



The wading pond at Sister Cities Park provides an oasis for play for children in the heart of Center City.

Center City District Foundation Overview

The Center City District Foundation (CCDF) is the charitable affiliate of the Center City District and Central Philadelphia Development Corporation, dedicated to enhancing downtown Philadelphia through philanthropic support for public realm initiatives, community programs, and transformative projects.

Supporting programs beyond the scope of CCD's assessment-funded operations, donations to CCDF enable CCD to do more for public safety, parks, horticulture and landscaping, and assisting the most vulnerable people in our public spaces.

History

CCDF exists to support initiatives that make Center City more welcoming, beautiful, and connected, but exist beyond the scope of CCD's core maintenance and operational priorities. Through charitable contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations, CCDF funds the enhancements that transform good public spaces into great ones and innovative pilot programs that address emerging community needs.

While CCD provides essential daily services funded by revenues from property assessments, many projects that make downtown truly special require additional investment. CCDF helps to bridge this gap, enabling ambitious and lasting improvements in Center City that enhance quality of life, strengthen community connections, and showcase Philadelphia as a world-class city.



Center City District Foundation donations fund the planting and ongoing maintenance of hundreds of trees along sidewalks and in CCD-managed parks.



A climbing net, push-button water jets, and a sensory-friendly twig hut, are more recent additions to the Children's Discovery Garden at Sister Cities Park.

Focus Areas

From programming parks with arts and cultural events to supporting homeless outreach teams and public safety initiatives, CCDF ensures that Center City remains a welcoming destination for residents, workers, and visitors from the region and the world.

Homeless Outreach

The foundation funds an innovative partnership to address this complex challenge with compassion. Launched in 2018, the homeless outreach teams are comprised of a CCD outreach specialist, a Project Home outreach worker, and a crisis intervention officer from the Philadelphia Police Service Detail. A community service representative manager with a vehicle is also available for transportation to services.

Public Safety Enhancements

CCDF funds public safety initiatives like CCD's safety patrol teams to enhance security while maintaining the welcoming, open character that makes Center City special. These investments foster a safe environment that is essential to a thriving downtown.

Capital Projects & Innovation

CCDF supports next-generation improvements to Center City's public realm, from lighting of building facades and sidewalks to placemaking initiatives that respond to emerging opportunities and community needs. Funding helps pilot leading-edge approaches that can be scaled and sustained over time.

Greening Center City

The importance of bringing nature into the urban environment cannot be overstated. CCDF investments in expanded tree planting, enhanced landscaping, seasonal horticultural displays, and green infrastructure create the lush, vibrant streetscapes and parks that define Center City's character and make downtown more beautiful, sustainable, and enjoyable.

Parks & Public Space Programming

Center City's parks come to life with arts and cultural programming, family-friendly events, seasonal activations, and community gatherings. From concerts and performances to public art installations and holiday celebrations, these programs transform parks into beloved destinations that draw millions of visitors annually.



Bicycle and foot patrols provide a visible, uniformed presence in high-traffic areas, transit hubs, and parks, enhancing public safety and fostering relationships with businesses.



Arts on Center Stage at Dilworth Park showcases many of the performing arts organizations that call Philadelphia home and brings these cultural events to the public free of charge.



Homeless outreach teams provide compassionate support to connect chronically unhoused people in Center City with shelter, medical care and other services.



Dynamic lighting on historic building facades and public art allows for programmed effects ranging from subdued seasonal palettes to colorful displays celebrating special events.

Impact

CCDF has helped fund millions of dollars in improvements and programs that enhance Center City.

Our support has contributed to:

- The creation of Dilworth Park, Sister Cities Park, John F. Collins Park, Cret Park, and the Rail Park
- Hundreds of arts and cultural events that activate public spaces and celebrate Philadelphia's creative community
- Comprehensive homeless outreach services that connect vulnerable individuals with housing and support
- Enhanced public safety presence through specialized patrol programs
- The addition and upkeep of hundreds of trees, planters, and other streetscape beautification projects.

