



Photo: One-Year Anniversary of 1 Million Cups Fort Worth en Español

A Message from the Director

As FY26 winds down at the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center, I'm taking a moment to reflect on the changes and opportunities from the previous year – for the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development department, for our partners at the Guinn Campus, and for our local community of startups and small businesses.



In addition to educational workshops at the BAC, the Small Business team has spent much of the year focused on helping local contractors and small businesses learn how they can do business with the City. This included standing up programs centered around government procurement, helping small businesses learn how they can obtain their Small Business Enterprise (SBE) certification and become prequalified to work on major City infrastructure projects, and set themselves up for success when bidding on government contracts.

The many other organizations on the Guinn Campus also met some major milestones this year. In particular, Accelerate Fort Worth celebrated the one-year anniversary of 1 Million Cups *en Español*, a weekly program for local Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs that provides a space to connect, work on business challenges, and explore new opportunities. 1 Million Cups *en Español* was the first IMC chapter of its kind and has since become a model for several similar chapters across the U.S.

The memberships and programming of both the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce and TechFW are also growing. The FWMBCC partnered with Prosperity Bank on the Business Masterclass Series and with JPMorgan Chase to pilot a six-week small business development cohort, The Power to Compete. TechFW launched a notable new manufacturing partnership with the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) called the Manufacturing Accelerator & Development Engine (MADE), while also expanding its successful ThinkLab program into a flexible, on-demand format.

Additionally, our campus partners at Alliance Lending, Tarrant SBDC, and William Mann Jr., drove almost \$25 million in capital to their clients. And finally, while SCORE Fort Worth departed the Guinn Campus in FY26, we are looking forward to welcoming the Better Business Bureau – Heart of Texas chapter as our newest campus partner in FY27.

The momentum is building here in Fort Worth, and we're glad to have you along for the ride!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Rogers'.

Jessica Rogers
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.

Services available:

- **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

Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation

The Accelerate Fort Worth 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 nonprofit, Certified Development Company (CDC) they are authorized by the U.S. Small Business Administration to partner with private lenders in a co-lending product.



Better Business Bureau – Heart of Texas Chapter

Coming soon to the BAC in October 2026!



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.



Regional Hispanic Construction Association

The Regional Hispanic Construction Association is one of the largest Hispanic construction associations in Texas, connecting contractors, architecture and engineering firms, project owners, public agencies, suppliers and industry professionals.



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.



TechFW

TechFW is a nonprofit startup incubator and accelerator based in Fort Worth, Texas, helping entrepreneurs turn innovation into reality since 1998. We support founders at every stage through expert-led programs, strategic mentorship, and access to a powerful community. We work with scalable startups in biotech, hardware, AI, clean energy, software, and emerging technologies without taking equity.



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 in part 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 their amount of time spent counseling clients. Lastly, for those organizations at the BAC who assist with small business funding, this report notes the total amount of capital infusion they've provided to clients during the past fiscal year.

Programs & Workshops

Altogether, there were 330 workshops offered by organizations at the Devoyd Jennings BAC and the James Guinn Campus last year.

Organizations who held workshops on the campus this year include the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development Department, Accelerate Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Hispanic Construction Association, Tarrant SBDC, and TechFW.

DEVOYD JENNINGS BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER ECONOMIC IMPACT: FY26

522

**JOBS
CREATED**

648

**JOBS
RETAINED**

88

**BUSINESSES
STARTED**

3,914

**COUNSELING
HOURS**

330

**WORKSHOPS
& EVENTS**

Economic impact is calculated based on an aggregate of BAC partners including both direct and indirect impact.

This list includes data from:

- Accelerate Fort Worth
- Alliance Lending
- City of Fort Worth Economic Development
- Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Hispanic Construction Association
- Tarrant SBDC
- TechFW
- William Mann Jr. Community Development

\$24,941,075

CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS*

* FY26 capital infusion numbers for TechFW were unavailable at reporting time.

