



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

December 2, 2025

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SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUARTER 4 FY2025 UPDATE

The Economic Development Department continues its efforts towards the goals and outcomes outlined in the 2022 Economic Development Strategic Plan Update. This Informal Report is to provide highlights of the fourth quarter projects and initiatives for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025).

Business Attraction/Retention and Redevelopment Efforts

The fourth quarter of FY 2025 capped a standout year by adding several important projects that feature commitments of more than \$500 million in total capital investment and more than 2,500 new and retained jobs.

- Across all of FY 2025, the City of Fort Worth secured project commitments totaling more than **\$6.7 billion** in new capital investment and more than **6,900** new and retained jobs, marking the strongest year in more than a decade across those measures.
- In addition to the strategic and economic impact of these projects, the fiscal impact reflects total projected City tax revenues of **\$166 million** (net of incentives) over the lifetime of the agreements, with an average of **\$15.5 million** in net City tax revenues forecast to be generated annually in that time.
- A major highlight for the fourth quarter of FY 2025 was the **culmination of the 3-year pilot period for the Main Street Program** in the Northside with the anticipated launch into a two-year extension and pilot years for the City's new partner in Polytechnic – Texas Wesleyan University.
- Through combined commitments from the Downtown and Lancaster TIF Districts, the City and its partners were able to secure more than \$40 million in financing support for the construction of a new parking garage which will serve as a component of the new **Research and Innovation Building** at Texas A&M's downtown Fort Worth campus.
- **Adom Industries** selected Fort Worth for the location of a **\$229 million** multi-phase project to develop a new prototyping lab, electronics workbench, and semiconductor fab for cloud-based users. The project will deliver a minimum **\$16.25 million** in average annual Research and Development (R&D) expenditures.
- In addition to a separate \$40 million expansion also announced in August that involves commitments to retain existing staff, **Alcon** and the City came to terms for an agreement that will lead to a minimum capital investment of **\$186 million** and the addition of **241 new jobs** through the relocation of two major product lines from Europe.

As of the date on which this informational report was prepared, the department has 98 open and active projects, including business recruitment/development and community redevelopment projects. The following charts provide an overview of the current pipeline of business development and community development projects as well as a look at project wins in FY 2025.