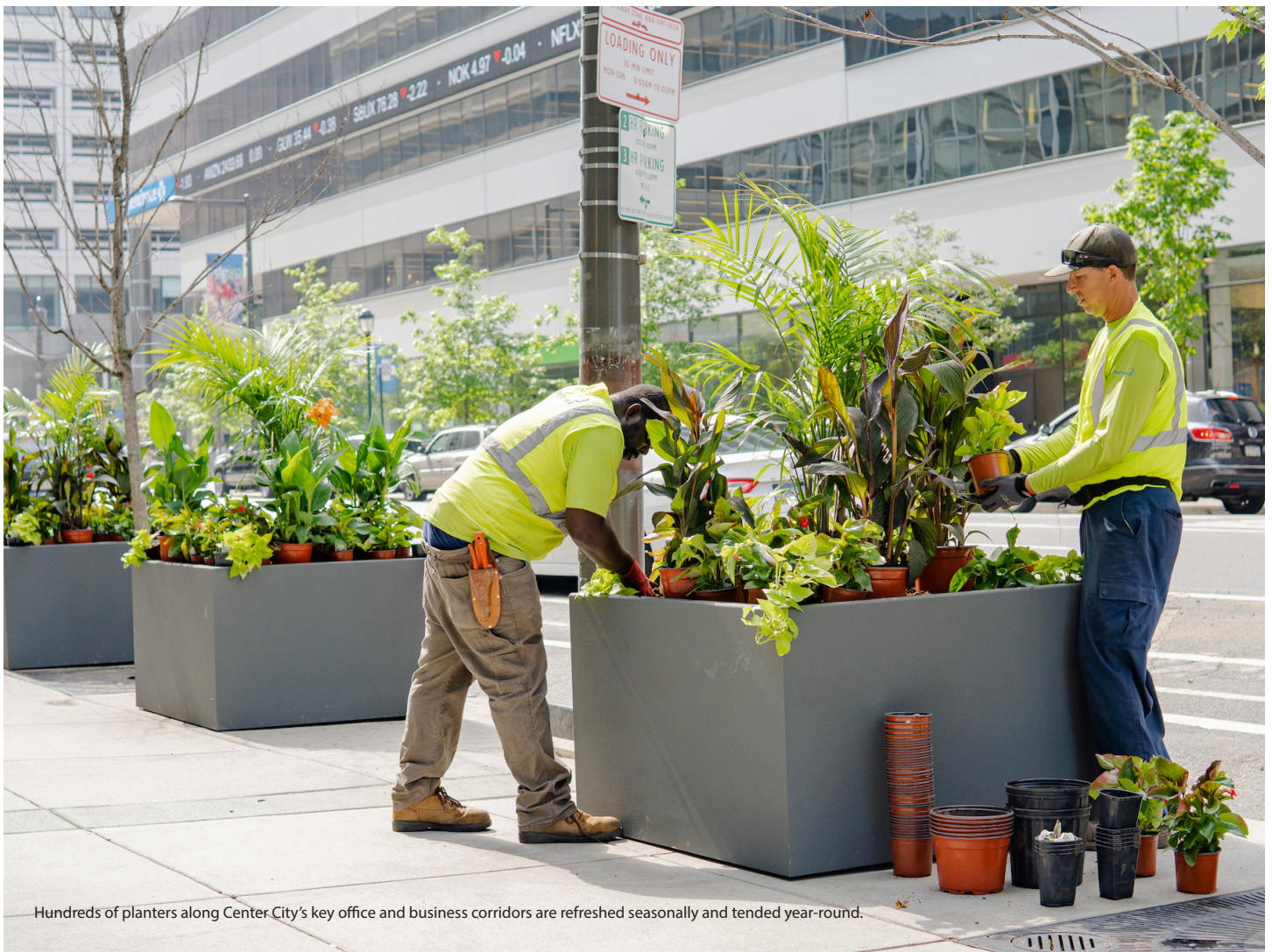


Phase 1 of the Rail Park was made possible by Center City District Foundation supporters, and preliminary planning for the second phase has begun.

Structure

CCDF operates as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, enabling tax-deductible contributions from donors who share our vision for a vibrant downtown. CCDF works to identify high-impact opportunities, manage funded projects effectively, and ensure every donor's intent is honored.

The board of directors includes civic and business leaders who are deeply committed to Center City's future and who provide strategic guidance and stewardship of contributed resources. CCDF maintains the highest standards of financial accountability and transparency, ensuring every donation achieves maximum impact.



Hundreds of planters along Center City's key office and business corridors are refreshed seasonally and tended year-round.

Our Partners

CCDF's work is possible through generous support from:

- **Individual Donors**
Philadelphians who love Center City and want to invest in its continued vitality
- **Corporate Partners**
Businesses that recognize downtown's importance to regional prosperity and their own success
- **Foundations**
Philanthropic organizations committed to urban vitality, public space, and community well-being
- **Property Owners**
Stakeholders who understand that extraordinary public spaces require extraordinary investment



Ownership of John F. Collins Park was transferred to the Center City District Foundation in 2010. Center City District maintains the park in its entirety, including the fountain, plantings and landscaping, infrastructure, and seating.

Looking Ahead

As Center City continues to evolve, the need for philanthropic investment in our public realm has never been greater. Downtown Philadelphia faces opportunities to reimagine streets and spaces, address social challenges with compassion and innovation, and set new standards for urban excellence.

The Center City District Foundation stands ready to support the bold ideas and sustained commitments necessary to ensure Center City remains one of America's most dynamic, inclusive, and beautiful downtown districts and generates pride, opportunity, and prosperity for all Philadelphians.



CCDF is fundraising to support a much-needed update to Center City's 30-year-old directional signage, which predates smartphones and does not meet accessibility standards.