City of Fort Worth Economic Development

The City of Fort Worth Economic Development Department maintains a presence at the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC) to support small business owners and other campus partners, as well as facilitate the annual Fort Worth Business Plan Competition (FWBPC).



Economic
Development

Several spotlights from this year include:

- The popular “Breakfast at the BAC” series continued this year, with the two most recent events featuring Sharon Douglas, CEO of Potere Construction, and Dylan Jones, Founder and Chief Dog-Lover of LYX Hydration.
- The first Mission-Ready: Small Business Contracting Summit was held at City Hall in partnership with Shoppa’s and the Lone Star Chapter of the National Defense Association. The event helped small and veteran-owned businesses learn how to access and secure government contracting opportunities at city, state and federal levels.

The following classes, workshops and events were held by the City of Fort Worth during the past fiscal year, some of which may have had more than one session:

- AI for Small Business: Tips, Tricks and Hacks Workshop
- Breakfast at the BAC with Sharon Douglas
- Breakfast at the BAC with Dylan Jones
- Fort Worth Business Plan Competition Pitch Practice (3 sessions)
- Fort Worth Chamber SizeUp Small Business Insights Training
- Fort Worth Zero Interest Loan Program with Liftfund
- FWMBCC - TXDOT Round table
- FWMBCC/Austin-Commercial-JPS Community Kickoff Information Session
- Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Fall Cohort Program Session (6 sessions)
- Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Spring Cohort Program (6 sessions)
- Impact Ventures First Friday: Coffee, Capital + Community
- Liftfund Fort Worth Zero Interest Loan Info Session
- National Juneteenth Museum Partner Meeting
- RHCA Economic & Business Development Committee Mtg:
- RHCA Workshop: OSHA Fall Protection Training Class
- RHCA: Project Opportunities with Texas A&M University System
- SCORE Executive Meeting
- SCORE Workshop Q&A with Erika Hersh of Liftfund
- SCORE Workshop: Crafting a Targeted Business Blueprint
- SCORE Workshop: How to Get Funding for Your Business
- SCORE Workshop: Starting an LLC
- Stop the Leaky Bucket: Fixing Client Communication That's Costing You \$\$\$
- TechFW: Biz Brainstorm Workshop
- Why Customers Choose You (Or Don't)

In addition, members of the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development team help coordinate the following recurring events on the BAC campus:

- A weekly 1 Million Cups program where entrepreneurs present their startups and receive feedback from the community
- A weekly meeting of the Cowtown Leads Exchange, a Fort Worth Chamber professional development and leads referral group
- A monthly James Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus partners meeting

The following activities are coordinated by the City's Economic Development team in alignment with the City's broader Small Business Development Program (SBDP):

- Beck School of Construction (Nine-part series)
- Small Business and VetHub Partners Meeting (2 events)
- Small Business Enterprise Certification Workshops with the FWMBCC and NCTRCA
 - Four quarterly workshops in English
 - Four quarterly workshops in Spanish
- Contractor Prequalification Workshop
 - Kickoff event in September, will be held quarterly going into FY27

Lastly, the City of Fort Worth Economic Development team collaborated with Frost and other BAC campus partners on the annual Fort Worth Business Plan Competition, the finale of which was held at the Modern Art Museum on Oct. 14, 2025. The grand prize of \$10,000 was awarded to Wai-Yan Htun of XO Halal; the second prize winner of \$6,000 and recipient of the Perfect Pitch Prize audience vote was Ricquel Archer of Create + Collaborate, and the third prize winner of \$4,000 was Nicholas Ditto of the Fort Worth STEAM Academy. Businesses from nine of Fort Worth's ten council districts participated in the competition cohort.

Number of Workshops and Events Offered:

57



Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation

Accelerate Fort Worth is one of Fort Worth's most established entrepreneur service providers with a 25+ year track record on the James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus.



