



A Message from the Director

As 2024 winds down at the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center, I'm taking a moment to stop and reflect on the changes and opportunities that the previous year has held – for the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development Department, for our partners across the Guinn Campus, and for our local community of startups and small businesses.



The most noticeable change is evident on the Business Assistance Center campus, as the majority of the City's Economic Development team moved to the 14th floor of the new Fort Worth City Hall in May – the former site of the Pier 1 headquarters. However, our department still maintains a presence on-site, as Dexter Sykes – our Small Business Specialist – maintains an office at the BAC to help connect and convene our many campus partners. We also recently hired Jazmin Gutierrez to fill a new position as Small Business / Workforce Coordinator, and she has already made a significant impact in that role by helping administer the Sandman Small Business Recovery Grant Program in the spring, and more recently by connecting local businesses with the Fooda program at our new City Hall over the summer.

With these changes come opportunities for growth. Partners across the Guinn Campus continue to host a number of events and activities, both in-person and online, and Fort Worth's community of entrepreneurs is stronger than ever. The Business Assistance Center is likewise positioned to become more ambitious from a programming perspective and to double down on our opportunities to serve our city's small businesses. Additionally, our department has narrowed its strategic focus on how we will be serving the local business community moving forward, and drawing more people and programs to the BAC plays a central role in that plan.

Our team will also be heavily engaged in the significant activity going on across the highway in the Historic Southside, as Royal Capital takes the reins of the Evans & Rosedale project to continue building upon the legacy of James E. Guinn, Dee Jennings, Opal Lee, and the many other individuals throughout the years who saw potential and economic promise in this community.

This year has also been a transitional one for several of our partners across the Guinn Campus. TechFW has brought on Ryan Brown as their new CEO, and longtime executive director Hayden Blackburn has departed the organization to explore a new professional chapter after almost eight years of service. PeopleFund relocated from the campus in May, creating additional office space for new potential tenants.

I want to especially highlight an accomplishment from the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, who were the first recipient of the "Devoyd Jennings Chamber of the Year" award from the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce. This achievement recognized the excellence of the FWMBCC out of 30 other Black Chambers of Commerce across the state, and is very well deserved.

As momentum continues to build in the Historic Southside, our work and that of our partners will ensure that the BAC's presence continues to grow right alongside the community and that the campus remains a pillar of education and support for all businesses across Fort Worth.



Robert Sturns
Director, Economic Development
City of Fort Worth

Vision Statement

To compete successfully on the national and international stage for creative, high-growth businesses and the talented individuals who fuel them.

Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC) Services

- **ACCESS:** Get access to valuable startup and business growth resources at the James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus and the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center.
- **COUNSELING:** Get face time with a wide variety of business development counselors. Dig deep into your business plan and business operations.
- **EDUCATION:** The Guinn Campus is focused on your success. We have informative, topical events that give you what you need to help your business succeed.
- **NETWORKING:** The Guinn Campus attracts passionate, driven entrepreneurs. Create partnerships and relationships that will last a lifetime.
- **WORKSHOPS:** Go from idea, to startup, to success by attending workshops that cover business plans, finance, marketing and more.

James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus Partners

The Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC) is located on the James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus, which is a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs and small business owners. The small business support organizations located within the Guinn Campus include:



Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation

The Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation - formerly, the Business Assistance Center (BAC) Education Foundation - has served hundreds of entrepreneurs in a variety of capacities, providing coaching, mentoring, speaker series, incubator and accelerator curriculum, and advocacy.



Alliance Lending Corporation

A provider of long-term, fixed rate financing for growing businesses. As a non-profit, Certified Development Company (CDC) they are authorized by the U.S. Small Business Administration to partner with private lenders in a co-lending product.



Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce is to promote, assist and enhance economic and business development for its members and to create wealth in the communities it serves.



PeopleFund

PeopleFund creates economic opportunity and financial stability for underserved people by providing access to capital, education and resources to build healthy small businesses.



Regional Hispanic Contractors Association

The Regional Hispanic Contractors Association seeks to promote and support the advancement and economic growth of Hispanic contractors in Texas. They are committed to developing programs and facilitating the resources needed to help Hispanic contractors reach their potential.



