



# LEIGH HOPKINS, AICP

SR. PLANNER + ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPER

## EDUCATION

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Georgia Institute of Technology | 2003 - 2005  
Environmental Planning Specialization

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FOREST RESOURCES

University of Georgia | 1994 - 1998  
Forest Business Specialization

## SKILLS

- Project Management: Salesforce
- Communication: WordPress, MailChimp, Prezi, Canva
- Collaboration: Mural, Miro
- Analysis: ESRI ArcGIS, Community Analyst
- Surveys: Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Mentimeter

## CERTIFICATIONS

### AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PLANNERS, 2010

American Planning Association

## MISSION

Economic Catalyst. Visionary. Connector. Ethics Champion.

As a planner specializing in economic and community development, I empower my clients with the tools to build strong and resilient regions, create a trained and ready workforce, and help communities secure the resources they need to capitalize on their assets.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2008 – PRESENT

### SR. PROJECT MANAGER

GEORGIA TECH CENTER FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

- Implemented the state's High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) for the Northwest Georgia region and spearheaded a website for exploring "in-demand" career pathways in logistics and advanced manufacturing
- Headed the Southwest Georgia Economic Recovery and Resilience Strategic Plan, the first regional plan of its kind in the state
- Drove the feasibility study of a biosciences innovation district for Science Square, producing 5,000 jobs across 2.2 million square feet of new lab and research facilities, office space, and apartments
- Crafted the Northwest Georgia Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan and implemented the U.S Department of Commerce Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative. Achieved a national designation as an "EDA Manufacturing Community."
- Directed Georgia Tech's professional development courses through the International Economic Development Council

FEBRUARY 2007 – JUNE 2008

### SR. URBAN PLANNER

CITY OF ATLANTA BUREAU OF PLANNING

- Accelerated projects within Special Public Interest (SPI), Quality of Life Zoning, and the BeltLine Overlay districts
- Guided pre-development discussions and provided oversight for projects at Development Review Committee (DRC) meetings
- Collaborated with the Mayor's office, Atlanta City Council, stakeholders, business owners, and three NPU's to author the Cascade Neighborhood Commercial district (NC-6) legislation

## AFFILIATIONS

- American Planning Association (APA)
- Georgia Planning Association (GPA)
- Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA)
- International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

MAY 2005 - FEBRUARY 2007

### COMMUNITY PLANNER

TUNNELL-SPANGLER-WALSH

- Created a GIS database and analyzed infill housing development yield for the City Dalton using a new form-based zoning code developed for the city's historic districts
- Identified key sites for redevelopment and developed 15-year capital improvement programs for multiple Livable Centers Initiative studies

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

- "Community Economic Recovery + Resilience" Georgia Tech Basic Economic Development Course, Atlanta, GA: September 2021
- "Community Resilience Post-COVID" Development Authority Board Member training: bi-monthly, 2021
- "Community Re-Building in the Wake of Covid" Development Authority Board Member training: May, June, July, August, and October 2020
- "The Art of Interviewing" Georgia Tech Research Methods class (PUBP 3130), Atlanta, GA: March 2018 & 2019
- "Economic Development Considerations for the Buford Highway Corridor" Georgia Tech City and Regional Planning Studio (CP 6052), Atlanta, GA: September 2017
- "How Regions Adapt to the Manufacturing Landscape" SSTI National Conference, Columbus Ohio: November 2, 2016
- Program Testimonial, 2016 IMCP National Summit, Washington, DC: October 20, 2016
- "Partnerships that Drive Results in Advanced Manufacturing" 2016 EDA National Conference, Washington, DC: April 7, 2016
- "Regional Collaboration for Effective Economic Development Manufacturing Strategies: IMCP Communities" Regional Studies Association North American Conference, Atlanta, GA: June 16, 2016
- "A New Front Door for Georgia Tech: Technology Enterprise Park and Westside Community Engagement" Atlanta Studies Symposium, Atlanta, GA: May 11, 2016
- "Key Technology and Supply Chain Analysis" 2014 IMCP National Summit, Washington, DC: October 30, 2014