ACCELERATE
— FORT WORTH —
FOUNDATION

Accelerate is filling a gap in the Fort Worth entrepreneurial ecosystem by offering programming focused on idea- to early-launch stage businesses, which are typically operating within their first five years with annual revenues under \$200,000.

Accelerate's programs provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills they need to develop and launch scalable businesses. Through expert instruction, practical tools, accountability, and individualized support, participants validate their ideas, strengthen business models, and prepare for sustainable growth. Accelerate Fort Worth is well positioned to deliver this solution through accessible, industry-agnostic programming and strong connections to professional resources.

Accelerate continues to offer educational workshops, coaching, networking, mentoring, business assessments and low-cost office space to local entrepreneurs. Additionally, Accelerate partners with small business resources located within the campus, as well as community-based partners and like-minded organizations throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. These strong relationships will assure that established and aspiring entrepreneurs have access to meaningful and impactful resources to help them succeed.

**Number of
Counseling Hours:**

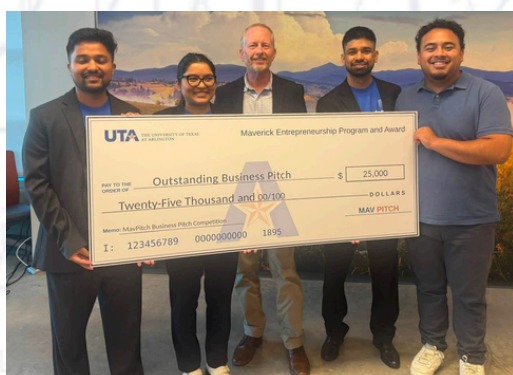
26

**Number of Workshops
and Events Offered:**

58



96



Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce

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 empower members with resources, connections, and advocacy that fuel economic growth.



Our vision is to be the destination where business meets opportunity and community. To achieve our mission, the FWMBCC operates within five main core values: Education, Connection, Engagement, Advocacy, and Innovation.

The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber (FWMBCC) added more than 75 new members this fiscal year and engaged in approximately 200 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 over 3,400 recipients per month.

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

Major Accomplishments for the Year

- Awarded an Executive MBA scholarship with University of Texas Arlington Fort Worth. Awarded one MBA scholarship with Texas Christian University (TCU) and an additional undergraduate recipient through an endowment with Texas Wesleyan University (TWU).
- FWMBCC was awarded a two-year grant to continue providing scholarships for the PATHS Forward Leadership Program.
- Celebrated 10 years of PATHS Forward Leadership Program.
- Partnered with Prosperity Bank to conduct the Business Masterclass Series cohort. 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 City of Fort Worth Economic Development and other campus partners to reinstitute the Breakfast at the BAC speaker series.

- Continued Small Business Program with the City of Fort Worth and other local Chambers of Commerce to serve the Fort Worth small business community in the areas of Access to Capital, Workforce Development, Bonding and Insurance, and Small Business Certifications.
- Partnered with JPMorgan Chase to pilot a six-week small business development cohort, The Power to Compete, providing business training and development through six (6) two-hour sessions. The program culminated in a matchmaking pitch competition, where participants presented their businesses to local corporations, received direct feedback, and gained exposure to potential clients.
- Partnered with Women's Business Council Southwest to host the Routes to Revenue Event that focused on providing women-owned businesses with information on Access to Capital.

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

- FWMBCC Member Orientations (Six sessions)
- James Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus Partner Collaboration Meetings (12)
- Frost Bank Small Business Summit
- FWMBCC Lunch & Learn Series (four sessions)
- Black Chamber Day at FW Cowboys of Color Rodeo
- NTACHC Committee and Board Meetings (12)
- The Power to Compete with JP Morgan Chase (Six-week cohort)
- PATHS Forward Leadership Program (2026)
- FWMBCC Member Appreciation Holiday Celebration
- The Morning Exchange: Commerce, Community, & Coffee (Three sessions)
- Prosperity Bank Master Class
- FWMBCC Annual Small Business Sneaker Ball Gala
- FWMBCC Annual Membership Meeting
- The Refresh
- Pop Up Market with Community Frontline
- Workshop Grants and Skills Workshop
- Routes to Revenue Women's Summit
- AI Series Workshop
- City of Fort Worth Small Business Development Program stakeholder meetings
- Breakfast at the BAC (*Partner*)
- FWMBCC 45th Annual Luncheon