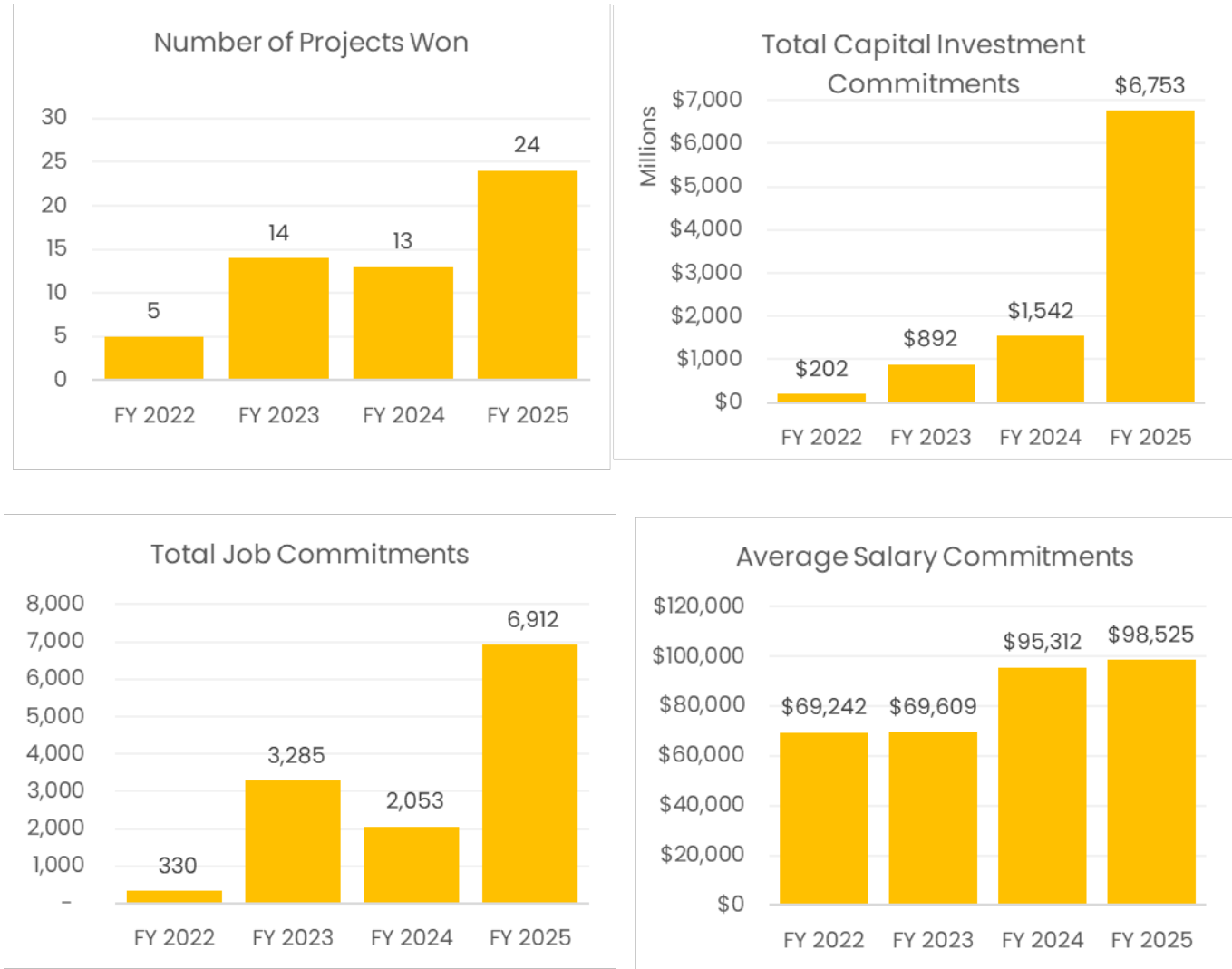
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Projects Won by Fiscal Year



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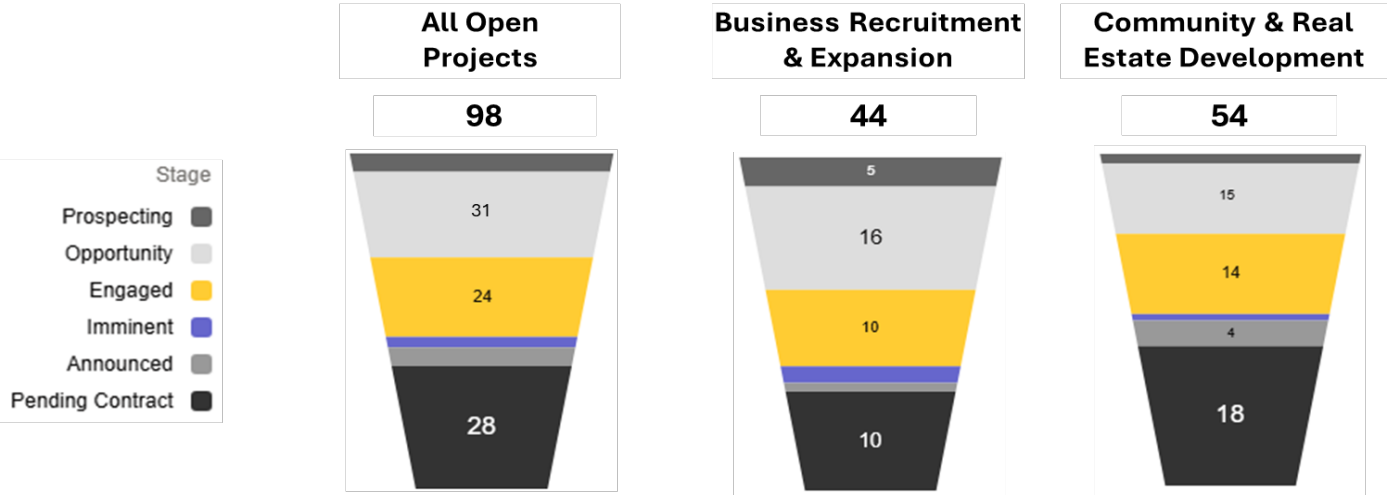
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Current Project Pipeline