SCORE Fort Worth Chapter

Provides free and confidential one-on-one business consulting for interested individuals. They have volunteer counselors with experience and expertise that can help you grow your current business or pursue your dreams of business ownership.



Southeast Fort Worth, Inc.

SEFWI's economic development mission has been refocused by clearly defining their geographic interests and industry targets; influencing outcomes in public policy to keep sound business policies at the forefront; zeroing in on public education reform, which improves workforce; taking up the area's mantle to help resolve regional issues; and moving interaction with their member investors to a higher level.



Tarrant Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

A professional management counseling service funded by Tarrant County College, the State of Texas, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), with a mission to accelerate the North Texas economy by helping entrepreneurs grow sustainable businesses.



TECH Fort Worth

A technology business incubator that encourages the development of the technology business community in Fort Worth by helping entrepreneurs commercialize innovative technologies.



William Mann Jr. Community Development Corporation

William Mann Jr. furthers economic development by promoting and assisting in the growth of small businesses in the DFW Metroplex, providing technical assistance and loans to small businesses that might not otherwise be able to obtain funding from traditional lending institutions.

Performance Measures

The effectiveness of the City of Fort Worth’s Economic Development Department, which oversees the activity of the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center, is measured by the reach of BAC education efforts and the ability of those efforts to help create businesses and jobs within the local economy.

Each organization may serve a slightly different function, so where applicable, this report focuses on the number of jobs created and retained by BAC partners, as well as businesses started with the help of BAC partners, workshops offered by BAC partners, and amount of time spent counseling clients. Lastly, for those organizations at the BAC who assist with small business funding, the total amount of capital infusion they’ve provided to clients during the past fiscal year.

Programs & Workshops

Altogether, there were **271 workshops** offered by organizations at the Devoyd Jennings BAC and the James Guinn Campus last year.

These workshops were a combination of virtual and in-person. Organizations who held workshops on the campus this year include the City of Fort Worth’s Economic Development Department, Accelerate FW, the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, PeopleFund, the Regional Hispanic Contractors Association, SCORE, Southeast Fort Worth, Inc., and Tarrant SBDC.



FORT WORTH BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER ECONOMIC IMPACT: FY 2024

615 JOBS
CREATED

3,703 JOBS
RETAINED

137 BUSINESSES
STARTED

9,674 COUNSELING
HOURS

271 WORKSHOPS
OFFERED

Economic impact is calculated based on an aggregate of BAC partners looking at direct and indirect forms of impact.

This list includes data from:

- Accelerate FW
- Alliance Lending
- City of Fort Worth
- Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce
- PeopleFund
- Regional Hispanic Contractors Association
- SCORE
- Southeast Fort Worth Inc.
- Tarrant SBDC
- TechFW
- William Mann Jr. Community Development

\$23,900,723

CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS

City Spotlight: RIPE Publishing takes top prize in Business Plan Competition Finale

In May, eight businesses gave their final pitch before a panel of judges at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth as part of the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition. Three of those businesses walked away with cash prizes.

The Fort Worth Business Plan Competition is an annual celebration of the city's entrepreneurs and small businesses that contribute so much towards the character and personality of the city. Twenty businesses complete six weeks of business development training and coaching before applying those skills to their own written plans. After the written plans are judged, the Top 8 make their final three-minute pitch to the judges, followed by a two-minute round of Q&A.



This year, the grand prize of \$10,000 in cash was taken home by Megan Jackson and Tneisha Brown of **RIPE Publishing House**, a company focused on serving authors and the community more effectively and equitably – including through impactful youth programming. RIPE Publishing House also won the Perfect Pitch Prize audience popular vote, receiving a \$500 credit for custom merchandise for their business courtesy of sponsor Printed Threads.

Second prize – a check for \$6,000 – went to Shawna Murphy from **StyleSmart VA**. A client of TechFW, StyleSmart VA matches beauty industry professionals with highly trained virtual assistants to provide them with administrative support.

Third prize – and a check for \$4,000 – went to Dee Henry of **Champion Strength & Conditioning**, a boutique personal training studio that offers tailored fitness programs to improve their clients' health, wellness and performance.

