Disclaimer

Much of my material is anecdotal while some of it is actually based on fact. It’s up to you to decide which…
Quick Look

Durango - 18,000
County - 55,000 (50% larger than Rhode Island)
Fort Lewis College - ~ 3,400

Two tribes - Southern Ute Indian Tribe based in Ignacio 20 miles southeast of Durango and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe based 70 miles west of Durango in Towaoc
Select Stats

Durango Median House $ 499,250
La Plata County Median House - $378,000

Unemployment - 2.9%
Median Wage - $44,000 (2018 Census Bureau)

Enplanements - ~ 200,000 projected for 2019
Every day - multiple flights to each of Denver, Dallas and Phoenix
Seasonally 1x/week - Houston, Chicago and LAX
Durango offers a place to put down the phone and enter the 3rd dimension
• Snow sports
• Rafting
• Fishing
• Trail running/hiking mountain biking (Trails 2000)
• Animas River Trail (+9 miles)
• Vibrant Downtown
• Festive
• Uncrowded
The Payroll Department, Inc.

• Founded 26 years ago - 800+ employers - think ADP/Paychex BUT w personal service

• 14 employees - gross about $2.3 million in 2019

• $20 minimum wage w benefits that include 100% health insurance, 6% match 401k , $1800 yearly HSA, 2x week yoga, 3 month 3/4 pay sabbatical after 10 years, - Annual bonus paid out to staff excluding owner of 20% pretax profits

• 2 $12,000 grants to area 501c3s awarded each year for the past four years

• Founding member of Local First
“Durango - Out of the way and glad of it.” Will Rogers
Obstacles

• Housing (affordable / attainable)
• Lack of higher paying jobs
• Higher health care costs
• One of the highest suicide rates in the nation
• Homeless population
Durango is a community - not just a neighborhood

• Cultivate strong and lasting friendships

• ~100 non profits that have employees

• Focus on LOCAL

• You’ll know someone when you head downtown, at the grocery store, on the soccer pitch at the restaurant.
Not afraid to tax ourselves

• Recreation Center
• Schools
• Roads