**Number of
Counseling Hours:**

200

**Number of Workshops
and Events Offered:**

51



Regional Hispanic Construction Association (RHCA)

The Regional Hispanic Construction Association (RHCA) works to advance the business potential, connections, and capabilities of firms in the construction industry through advocacy, resources, and training programs that create economic growth.



This mission directly supports small business development by helping contractors, architects, engineers, and construction-related businesses strengthen their business capacity, develop their workforce, build relationships with public and private owners, and compete for contracting opportunities. RHCA's Economic and Business Development efforts place particular emphasis on connecting small, minority- and women-owned firms with general contractors, owners, developers, and upcoming projects.

Over the BAC's past fiscal year, RHCA continued expanding its role as a statewide resource for the architecture, engineering, and construction industry. The organization delivered business development, workforce, safety, capacity building, networking, procurement, and project-opportunity programs while maintaining a strong calendar of major industry events, including the Build Fort Worth Construction Expo, Pillar Awards, Heavy Highway and Transportation programming, Coffee with the General Contractor series, and Luna Awards programs.

During this period, RHCA also secured, or was selected for, several significant new contracts and workforce development awards. Key initiatives include the Texas Workforce Commission Workforce Readiness Training for CTE Students II award, an executed Dallas College contract for NCCER Core wraparound services, the Dallas College Construction Success Academy opportunity, and the U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA Susan Harwood safety-training grant. These awards substantially expand RHCA's capacity to provide workforce training, participant support, contractor development, and construction industry career pathways across Texas.

RHCA is positioned to convert this momentum into measurable results for small businesses and the construction workforce. Priorities include implementing the new workforce development awards, expanding NCCER and safety training, strengthening contractor development and procurement support, increasing connections between small businesses and general contractors, owners, and public agencies, and continuing RHCA's statewide growth.

RHCA will also build on the success of major programs such as Build Fort Worth and Coffee with the General Contractor while improving systems to track businesses assisted, training participation, jobs created or retained, contracting opportunities, and other outcomes that demonstrate the economic impact of RHCA programs.

RHCA expanded its small business and workforce programming this year, including NCCER Core, safety training, Coffee with the General Contractor, project-opportunity outreach, member onboarding, and business capacity support.

Workforce development remained a major focus. RHCA closed its eighth NCCER cohort with nine students, and launched the English-language Cohort #10 with 19 students. The training team reported recruiting 35 participants for the new cohort while continuing Safety Council activities and preparing additional NCCER, OSHA, blueprint-reading, and employer-partnership programming.

Additionally, the Build Fort Worth Construction Expo in August 2026 continued to serve as a major small business platform. RHCA's post-event review documented positive attendees and exhibitor feedback, strong breakout session participation, and growing recognition of the event as a place for contractors and suppliers to connect with industry knowledge, buyers, and project opportunities.

Internal staff reporting at the end of August showed the following key metrics:

- 107 new members
- 143 renewals
- 9 NCCER graduates
- 19 students in NCCER Cohort #10
- 35 participants recruited

Number of Workshops Offered:

15



William Mann Jr. Community Development

The William Mann Jr. Community Development Corporation (WMCDC) was created to serve the following purposes:

- Promote, develop and improve the economic conditions of individuals in low-to-moderate income areas of Fort Worth and surrounding areas,
- Encourage and assist small businesses through loans, investments, and other business transactions to increase the supply of jobs, including jobs for individuals with low-to-moderate incomes,
- Improve the economic conditions in low-to-moderate income areas of Tarrant and Dallas counties through the cooperative efforts of banking institutions.