This year's Fort Worth Business Plan Competition cohort included businesses from nine of Fort Worth's 10 council districts. Councilmembers Michael Crain, Jeanette Martinez and Chris Nettles attended in support of the presenting businesses, and Finale attendees were greeted with a welcome message from Mayor Mattie Parker.

The emcee for the evening was Lauren Kutschke of Salted Pages, the 2022 grand prize winner of the competition. A special introduction was provided by Shalonda Burnside of Lil Pop Gourmet Popcorn, last year's grand prize winner.

As in previous years, the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition was organized by the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development Department and sponsored by Frost Bank.

A variety of supporting partners also helped provide coaching and mentorship to the participating businesses, including TechFW, HSC Next, SCORE Fort Worth, Tarrant County Small Business Development Center, Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation, and Foundations EDC.

The additional businesses who pitched during the Finale were:

- **Brown Sugar Ice Cream Co.** specializes in organic, lactose-free frozen custard using local ingredients.
- **Ca'Maire LLC** is a local hair salon that offers tailored solutions to all hair textures and types.

- **OnDa Spot Solutions** is a company that provides commercial cleaning and disinfecting services to workplaces across the region.
 - **Shaman Systems LLC (dba Vector Advanced)** is a business that designs and sells electronic components for personal electric vehicles like e-bikes.
 - **Smackin Mac** is a food truck that serves a variety of baked gourmet mac-and-cheese bowls with fresh ingredients.
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City Spotlight: Small businesses in Downtown receive support following hotel explosion

An explosion in the basement of the Sandman Signature Hotel on Jan. 8, 2024, created significant disruption among the surrounding restaurants and businesses in the immediate aftermath of the incident.

However, the repercussions were felt most significantly – and over a longer period – by those small businesses on Eighth Street between Throckmorton and Houston Streets, who were located closest to the blast.



These businesses would spend almost six months struggling through street and sidewalk closures, safety inspections, property damage, and lingering debris, which had a negative impact on foot traffic and hit the business' bottom line hard.

In March 2024, the City of Fort Worth stepped in to assist these small businesses through this unprecedented challenge. After a series of meetings with affected business owners, the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development Department worked with the Fort Worth Local Development Corporation (LDC) to stand up a \$250,000 disaster recovery stimulus program to help supplement revenue loss for these businesses as cleanup efforts continued.

Funds from this program could be used to cover the cost of mortgage or rent, provide employee support, assist with utility costs and additional supplies, or to address other business needs.

By May, \$137,205 in grants were distributed to four small businesses:

- Cowtown Segway Adventures
- La'Creamian
- Barber's Bookstore
- David Dalton Salon

"I cannot tell you enough great things about the City of Fort Worth and how they helped us," said Donnie Vouklizas, owner of Cowtown Segway Adventures. "They got a grant for us, they listened to us weekly, and without all that help, these doors would be closed, I guarantee it."

City Spotlight: Fort Worth named best large city in Texas for starting a business

In June, personal finance company WalletHub named Fort Worth the No. 7 best large city in the U.S. – and the top city in Texas – to start a business.

This ranking was two steps up from Fort Worth’s ranking of No. 9 in 2023.

The ranking comes a year after nonprofit Institute for Justice presented its findings from its partnership with the City of Fort Worth to study barriers to creating a business in the city.

Several key takeaways from the partnership included the creation of a new online business webpage for the city, improving the Institute for Justice’s ranking from 1 out of 5 stars to 4 out of 5 in less than a year. Additionally, the “one-stop shop” for permitting, water bill pay, and other services related to starting a business has recently opened on the fifth floor of the new City Hall building.

“It’s great to see that Fort Worth has improved on its previous WalletHub ranking and remains the best large city in Texas to start a business,” said Robert Sturns, economic development director for Fort Worth.

“The city of Fort Worth has spent the past few years on a concentrated effort to reduce the barriers for starting a new business here, and that work has spanned multiple departments, at all levels and even includes external partners. So, it’s good to see this data suggest that we’re on the right track.”

Other Texas cities who made the list included Austin at No. 8, Arlington at No. 12, and Dallas at No. 14.

