

Innovation

Section

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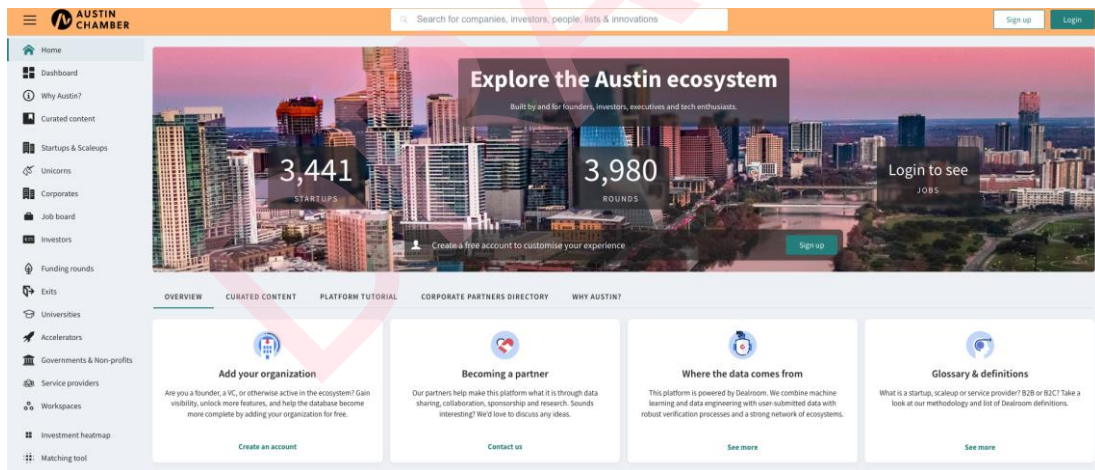
Innovation

Austin, Texas

AUSTIN STARTUP & SCALEUP ECOSYSTEM

2022

In partnership with database provider Dealroom.co, the Austin Chamber created an online platform to track the growth of the region's tech industry, match investors with opportunities, and highlight successful companies in the area. The database provides data on startups, scaleups, and the Central Texas tech ecosystem to bring data & up-to-date information on venture capital activities as well as resources for startups. The open-access platform allows entrepreneurs to profile their company to interested stakeholders by adding or claiming their business within the ecosystem. Investors and venture capital firms can discover promising startups and scale-ups, track founders, and perform market research and analysis across industries and locations.



[Explore the Ecosystem here.](#)

Austin, Texas

OPPORTUNITY AUSTIN INNOVATION ZONES

2018

[Opportunity Austin](#) is the economic development initiative aimed at fostering job-creating investment in the five-county Central Texas region. Begun in 2018, Opportunity Austin 4.0 was the most recent five-year stage of the ongoing effort to diversify the economy and deepen the regional talent pool; the plan introduced both an Innovation Agenda and the further development of the Austin Innovation Zone.

Innovation Agenda

The Opportunity Austin initiative provided the region a cohesive platform to develop innovation-driven economic development practices. The Innovation Agenda prioritizes “homegrown” operations and headquarters in innovative spaces through a suite of activities, shown below. The goal of the platform is to increase the number of companies with \$500 million and \$1 billion valuations (unicorns).

- Engagement plan for Austin’s “A-list” companies who have been prescreened for growth potential.
- Intentional outreach plan for existing firms in target sectors, including staffing resources for sector-specific issues.
- Promotion of the Opportunity Studio to influence engagement and influence for startups
- Generate leads and engage in corporate recruitment efforts for companies that have the potential to expand or relocate from their startup location.
- Development of an “Austin Buys” program.

Innovation Zones

Opportunity Austin has also brought additional resources to bear in the Austin Innovation Zone, which extends from the local Dell Medical School and Dell-Seton Medical Center. The innovation Zone has catalyzed innovation in life sciences and translational medicine within the downtown corridor, and additional planning is being done to consider the impact of additional anchor institutions and redevelopment tools to further grow the district. In addition to the downtown Innovation Zone, the Opportunity Austin 4.0 plan sets the framework to conduct discovery research on the development of Regional Innovation Districts to support additional clusters in communities within the broader metropolitan area. In addition to broadening the scope of innovative economic-development successes, the regional Innovation Districts could help lessen congestion in the robust downtown area.