Small businesses face several challenges, one of which is access to capital. Most of these businesses are funded through the owner's personal resources, and these funds are quickly consumed by the growth of the company. However, these businesses usually have strong growth potential, capable of creating jobs and contributing to the broader economic base of the Fort Worth community.

WMCDC's mission is to assist local economic development initiatives by providing financing in conjunction with banks and/or other non-traditional lenders for small minority- and women-owned businesses.

**Number of Jobs
Created:**

10

**Number of Jobs
Retained:**

115

**Number of
Counseling Hours:**

82

**Capital Infusion to
Clients (Loans):**

\$10,000

TechFW

TechFW's mission is to empower entrepreneurs with the resources, support and community to transform innovative ideas into scalable businesses which drive 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.

TECHFW

TechFW programs are focused on coaching the inventors and founders of early-stage founders by providing them with the tools, guidance and mentorship needed to succeed.

This year, TechFW conducted a ten-year economic impact study in collaboration with Highland Market Research to showcase the organization's impact between 2015-2025. Key highlights from the report are below:

- TechFW's clients have achieved a combined exit value of over \$3.2 billion.
 - \$2.7 billion of this was ZS Pharma, which was acquired by AstraZeneca in 2015.
 - Another \$465 million was Encore Vision, which was acquired by Novartis in 2016.
- Since 1998, TechFW has supported more than 290 startups across over 37,000 hours of coaching, as well as \$26 million in angel investments through Cowtown Angels.
- TechFW has worked with 12 university partners during that same time frame, and has also had federal partnerships with the Department of Defense (DoD), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).
- TechFW's portfolio of active clients spans eight industry sectors:
 - Software (31.4%)
 - Medical Devices (22%)
 - Consumer Goods (15%)
 - Biotech (7.5%)
 - Mobility (7.5%)
 - Consumer Health (5%)
 - Agriculture (5%)
 - Manufacturing (4.1%)
 - Digital Health (2.5%)
- Last year, in calendar year 2025, TechFW reported 48 active members, a growth of 18% from the previous year, and \$1.7 million in capital raised by portfolio companies. Portfolio companies were also awarded 33 patents as of Q4 of 2025.

For the BAC's FY26 reporting, TechFW's major events for this year are included below, some of which may have been offered more than once:

- Startup Bites Monthly Workshop Series
- Investor Matchmaking with Cowtown Angels
- Quarterly TechTogether events
- Annual Holiday Party
- Cowtown Angels SmartVest events
- Youth Entrepreneur Coding Camp
- TechFW Speaker Series
- Innovation Forum with UNT Health Fort Worth

TechFW's current membership has grown to 86 businesses, and the following programs have directly contributed to the organization's 35 business starts this year:

- **ThinkLab:** 11
- **ThinkLab on Demand:** 9
- **SmartStart:** 6
- **FastForward:** 2
- **MADE:** 7

Businesses
Started:

35

Total Current
Members:

86

Number of
Counseling Hours:

725.67

Number of
Workshops:

17



Alliance Lending Corporation

Since 2023, Alliance Lending Corporation has been authorized to offer SBA 504 loans anywhere in the state of Texas. The goal of the organization is to promote economic growth by helping business owners purchase long-term assets with fixed-rate financing.



**Number of Jobs
Created:**

84

**Capital Infusion to
Clients (Loans):**

\$7,235,000

Tarrant Small Business Development Center

The Tarrant Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides one-on-one advising, low-cost workshops, and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners in Tarrant County.



**Number of Jobs
Created:**

428

**Number of Jobs
Retained:**

533

**Capital Infusion to
Clients (Loans):**

\$17,696,075

**Number of Businesses
Started:**

53

**Number of
Workshops:**

36

**Number of
Counseling Hours:**

2,871



Economic
Development

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