

Maine Redevelopment Announces Leadership Transition as Organization Enters Next Phase of Statewide Work

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Augusta, Maine — Maine Redevelopment today announced that Executive Director Tuck O'Brien will step down later this spring to pursue a new opportunity. Tuck led the organization from its founding in 2024 through its successful launch into full operations over the past year.

Since the organization's inception, Tuck played a central role in building Maine Redevelopment from concept to execution. Under his leadership, the organization established its core operational structure, developed and launched its primary program areas, and began delivering redevelopment solutions to communities across the state.

During his tenure, Maine Redevelopment advanced several key milestones, including the acquisition of its first property, the former Hartland Tannery, a complex, environmentally challenged site that will serve as a flagship redevelopment project demonstrating the organization's ability to unlock large-scale, stuck properties. The organization currently has projects in a dozen communities and a robust pipeline across the state heading into its next phase.

"Tuck's leadership helped move Maine Redevelopment from an idea into a dynamic statewide organization," said John Egan, Board Chair. "He not only built the foundation, but also guided the organization into active project delivery, positioning Maine Redevelopment for long-term impact across Maine."

During this formative period, the team designed and launched a suite of programs focused on municipal technical assistance, brownfields redevelopment, land banking, and strategic redevelopment initiatives. Supported by a clearly defined mission, vision, and strategic plan, the organization operates with a strong framework and clear roadmap guiding redevelopment efforts statewide.

"Maine Redevelopment was created to take on the kinds of properties that are often left behind; complex, challenging sites that demand new approaches and strong partnerships," said O'Brien. "At its core, the mission is to prepare these places for possibility and turn obstacles into opportunity. It has been incredibly rewarding to help build this organization alongside a team so committed to that purpose, and I look forward to its continued impact across Maine."

The Board's hiring committee will initiate a statewide search in the coming week with the goal of onboarding a new Executive Director in 2026. With programs fully launched, partnerships established across the state, and an active pipeline of projects underway, the organization is firmly in its implementation phase and expects to continue to expand its programmatic reach and project pipeline.

Day-to-day operations and program execution will continue under the leadership of Deputy Director, Jennifer Litteral, who will work closely with staff, partners, and the Board to ensure continuity of projects and ongoing support to municipalities during the transition and the search for a new Executive Director.

“We feel incredibly fortunate to have worked alongside Tuck during this formative year,” said Jennifer Litteral, Deputy Director. “Together, we’ve built a strong foundation and begun implementing our programs, tools, and partnerships across Maine. We lean into complexity, vacant mills, closed schools, and challenging sites that communities can’t tackle alone, which is exactly what Maine Redevelopment was designed to do. As a small but determined team, we move with the speed and agility of a startup, guided by a clear public mission and a commitment to deliver real, meaningful results for Maine communities.”

“Maine Redevelopment is now squarely focused on execution,” said Egan. “The groundwork has been laid, and the organization is actively delivering on its mission. This transition does not change our trajectory, it reinforces the strength of the foundation that has been built, supported by a stable funding structure that ensures continuity of operations as we grow.”

The organization will continue advancing its strategic priorities, supporting communities, and moving complex properties toward productive reuse while the Board’s hiring committee conducts its search.

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About Maine Redevelopment

Maine Redevelopment was established by statute by the State of Maine as a quasi-governmental organization to partner with communities in addressing vacant, abandoned, and complex properties that are often beyond local capacity to resolve. Our mission is to partner with communities to revitalize properties and reimagine their potential for Maine’s future. Through its four core program areas, Municipal Technical Assistance, Brownfields Redevelopment, Land Banking, and Special Projects, the organization delivers the tools, partnerships, and expertise needed to move challenging properties toward productive reuse. This work helps strengthen local economies, restore property value, and support more vibrant and resilient communities across Maine.

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