Innovation

Portland, Oregon

PORTLAND REGIONAL INNOVATION HUB

2022

Business Oregon [has awarded Portland State University and metro region partners one of 11 \\$140,000 planning grants.](#) The funding supports the development of regional innovation hubs, the purpose of which is to enable the coordination of resources to maximize support for innovation-based entrepreneurs. The development began in September of 2022 and will continue through June 30, 2023. During that time period, partnering organizations (including Portland State University, Greater Portland Inc., and Oregon Bio among others) will create an inventory of existing regional entrepreneurial resources and programming and contribute to an assessment of engagement among ecosystem participants including a survey of regional entrepreneurs. The inventory, resources, and programming will be conducted in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.



Innovation

Ann Arbor, Michigan

REIMAGINE WASHTENAW

2010

The [ReImagine Washtenaw initiative](#) was put together by the four communities along the Washtenaw Avenue Corridor: Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Charter Township, and Ypsilanti Charter Township as well as the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Washtenaw Area Transportation Systems.

With a strategy formed in 2010, this initiative aims at revitalizing an area that was long-forgotten by these communities. Determined as a primary transportation corridor between the region's jobs and education centers, this area is now being developed into a mixed-use transit corridor. In October of 2022, the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study kicked off, expected to take approximately 12 months. Once the study is complete, plan implementation and construction should begin.



Innovation

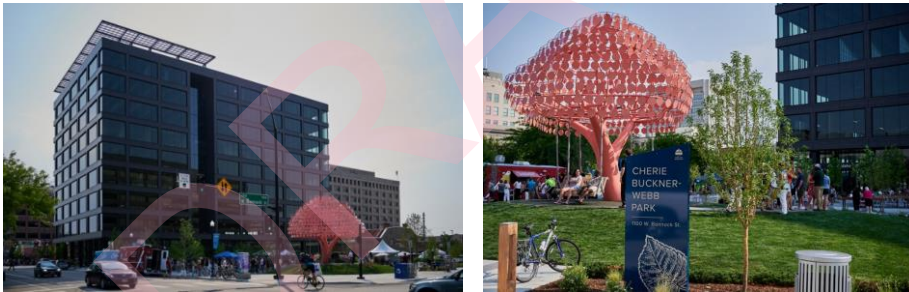
Boise, Idaho

CCDC URBAN RENEWAL DISTRICTS

2019

Cherie Buckner-Webb Park

This park in downtown Boise replaces a half-block, private surface parking lot and was created via a public-private partnership in 2019 between Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC), the City of Boise, and Eleven Eleven West Jefferson, LLC. This redevelopment has led to the revitalization of the entire city block – catalyzing and influencing a resurgence of activity in an area where it was desperately needed. In 2019 when the park designs first began, there were 77 apartments along the 8 city blocks of the 11th street corridor. To date, there are 800 new apartments under entitlement, as well as 500 new hotel rooms in 5 different hotels.



Urban Renewal Districts

In addition to Cherie Buckner-Webb Park, the CCDC has established 6 Urban Renewal Districts in Boise. The city created a Participation Program for each of the Districts, outlining plans and goals for each area based on determined needs. The Participation Program is CCDC's development assistance program and is designed to advance the aims of urban renewal and economic development in Boise, as well as goals identified for the various neighborhoods in and around the districts as identified in Blueprint Boise. The program has specific goals and scorecards unique to the six districts, and is crafted to be transparent, understandable and responsive in order to encourage private investment.

Read more [here](#).

Innovation

Salt Lake City, Utah

THE POINT

2021

Located on the outskirts of SLC in Draper, Utah, the former site of the Utah State Prison is under development as [the Point](#). The prison was demolished in November of 2022 to make room for the revitalization of the area – much needed in an area that has grown exponentially in the last few years, facing a potential housing shortage.

The Point's core district will be a 78-acre mixed-use area of opens spaces, trails, housing, office buildings, retail, and more – with hopes that this development will spur growth on the surrounding 20,000+ acres deemed “The Hub”.

The goal of the area is to utilize public transit and become an area for individuals of all income levels. The Framework Plan was developed for The Point in 2021, with implementation beginning in late 2022.



Talent & Workforce

Section

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Salt Lake City, Utah

HEALTHCARE INNOVATION BLUEPRINT

2022

[Healthcare Innovation Hub: Tech Lake City and the Health Care Innovation Blueprint](#)

The healthcare innovation sector has been deemed an economic strength for the Salt Lake City region and, therefore, the community chose to focus economic development efforts towards its expansion, citing a more “people-focused” approach to economic development.