City Spotlight: Survey launched to help strengthen local business ecosystem

The City of Fort Worth’s Economic Development Department launched a Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) survey in September 2024 to assess the growing needs of the city’s businesses.

BRE surveys are a way for local governments to engage directly with business leaders to better understand their current and future needs, and try to solve them locally to ensure companies continue to thrive in the area. If the City and its partners can help companies address these potential challenges, it often results in a stronger, more resilient business environment.

The survey also has a strong focus on workforce training and development to ensure that Fort Worth companies can find qualified local candidates with the skillsets necessary to fill key positions.

“Companies’ needs change over time – not only as they grow, but as they navigate evolving situations like fluctuating market conditions or supply chain issues,” said Robert Sturns, the City’s economic development director.

“But if we can work with companies directly to understand the challenges they face and bring potential partners and solutions to the table, that creates a supportive ecosystem that ultimately makes Fort Worth an even better place to work and do business.”



City of Fort Worth – Small Business

Number of counseling hours: 46
Number of workshops offered: 18



Classes, workshops and events held by the City of Fort Worth during the past fiscal year include:

Business Basics at the BAC: Selecting a Business Formation
Crafting a Targeted Business Blueprint (Co-Presenting with SCORE)
Credit Scores and Reports: Personal and Business
CREATE: Community Reinvestment and Trust Enterprise
Community Investment Program – Small Business Success Series (4-part)
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – Introduction (Class #1)
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – Operations and Marketing (Class #2)
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – Market Research (Class #3)
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – What's In The Numbers (Class #4)
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – Pitch Practice Sessions at Ensemble Coworking
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – Pitch Practice Sessions at TechFW
Fort Worth Business Plan Competition – Pitch Night / Finale
Gaining Access to Capital / How to Write a Business Plan
LVT Rise – Lunch & Learn: Financial Empowerment Fair
Mowing Contract Workshop: Let's Mow Landscaping Seminar
New City Hall Food Vendor Workshop with Fooda
Proper Financial Statement and Tax Return Preparation
Why Do Banks Say "No"? Panel and Break-Out Session

Partner Spotlight: Alliance Lending Corp.

- **Number of jobs created:** 128
- **Number of jobs retained:** 8
- **Dollar amount of loans provided:** \$7,680,000



Partner Spotlight: Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation

Number of counseling hours: 53
Number of workshops offered: 12
Total capital infusion to clients: \$32,774
Businesses started: 10



ACCELERATE
— FORT WORTH —
FOUNDATION

The mission of the Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation, Inc. is to connect dedicated entrepreneurs in the Greater Fort Worth region to the resources they need to develop, launch and grow their business.

Accelerate Fort Worth provides an array of wrap-around services to local business owners. In addition to individualized coaching, we offer a series of workshops on varying topics from business plan development, accounting practices and social media strategy. We also offer networking events to help small business owners engage with others within the community.

Our business center offers a convenient place to work and a professional environment to hold meetings that are affordable and well below local market rates. The business center also houses our new podcast studio, Studio 600. Our small business support services are offered at no cost or at minimal cost to the entrepreneur, and our co-working space is available to local entrepreneurs free of charge.

In 2025, we will be expanding our programming to enhance the knowledge and skills of our local entrepreneurship community.

Partner Spotlight: PeopleFund (Moved off-site in 2024)

- **Number of counseling hours:** 1,499
- **Number of workshops offered:** 27 BIPOC Workshops
- **Number of jobs created:** 40
- **Number of jobs retained:** 8
- **Businesses started:** 8
- **Total capital infusion to clients:** \$318,100



Partner Spotlight: Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber

The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC) was formed in 1979 with one goal in mind: “To make Fort Worth a better place to work and raise a family.” Our mission is to promote, assist and enhance economic and business development for our members and to create wealth in the communities we serve.



The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber (FWMBCC) added 126 new members this fiscal year, serving approximately 700 members to-date and approximately **130 counseling hours**. Membership represents various ethnicities throughout the DFW area and consists of individuals, small, medium and large businesses, nonprofit organizations, and numerous corporate partners. Outreach through the Chamber’s newsletter reached about 3,000 recipients per month.