Note: The Project Pipeline only represents a snapshot in time of current projects. It does not include project leads and closed projects (including projects won or those considered/evaluated but subsequently declined or lost within the year), nor does it include the 85 City and TIF projects that are currently in active review for compliance.



New Leads in FY 2025

Inbound Business Development Leads Only

Total New Project Leads: 185 Total Mega Projects: 14 Total Capex: \$55.72 B Total New Jobs: 59,236



Note: Total Business Development Leads declined by the City in FY 2025 have increased both in number and percentage versus FY 2024.



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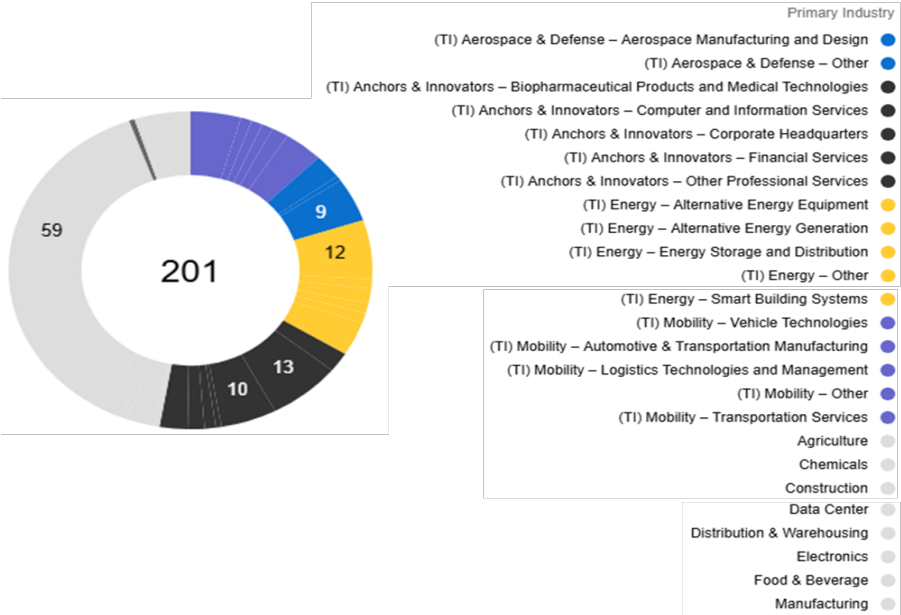
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New Leads in FY 2025 by Industry

Business Development Leads Only

Total New Project Leads: 201 Total Mega Projects: 14 Total Capex: \$56.2 B Total New Jobs: 73,336