Within the Blueprint, published by the Mayor’s office in 2022, the city created four pillars of recommendations to create the foundation of this program. Those pillars are:

1. **Brand, Promote, & Grow:** to grow and maintain SLC’s reputation as a leader in healthcare innovation all while building a global brand and highlighting successes
2. **Emphasize Pathways & Partnerships:** in order to supply a workforce, it is imperative for the program to promote all education and training opportunities within the community
3. **Increase Investment:** maximize industry partnerships, capitalize on private capital, and target social impact investments
4. **Strengthen Foundation & Remove Barriers:** create a baseline, reduce barriers, inventory R&D opportunities, ensure lab and office space is available as needed



Ann Arbor, Michigan

ANN ARBOR SPARK

2021

The Spark is a community resource that helps drive economic growth in Ann Arbor, Michigan, offering:

- **Startup Services:** Entrepreneur Boot Camp, workshops, training events, networking, and business acceleration grants as well as mentorships and access to their Incubator Program with two innovation centers in the region.
- **Business Expansion Services:** Site Selection Consulting, state and local incentive navigation, talent acquisition and workforce resources, demographic data, and municipality support.
- **Access to Funding:** early-stage startup funding resources such as angel investors, grant programs, and grant programs.

A new program within SPARK, launched in March 2021, is [stemForward](#). This program matches students attending Michigan colleges and universities, as well as Michigan residents attending out-of-state institutions, with internship opportunities at the state's leading innovative companies. SPARK makes these initial connections, but also aids with onboarding paperwork and pays 50% of an intern's wages. In the first 18 months of the program, SPARK placed more than 500 students in STEM internships.

Michigan STEM Forward | Paid Internships with Innovative Companies
(annarborusa.org)

Talent & Workforce

Boise, Idaho

ICONIC WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM

2022

For several years, Idaho has been one of the fastest-growing states in the country. With increased infrastructure improvement and construction needs, there was a large gap in qualified laborers – specifically heavy equipment operators, carpenters, truck drivers, and concrete/cement masons.

The Idaho Transportation Department’s Office of Civil Rights, in partnership with their Workforce Development Council and several other groups, [implemented the start of the ICONIC program in 2022.](#)

The program offers hands-on as well as classroom training in multiple trades, with students receiving certifications such as OSHA-10, forklift, Hazardous Waste Operations Emergency Response, flagging, and more as well as required soft skills for employment success.

In addition to the hands-on training and certifications, the program also offers a Contractor Day, where students get to network with employers and demonstrate skills in hopes of finding employment. There were 15 graduates in 2022, and 11 of the 15 graduates were employed in the highway construction industry within 30 days of graduation.



Austin, Texas

AUSTIN STRATEGIC HOUSING BLUEPRINT

2017

The City's [Strategic Housing Blueprint](#), adopted by Council in 2017, is a 10-year plan to help align resources and facilitate community partnerships around a single, strategic vision to a) create 60,000 affordable housing units for those making less than 80% of the median family income, b) create an additional 75,000 units for households earning greater than the median family income, and c) ensure that there is affordable housing throughout the city.

The process is guided by five community values:

1. Prevent households from being priced out of Austin.
2. Foster equitable, integrated, and diverse communities.
3. Invest in housing for those most in need.
4. Create new and affordable housing choices for all Austinites in all parts of Austin.
5. Help Austinites reduce their household costs.

HousingWorks Austin publishes an annual Scorecard detailing the progress made towards the Blueprint's goals. The publication makes use of data provided by the City's Affordable Housing Inventory and Housing Repair Program, CoStar, and geospatial data among others to index the units built since the program's inception. The 2021 Scorecard showed that progress on the affordable housing goals is lower than projected, though some Districts are outperforming on an annual basis. The production of Moderate- and High-Income Goals is currently on track.

Austin, Texas

COLONY PARK

2022

A community-led project, [Colony Park](#) is the largest redevelopment of City-owned land since the award-winning redevelopment of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport. The development of the site is projected to deliver approximately 1,072 single-family homes, 831 multi-family apartments, 230,000 square feet of mixed-use office/institutional space, 130,000 square feet of mixed-use retail space, 53 acres of parks, trails, and open space.



The city is partnering with the same developer used in the Mueller project to execute the plan. The land was purchased by the city in the early 2000s, and the majority of the project's funding will derive from the sale of the city's land. \$10 million has also been allotted from a public improvement district. The project is a culmination of years of community engagement, development of a master plan, and the downselection of the development partner.