The Chamber’s areas of focus are: Financial Literacy & Access to Capital, Business Development & Expansion, Workforce Development & Sustainability, Intergenerational Connections, and Small Business Advocacy.

Major Accomplishments for the Year

- Became the first recipient of the Devoyd Jennings Chamber of the Year Award, presented during the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce’s 35th annual conference in September 2023.
- Awarded one MBA scholarship with Texas Christian University (TCU) and an additional undergraduate recipient through an endowment with Texas Wesleyan University (TWU).
- Partnered with Prosperity Bank to conduct two Business Masterclass Series – one in the fall of 2023 and one in the spring of 2024. Participants received in-depth business training from subject matter experts for eight training sessions over approximately three months. Each training session was three hours, plus a business pitch competition and awards dinner. Financial prizes were awarded and all participants received free banking benefits, including a \$2,500 business line-of-credit and a dollar-for-dollar savings account match up to \$500. Approximately 20 business owners participated.
- Partnered with the DFW Black Contractors Association and Interfirst Bank to conduct a Construction Opportunity and Access to Capital Forum. Multiple public agencies also participated to present and discuss construction opportunities.

Classes, workshops and events held by the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce included:

Annual Golf Tournament and Networking
Brilliance Ball - RISE Stem Event
Build Fort Worth
Building Pathways Graduation
Business Over Breakfast with Frost Bank session
Campus Coffee-Partners
CFW Bonfire Training
CFW Mayor’s UNCF Luncheon
City of FTW James Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus Meeting
Coffee & Conversation with Transform 1012-Community Project Update
Cole Lab Mix & Mingle/Presentation

K-12 Student Mentoring Session (Chris Ford)
Livestock Luncheon
Meet w/Lift Fund
Meeting with TCC Dean (Richard Chance)
Meeting/Planning with American Natl Bank
Multi-Cultural Heritage Museum Ribbon Cutting
New Member Orientation
One Million Cups-Small Business Pitch
Prosperity Bank Business Masterclass (Fall & Spring)
Prosperity Bank Business Masterclass Graduation (Fall & Spring)

Compatible Delights-CD Vegan Trap Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Doing Business with FWISD
Dr Opal Lee's New Home Celebration
Eastside YMCA Ribbon Cutting
FTW Museum of Science & History-Black Cowboys Reception
FTW Postal Annex Ribbon Cutting
FWMBCC & TCC Dr. Chance-Acquisition & Retention Meeting
FWMBCC 43rd Annual Luncheon & Awards Program
FWMBCC Annual Membership Meeting/State of the Chamber
FWMBCC Gospel Concert
FWMBCC New Member Orientation
FWMBCC Sneaker Ball (& Small Biz Award)
FWMBCC Women's Conference
FWMBCC/Prosperity Bank-Equity & Financial Wealth
Generational Connections
Guaranty Bank Ribbon Cutting
How To Do Business with Trinity Metro
Huston Tillotson Program Initiative Planning
iFlex Stretch Studios Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
James Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus Partner Coffee Session

Prosperity Bank Business Masterclass Pitch Competition (Fall & Spring)
Quarterly Smbiz Service Providers Meeting (w/Kuniko)
RBCA / Interbank / FWMBCC Construction Opportunities and Access to Capital Forum
Re-Entry Program Initiative
Renaissance House Ribbon Cutting
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for On Da Spot Cleaning Solutions
Shadowing/Mentoring TCU Intern
Southeast FTW Inc & D Jennings Business Asst Cntr
Colab Meeting
TAAACC Conference Call- SBA Program
TCU Scholarship Meeting-w/Recipient
Texas A&M Contracting Opportunity
Trinity Metro-Alliance Express Executive Roundtable
Virtual ISD Student Presentation (Chris Ford)

Partner Spotlight: Tarrant SBDC

- **Number of counseling hours:** 2,861
- **Number of workshops offered:** 55
- **Number of jobs created:** 272
- **Number of jobs retained:** 3,317
- **Businesses started:** 88
- **Total capital infusion:** \$9,205,748.47



Partner Spotlight: SCORE Fort Worth

SCORE Fort Worth hosted **109 workshops** during the past fiscal year.



