



Kurt Weigle has been President & CEO of the Downtown Development District (DDD) of New Orleans since 2003. During his tenure, the DDD's focus on quality of life and place-based economic development strategies to retain & attract Industries of the Mind has led to recognition of New Orleans as a creative hub, now home to dozens of digital media and tech firms.

Downtown is the epicenter for New Orleans' tech growth. The DDD was instrumental in securing the state-of-the-art University Medical Center that opened in 2015 and VA Medical Center that opened in 2017. Since 2006, Downtown New Orleans has welcomed over \$7 billion of new real estate investment, its residential population has doubled, and more than fifty new retail establishments have opened downtown, including national brands such as MAC, True Religion, Starbucks, The Art of Shaving, and Fogo de Chao on Canal Street.

The DDD led efforts to create 100 beds of low barrier accommodations for the homeless at the Community Resource and Referral Center and to implement Assistive Outpatient Treatment for the severely mentally ill.