



Center City District

Center City District (CCD), partner to property owners and downtown stakeholders, is the steward and advocate for a clean, safe, and thriving Center City — Philadelphia’s heart of commerce, culture, and connection that generates opportunity and prosperity for the entire city and region.

Our Origins

The story begins with the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation (CPDC), founded in 1956 as the Old Philadelphia Development Corporation. Born from a vision of Philadelphia's business leaders, CPDC pioneered downtown revitalization efforts and championed policies that made Center City more competitive and livable.

Building on this legacy, Center City District was established by CPDC in 1990 and began operations in 1991 as one of the nation's first business improvement districts.

Our Structure

With approval from property owners within its boundaries and from the City of Philadelphia, CCD was authorized under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Municipality Authorities Act.

CCD is a private-sector directed municipal authority covering 233 blocks and more than 1,600 properties in the heart of Philadelphia.

Through assessments on commercial property owners and support from the broader community, CCD provides services that supplement, but do not replace, the basic services provided by the City of Philadelphia and the responsibilities of property owners.

Three affiliated organizations—CCD, CPDC, and the CCD Foundation—work together with shared staff and a unified mission, combining operational excellence with strategic planning and advocacy.

Our Work

Operations & maintenance

More than 100 uniformed cleaning staff sweep 46 miles of sidewalks multiple times daily, remove graffiti, and maintain the public environment. Community service representatives and bicycle safety patrol teams provide hospitality, assistance, and serve as eyes on the street, creating a welcoming presence throughout downtown. Working in partnership with

Project Home and the Philadelphia Police Department, CCD homeless outreach teams connect unsheltered individuals with services and support.

Parks & public spaces

CCD transformed and manages four popular downtown parks—Dilworth Park, Sister Cities Park, John F. Collins Park, and Cret Park. Each has its own distinct “personality,” and all serve as highly regarded public amenities for office workers, families, visitors, and residents.

Capital improvements

Since 1997, CCD has invested over \$160 million in streetscape enhancements, park renovations, improved lighting, wayfinding signage, and façade improvements to enhance the attractiveness and functionality of Center City.

Research & advocacy

Through CPDC, we produce respected research on downtown trends, advocate for policies that strengthen Center City's competitiveness, and convene stakeholders around shared goals. The annual *State of Center City* report and specialized studies provide essential intelligence for decision-makers.

Promotion & placemaking

We promote Center City as a premier destination through signature programs like Restaurant Week, Sips, and Open Streets that were created to benefit local businesses and showcase the cultural vitality and diverse offerings that can only be found in Center City.

Our Values

- We are passionate about Philadelphia, optimistic about the future of our downtown, and believe strongly that every employee at CCD can meaningfully improve Center City.
- We recognize that we are trusted because of our integrity, our responsiveness, our visibility, and our effectiveness, and strive to uphold that in every interaction.
- We work collaboratively, internally and with partners, to scale our impact.
- We believe in the value of face-to-face interactions and gatherings, in our office and downtown.
- We are measured and analytical, and we thoughtfully make decisions with data.
- We are an operational organization yet remain bold, open and innovative when new opportunities (and challenges) arise.
- Because Center City is experienced by residents, workers, visitors, and tourists from throughout Philadelphia and throughout the world, we believe our downtown— as well as our organization—should be inclusive and welcoming to all.