



2026 GDA Annual Conference Hotels & Schedule of Events



Contracted Hotels

Courtyard Rome

320 W 3rd St.
Rome, GA 30165

Hampton Inn

875 W 1st St.
Rome, GA 30161

Hawthorn Extended Stay

100-110 N 2nd Ave NW
Rome, GA 30161



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Day & Time	Event	Location
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026		
8:30 am – 4:30 pm	DDA Basic Training <i>(breakfast & lunch included)</i>	Courtyard Rome Riverwalk Etowah Room A 320 W 3 rd Street
8:30 am – 3:30 pm	DDA Advanced Training <i>(breakfast & lunch included)</i>	Courtyard Rome Riverwalk Etowah Room B 320 W 3 rd Street
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	CDP 1 Training: Planning & Land Use for Downtowns <i>(breakfast on own & lunch included)</i>	Forum River Center Etowah Room 301 Tribune Street
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	CDP 2 Training: Funding, Resources, & Tools II <i>(breakfast on own & lunch included)</i>	Hampton Inn & Suites Floyd B 875 W 1 st Street
8:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Main Street 101 <i>(breakfast & lunch on own)</i>	Forum River Center Riverwalk Ballroom 301 Tribune Street
9:00 am – 4:30 pm	Historic Preservation Training <i>(breakfast & lunch on own)</i>	Broadview Second Floor 300 West First Street
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative Alumni Event <i>(invitation only)</i>	Hawthorn Hotel River Room 100-110 N 2 nd Ave NW
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration & Swag Sales	Forum River Center 301 Tribune Street
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Mentor/Mentee Happy Hour	The Vogue 247 Broad Street
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception hosted by City of Rome	The Vogue 247 Broad Street
7:00 pm	Dinner on your Own	downtown Rome
9:00 pm	Drone Show	Town Green



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Day & Time	Event	Location
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026		
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration & Swag Sales	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Silent Auction Open	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Opening General Session	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Small City, Big Vision: Placemaking that Transforms Communities	Courtyard Riverwalk Coosa Room 320 W 3 rd Street
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Why Busy Doesn't Always Mean Progress	Courtyard Riverwalk Etowah B Room 320 W 3 rd Street
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Session: From Vision to Vibrancy: Building Engaged Downtown in 12 Years	Forum River Center Riverwalk Ballroom 301 Tribune Street
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Concurrent Session: From Permit to Prosperity: Aligning Stormwater Programs with Community Development Goals	Forum River Center Coosa Room 301 Tribune Street
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own	downtown Rome
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Building Your Brand: Creating a Cohesive Downtown Identity	Courtyard Riverwalk Coosa Room 320 W 3 rd Street
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Influence Downtown: Partnering with Content Creators to Reach Your Target Audience	Courtyard Riverwalk Etowah B Room 320 W 3 rd Street
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Brainstorm: A Big Idea Session	Forum River Center Riverwalk Ballroom 301 Tribune Street
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Burnout Is Not a Badge of Honor: Protecting Decision-Making in Downtown Development	Forum River Center Coosa Room 301 Tribune Street
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Mobile Workshop: Underground/Basement Tour	Rome Area History Center 305 Broad Street
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Mobile Workshop: Clock Tower Tour	Corner of East 5 th Ave and East 2 nd St
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Mobile Workshop: Clock Tower Tour	Corner of East 5 th Ave and East 2 nd St
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Explore downtown Rome on your own	downtown Rome
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Hour & Sponsor Mingle	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street



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6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner, Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
8:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Bar Crawl	downtown Rome



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Day & Time	Event	Location
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast & Silent Auction Open	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Legislative Session	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
10:00 am	Silent Auction Closes	Forum River Center The Arena 301 Tribune Street
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Concurrent Session: The Ground Floor is the Soul	Forum River Center Coosa Room 301 Tribune Street
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Concurrent Session: Homelessness: Finding Impactful, Sustainable & Creative Solutions	Courtyard Riverwalk Coosa Room 320 W 3 rd Street
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Concurrent Session: Plan It! Brand It! Build It! Carrollton's Renaissance Story	Courtyard Riverwalk Etowah B Room 320 W 3 rd Street
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Mobile Workshop: From Financing to Front Door: A Walking Tour of Downtown Transformation in Rome	Forum River Center Riverwalk Ballroom 301 Tribune Street
11:15 am – 1:30 pm	Free Time/Lunch on your own	downtown Rome
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Session: Entertainment Districts: Big Impact on Small Towns	Forum River Center Coosa Room 301 Tribune Street
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Mobile Workshop 1: Nova River District Lofts Tour	Forum River Center at Town Green 301 Tribune Street
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Mobile Workshop 2: Blueway/Greenway Tour	Heritage Park Boat Ramp 1 Jewel Frost Dr
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Mobile Workshop 3: Myrtle Hill Cemetery Tour	Veterans Plaza Corner of Myrtle St & South Broad
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Mobile Workshop 4: Cave Spring Trolley Tour	Forum River Center Loading Dock Area
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner on your own	downtown Rome
8:00 pm -10:00 pm	When In Rome After Party	Rotary Plaza



2026 DDA Annual Conference Hotels & Schedule of Events



Day & Time	Event	Location
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026		
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	CDP 3 Training: Business Development & Support <i>(breakfast on own & lunch included)</i>	Forum River Center Etowah Room 301 Tribune Street
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	CDP 4 Training: Strategic and Master Planning <i>(breakfast on own & lunch included)</i>	Broadview Second Floor 300 West First Street