Classes and workshops hosted by SCORE this year are as follows.
(Some may have been offered more than once.)

Access to Capital
Approach Contracts Without Fear
Attracting Your Customers: Making a lasting impression
Being an entrepreneur while working day job
Building Strong Business Credit
Buying and Selling a Business
Considering Starting a Nonprofit?
Crafting a Targeted Business Blueprint. A Step-by-Step guide
Crafting a Targeted Business Plan. A Step-by-Step guide
Credit Score & Reports
Demystifying Taxes: Essential Knowledge Every Entrepreneur Should Possess
Effective Marketing Planning for Start-Ups and Small Businesses
Financial Statement Analysis: A Banker's Perspective
Grant Writing
Health Coverage for Small Businesses
How Businesses Obtain Credit
How Small Businesses Can Succeed In The Import/Export Market
How to be an entrepreneur while working your day job
How to get Funding for your Business
How to Start My Own Small Business
How to start selling in Amazon's store
How to Successfully Navigate Government Contracting
How to WIN Government Contracts
How to Write a Focused Business Plan
How to Write a Focused Business Plan
Intro to the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program
Keeping Your Nonprofit Going: Compliance and the First Two Years
Launching and Scaling Your Trucking Business Successfully IN PERSON
Leadership Communication Essentials: Inspire, Influence, Impact
Leads on Demand: Get More Customers
Making Content That Works – It's All About Distribution and Strategy
Managing Cash Flow for Small Businesses
Marketing Solutions to Unlock the Power of Emotional Connection with Buyers
Patent Savvy: 10 Tough Questions for Business Leaders
Planning for a Healthy Business
Planning for Business Ownership and Minimizing the Risk When Taking the Leap
QuickBooks - Basic Everyday Use
QuickBooks - Setting It Up Properly
QuickBooks for Beginners (online)
QuickBooks for Intermediate/Advanced (Day 2) (online)
Road to Success: Opening Your Own Food Truck Business
SBA 8(a) Certification Program - 4 Parts
SBA Certification Matrix & Selling to the Government (online)
SBA Federal HUBZone Overview: How It Can Impact Your Business (online)
SBA Money Grab - Funding Your Small Business
SBA Small Business Awards Luncheon
SBA Women-Owned Small Business Info Session (WOSB/EDWOSB) (online)
Sharpening Your Social Media Skills
She is the Boss!
Simple Steps to Starting Your Business
Small Business Diverse Certification & more Social Media
Starting a Non Profit
Starting Your Own Business? What you should do before writing your Business Plan
Strength Focused Leadership
Taxes for Small Businesses
The Secrets to Buying a Franchise
The Women's Business Council-Southwest certification
Thinking about buying a franchise
Unlocking Opportunities: A Guide to Exploring Franchise Ownership - Hybrid
What it Means to be a Group Health Plan Fiduciary
What's Your Type: Forming an LLC or Corporation
Women-Owned Small Business Certification Workshop
Women's Business Certification presented by WBC

Partner Spotlight: Southeast Fort Worth, Inc.



Number of counseling hours: 75

Number of workshops offered: 5

Number of jobs created: 175

Number of jobs retained: 275

Businesses started: 13

Southeast Fort Worth, Inc. has a vision of making southeast Fort Worth a great place to live, learn, work, play, invest, do business, and shop.

Major achievements for the past fiscal year include:

- SEFW Inc. received its second installment of \$45,000 for the Main Street America corridor in Polytechnic Heights.
- SEFW Inc. worked with the following financial institutions and current/potential business owners for a total of **75 hours**:
 - Southside Bank, PNC Bank, Cierra Bank, and JPMorgan Chase
- SEFW Inc. worked with the following financial institutions and current/potential homeowners for a total of **225 hours**:
 - Southside Bank, PNC Bank, Cierra Bank, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America
- SEFW Inc. worked with the following organizations for a total of five workshops, totaling 10 hours:
 - SavvyChick Financial Literacy
 - My Brother's Keepers
 - Safe in the Six
 - CoAct
- New project accomplishments this year include:
 - Renaissance Heights campus
 - New senior living housing
 - New car wash
 - Golden Chick
 - Bank of America
 - Housing channel 27 acres – 236 homes, 129 single-family attached townhomes, 89 single-family detached homes, 18 cottages
 - New O'Reilly Auto Parts store at Mitchell Blvd. and Berry St.
 - Convenience storefront with gas station at Campus Dr. and Riverside Dr.

