionals of

the Williamsburg Business Council, serving as executive secretary on the board of An Occasion for the Arts, and volunteering on the Business Council's Economic Growth Committee. Yuri is a proud member of the LEAD Greater Williamsburg Class of 2019.

Joanna Skrabala TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST



Joanna joined the City of Williamsburg Economic Development Department in the fall of 2019, bringing expertise in tourism marketing, web management, graphic design, photo editing, and

film editing. For over a decade she managed tourism efforts through digital marketing and interactive programs with the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance. She uses this background and expertise to support the City's new opportunity to develop product, infrastructure, and placemaking tied to tourism growth and development. Joanna also serves as the EDD staff liaison to the Williamsburg Area Arts Commission.

Joanna is a graduate of Northeastern University with a dual major in journalism and cinema studies. She is an active member in the community as a founding member of the ASPIRE Young Professionals of the Williamsburg Business Council and as a board member of An Occasion for the Arts.