Portland, Oregon

METRO HOUSING BOND

2018

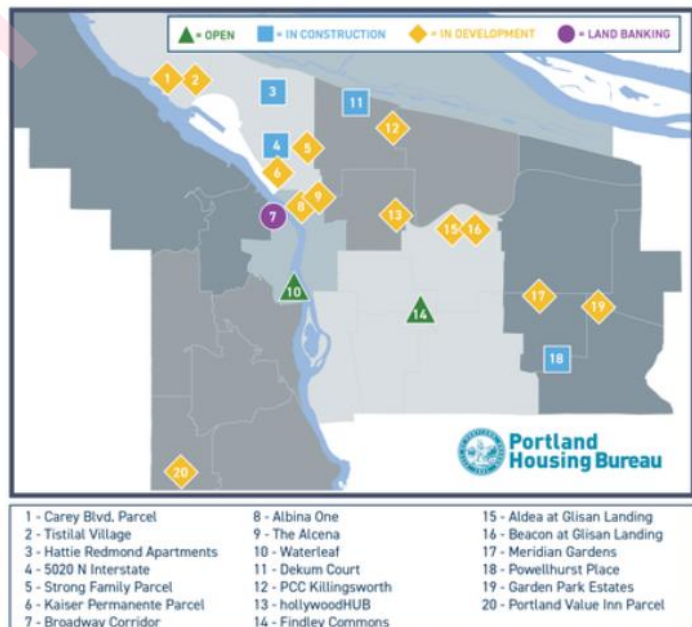
Voted into law in 2018, the Metro Housing Bond allocates \$652.8 million to create permanently affordable homes across Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties. Metro is working with local partners and communities to bring affordable homes to 12,000 people with a focus on seniors, families and veterans through at least 3,900 new affordable homes. . So far, 3,200 individuals in the region have been housed through the bonds and 1,320 units are open or currently in development.

The Metro Housing Bond follows four principles:

1. Lead with racial equity.
2. Create opportunity for those in need.
3. Create opportunity throughout the region.
4. Ensure long-term benefits and good use of public dollars.



- \$211 MILLION ALLOCATED TO PORTLAND
- 1,475 UNIT GOAL
- 1,587+ UNITS OPEN OR IN DEVELOPMENT
- 4,000+ PORTLANDERS HOUSED
- 211 UNITS OPENED '21/'22
- 194 UNITS OPENING '23
- 832 UNITS EXPECTED IN '24/'25
- 742+ FAMILY-SIZED UNITS
- 308+ PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS
- 575+ DEEPLY AFFORDABLE UNITS
- \$48M EARMARKED OR RESERVED



Updated 1/18/23

Portland, Oregon

COMMUNITY LIVABILITY GRANT

2006

The [Community Livability Grant Program](#) gives funding priority to projects that improve access to jobs and workforce development services; support wealth creation opportunities for small business owners; honor and enhance the neighborhood's cultural diversity and history; deliver a community asset tailored to the community's expressed priorities and opportunities; and advance goals of area-specific action plans. Since 2006, Prosper Portland has awarded more than \$13 million to more than 230 community livability projects across multiple neighborhoods and TIF districts.

In fiscal year 2022-23, 32 projects in five tax increment districts were awarded a total of \$1,805,738 in Community Livability Grant. The projects included:

- Expansion of classroom space for Childsworld Learning Center;
- The construction of an ornamental roof parapet for the Oregon Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Associations;
- Tenant improvements for the Kickstand Comedy club;
- A gallery expansion of the Oregon Jewish Museum;
- and many more.

Portland, Oregon

INSPIRE DIVERSITY GRANT

2019

Prosper Portland's [Inspiring Diversity Grant](#) is intended to encourage private employers to incorporate creative, equity-related best practices around workforce, marketing and communications. The grants are up to \$10,000 and support companies that provide high-paying and middle-wage jobs and opportunities for Portlanders, representing technology, manufacturing, architecture and engineering and consumer products.

In 2022, more than 60 applications were received for the Inspire Diversity Grant. Prioritization was given to companies that sell goods and services outside of the Portland region. Award amounts for the fiscal year were between \$2,500 and \$10,000 with an average grant size of \$8,400. The selection process considers matching grants in the evaluation of the awards, with matches totaling \$251,000 in cash and in-kind staff time.

Awarded projects included:

- DEI training program for Good Rain Farm, a woman- and Indigenous-owned organization;
- Craft Ice Cream Apprenticeship program for currently incarcerated women;
- BIPOC On-the-Job Apprenticeship program for Willamette Technical Fabricators, a fabricated structural metal manufacturing company;
- and more.