Additionally, SEFW Inc. continued to work with FWISD schools and various companies on the following virtual and in-person events at the Young Men's Leadership Academy, O.D. Wyatt High School, Dunbar High School, Polytechnic High School, Morningside Middle School, and Morningside Elementary School, for a total of **180+ hours**. (Some programs may have been offered more than once.)

- Mentoring Young Men with Boys Program with EJES Inc.
- Design Technology Internships with HDR Architects
- Coffee with the Seniors on the Importance of Revitalization
- Construction 101 Workshop
- Drafting and Design Technology Workshop
- Electrical Technology Basics Workshop

Partner Spotlight: TechFW

Total capital infusion to clients: \$6,524,001



TechFW's mission is to empower entrepreneurs with resources, support and community to transform innovative ideas into scalable businesses, which drives economic prosperity and lasting social change.

Since its founding in 1998, TechFW has been one of the leading startup incubators and accelerators for innovators in North Texas. In 2023, TechFW celebrated its 25th anniversary, having assisted over 200 companies since its inception.

TechFW programs are focused on coaching the inventors and founders of early-stage companies. This year's programs for entrepreneurs include:

- **ThinkLab:** 12-week accelerator that helps founders validate their ideas, develop market strategies, and build entrepreneurial skills.
- **SmartStart:** an incubator program that assist founders in launching their startups by formalizing their business framework and helping them develop an executable path-to-market strategy.
- **FastForward:** program the helps high-growth companies scale-up.

Major events for this year are included below. (Some may have been offered more than once.)

- The Tech FW Impact Showcase and Awards Ceremony
- Tech Together Holiday Party and 25th Anniversary Celebration
- Cowtown Angels SmartVest Events
- Spring EpicMavs Entrepreneurial Series by TechFW at UTA
- Tech TogetHER Networking Event
- Monthly Founders Lunch Events
- TechFW Roundtable: How to Raise Capital
- TechFW Pitch Camp

Partner Spotlight: William Mann Jr. Community Development

- **Number of businesses started:** 18
- **Number of jobs retained:** 93
- **Capital infusion to clients (loans):** \$140,100



Partner Spotlight: Regional Hispanic Contractors Association

- **Number of counseling hours: 10**
- **Number of workshops offered: 15**
- **Number of jobs retained: 2**

The goal of the Regional Hispanic Contractors Association (RHCA) is to advance members' and clients' business potential and capacity in the Texas construction industry through advocacy, resources, and training programs – ultimately fostering economic growth.



The RHCA strives to be a trusted advocate for small business owners, promoting their value and multi-generational impact. The organization now has offices in Fort Worth, Dallas, and their newest location is in Houston.

The RHCA recently wrapped up its annual Build FW Construction Expo 2024 at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. The event was a significant success, attracting close to 1,000 attendees. Several workshops were presented throughout the day, offering crucial information for businesses owners to capitalize on.

Looking ahead, the RHCA anticipates offering more services as it finalizes the completion of its headquarters remodel project in Dallas. This new home base will lay the foundation for a wider variety of services and resources for the DFW area.

Classes and workshops offered by the RHCA this year included:

- **Build FW 2024 Expo – 7 break-out sessions offered, 996 total attendees**
 - Safe + Sound Elements of an Effective Safety Program – 17 attendees
 - How AI is Transforming Construction Cost Estimating – 55 attendees
 - Dallas ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Mansfield ISD – 50 attendees
 - Panther Island and Flood Control – 43 attendees
 - DFW International Airport – 38 attendees
 - Construction Employee Visas and Work Permits – 36 attendees
 - Unlock Billions Session – 112 attendees
 - TxDOT Dallas District
 - TxDOT Fort Worth District
 - Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center
 - Texas A&M System
- **8 bilingual Fall Protection Training Classes were offered between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024, with a total of 117 participants.**
 - English participants – 75
 - Spanish participants – 42