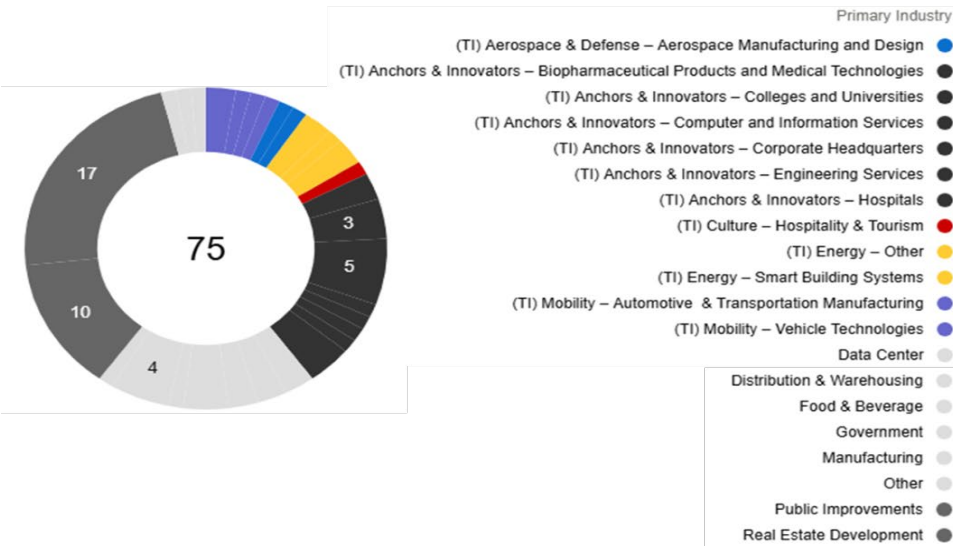


% of New Leads in a Target Industry:

53%

New Projects in FY 2025 by Industry

Total New Projects: 75 Total Mega Projects: 14 Total Capex: \$19.2 B Total New Jobs: 12,640



% of New Projects in a Target Industry:

60%



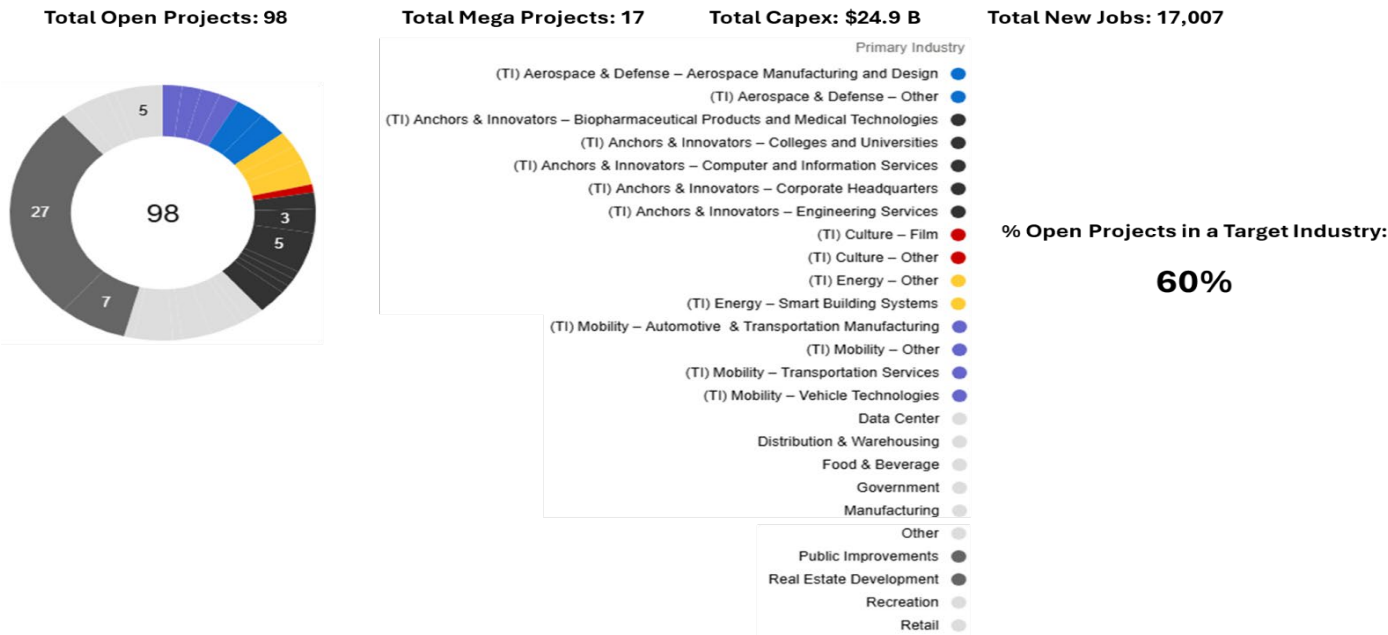
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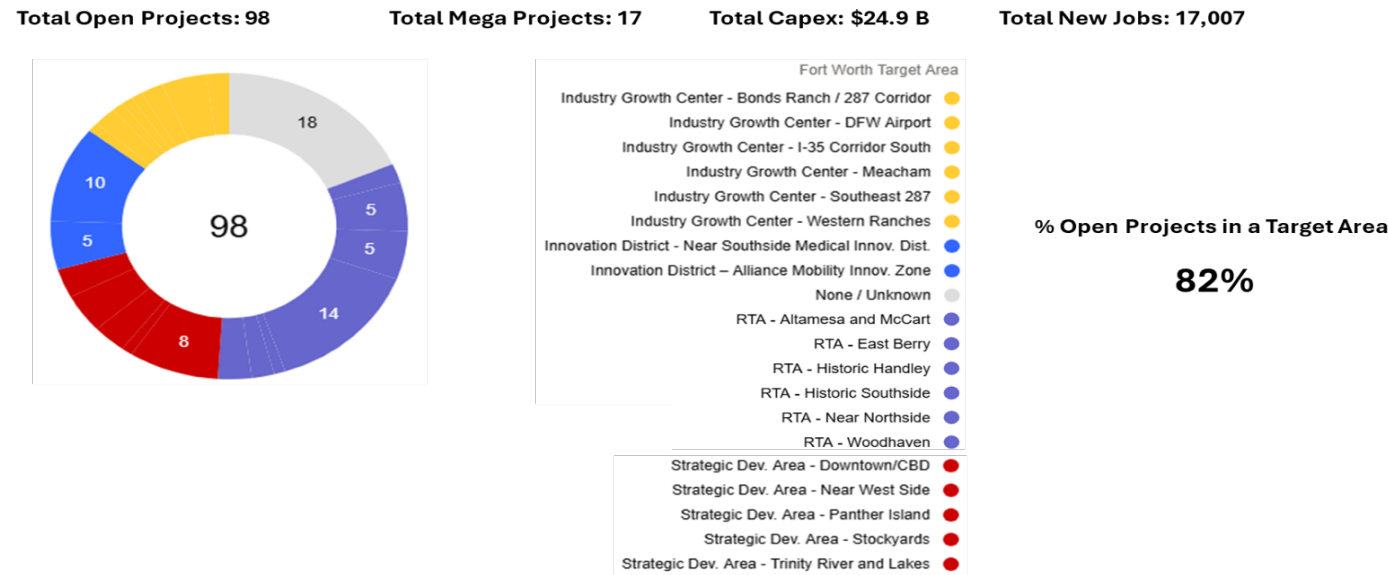
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All Open Projects by Industry



All Open Projects by Target Area





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Community Revitalization

• **Evans & Rosedale**

Since approvals in April and May 2025 and the signing of the Purchase and Sales Agreements in Q3, the developer and City continued the pre-development process, community engagements, and legal agreement negotiations. A financial restructure for better return and stability for the deal was approved in October with no impact to timelines and the development.

