



Drew Whiting

CEO, Erie Downtown Development Corporation

Biography

Drew Whiting is the CEO of the Erie Downtown Development Corporation. A native of the Buffalo suburbs, Drew graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Business and Finance degree, and Loyola University Chicago's School of Law with a JD and Tax Certificate. Early in his legal career, Drew founded a law firm to work with start-up companies, started a venture fund to provide capital to strong founders in need, and engaged in several downtown real estate development projects.

While in Chicago, Drew met and married a girl from Erie and in late 2018, they welcomed their twins, Annie and Auggie. After raising toddlers through a pandemic far from family, Drew and Emily made the decision to move to Erie in late 2021. In late 2022, encouraged by the recent development activity in Erie's downtown and on its Bayfront, in late 2022, Drew and his wife purchased 1000 State, an anchor corner building in Erie's Entertainment District. 1000 State will reopen this month after a year of major renovations to include a Five Iron Golf franchise (the company's first authorized franchise) and an expanded Café 7-10. In July 2023, Drew was named the CEO of the Erie Downtown Development Corporation (EDDC), where he oversees development, management, and activation of ~\$115M in transformative investment in the core of Erie's downtown. Drew brings his enthusiasm for the community, vision for its future, and practical experience to bear as the EDDC enters its next phase.

In addition to roles with the EDDC and Tenth and State, Drew serves as the Chairman of the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership's ICE Angel Fund, sits on the Board of Directors of Erie's Black Wall Street, volunteers as a Big Brother with Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Northwest PA, and is an assistant coach for the Little Penguins. Drew and his wife Emily live in the West Bayfront area and spend their free time with their five-year-old twins, Annie and Auggie.