Talent & Workforce

Salt Lake City, Utah

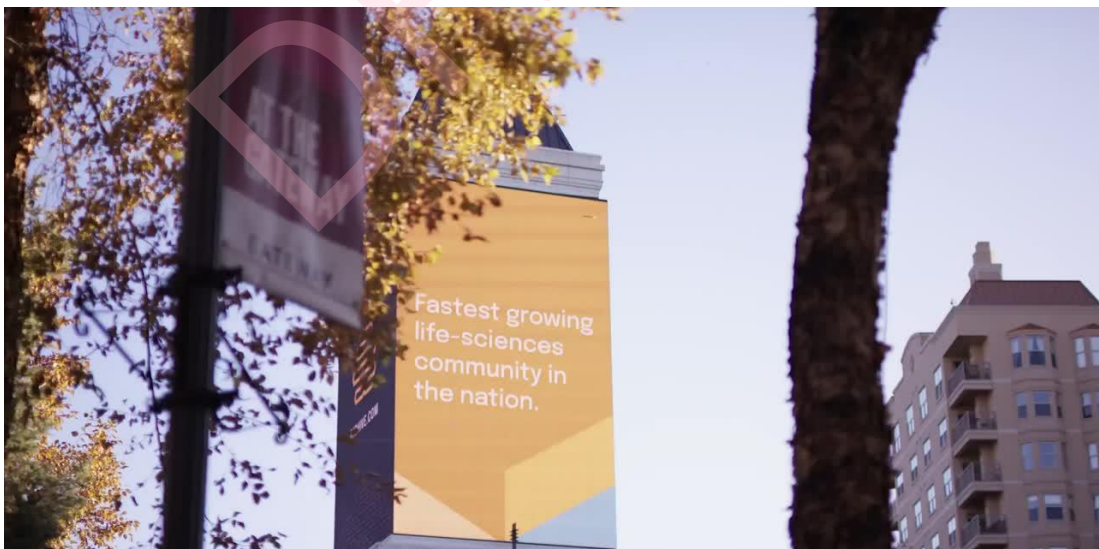
BIOHIVE

2020

Created by Utah's life science and healthcare innovation collective in November of 2020, [BioHive serves](#) as the brand representing this sector in the community with the purpose of telling the story of this “hub” and spurring continued growth. Company leaders, industry researchers, as well as local governmental and economic development officials join this group of more than 1,300 Utah companies within these sectors.

A need for this collective became apparent, as Utah has been recognized as the nation's fastest-growing life science community – employing 43,000 people directly and 88,000 indirectly.

Future goals of BioHive include recruiting talent, raising capital funds, and any other resources needed for successful economic development in this field.



Small Business

Section

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Small Business

Austin, Texas

CREATIVE SPACE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2020

The [Creative Space Assistance Program](#) offers grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to creative organizations and independent artists facing displacement or new commercial leases at higher and unaffordable rates. Grant funds may be used for revenue-generating space improvements, lease payments, and gap financing for creative space purchases.

The 2023 round of funding will provide a total of \$1.5 million in support of eligible applicants (located within the Austin city limits or a surrounding Extraterritorial Jurisdiction). The fiscal year brought improvements in the disbursement of the award, with awards now paid up front and on a scheduled basis. Award amounts are determined according to a scoring matrix, with new recipients weighted heavier in the calculation. The city also conducts a webinar to discuss how to access the grant program. The program is open for applications from January 24 to February 28.

SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH ACTIVATOR

2020

[The Small Business Growth Activator](#) is an economic development program through Washtenaw County that uses grant funds to assist small businesses in starting and/or growing their business. This program was created during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, with specific parameters to help those that may have not qualified for PPP funding through the SBA. There are 5 different programs business owners can choose from during the application process:

1. Food Businesses and the Collaborative Kitchen when Growing Hope: participants will learn alternative strategies for growing their food-based business in shared spaces.
2. The Digital Pivot Program: this is an 8-week cohort designed to support entrepreneurs who are scaling their business through e-commerce.
3. Ready to Uplift: through the Uplift Michigan program from the Michigan SBDC, business coaching, mentorship, and peer-to-peer support is offered to diverse businesses in the county.
4. Mind Your Business: individuals work with a coach within a community of peers in a weekly online mastermind course.
5. Advance Your Business: individuals are paired with a business consultant to address challenges or current projects (ex. Strategic planning, marketing sales, etc.).

All programs also offer up to a \$5,000 grant to each business owner selected to go towards business expenses.