• **Fort Worth Main Street Program**

- Historic Northside District: From July through September, the Historic Northside District (HND) continued making strong progress in its revitalization and capacity-building efforts through projects focused on design, economic vitality, organization, and promotion. In this timeframe, HND:
 - Issued an RFP for gateway signage and engaged the Amon Carter Foundation with support from Downtown Fort Worth, Inc.
 - Launched branding guidelines, enhancing its visual identity and marketing consistency
 - Secured a contract for the North Main Banner Program
 - Assisted the following properties: Mercado Building (Central) through design review, 1434 N. Main (Alan's Lids). The Percy Building interior remodel was completed. New contract was established with CHC (Mercado Building) to support future activation
 - Helped with the following small business milestones:
 - Three Northside businesses graduating from the *Lanzar* cohort with one business placing third in the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (FWHCC) competition.
 - Over 60 small businesses were engaged through *Sonidos* Northside
 - Ongoing technical support provided to Hugo's *Cinco de Mayo*, *El Don de las Nieves*, Lorraine's Bakery, Northside Community LLC, Espinoza's Produce, *Cultura* Markets, and *Tacos con Madre*.
 - Two Northside businesses enrolled in mentorship programs, continuing to build entrepreneurial capacity in the district.
 - Reached the following organizational milestones this quarter, including:
 - Approved Texas nonprofit incorporation and submission of its 501(c)(3)
 - Formed a technical advisory committee in partnership with Community Design Fort Worth
 - Secured a \$40,000 BEACON (Building Economic Access, Community, Opportunity & Networks) Grant along with over \$57,000 in *Sonidos* program funding (May–September)



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- Hosted one Nonprofit Connect meeting with 15 participating organizations and engaged 15 nonprofits through *Sonidos* programming
 - Partnered with Trinity Habitat for Humanity through the Cowtown Brush-Up program, which resulted in five Northside homes repaired
 - Partnered with Texas A&M Law School to provide heirship legal support to homeowners
 - Finished the last *Sonidos del Summer* event with visitor totals coming in at 8,831 visitors to the three events, digital engagement reached 128,000 views, 2,600 interactions, and 252 new page follows. Over 308 volunteer hours logged worth approximately \$10,715.00 and vendor business revenue reports are being processed
 - Received extensive media coverage in ULI National Magazine, the Fort Worth Report, CBS 11, Telemundo, NBC 5, and Univision, elevating visibility for Northside's ongoing revitalization efforts
 - Hosted a Strategic Planning and Main Street Year-End Workshop with key city leaders, foundations, community stakeholders, small businesses, and property owners, successfully finalizing the three-year Pilot Program contract with the City of Fort Worth with reporting and reconciliation in the works for the upcoming quarter
- Polytechnic Heights District: From July to September, the Polytechnic Main Street District continued to advance revitalization efforts through its partnership with Texas Wesleyan University (TXWES) and local stakeholders. TXWES is currently bringing two commercial buildings along East Rosedale to white-box condition to attract new tenants, one of which already has a tenant committed once the buildout is complete and is seeking additional retail tenants. Additionally, the TXWES College of Business has begun filling previously vacant office spaces along Rosedale with three new office tenants, further activating the corridor. The Polytechnic Heights Main Street has begun holding subcommittee meetings and has confirmed dates to begin the Transformation and Work Plan process with Main Street America. The program has also started identifying property and business owners interested in participating in Main Street initiatives.

In coordination with Councilwoman Martinez, the City of Fort Worth staff supporting Polytechnic is reviewing ordinances related to blighted and abandoned properties along commercial corridors to address code and redevelopment challenges. The Polytechnic Main Street District has also met with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and Transportation and Public Works (TPW) to evaluate key corridors and identify opportunities to improve walkability. Sidewalk audits will be conducted in the coming months to provide data to support these infrastructure



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efforts. TXWES launched a new course focused on community development and local business programming, providing students with hands-on experience in neighborhood revitalization. The university is exploring opportunities to expand the course into a certificate program, further strengthening community and economic development capacity in Polytechnic Heights.

- **Woodhaven Conservation Plan**

Since the completion of the Woodhaven Neighborhood Conservation Plan in March 2025, City staff and partners continued to work together to advance the strategies outlined within each goal area. Implementation efforts are ongoing and coordinated across departments and stakeholders to ensure measurable progress. This includes exploring opportunities for catalytic investments, aligning policies with plan priorities, and engaging residents and local organizations in the work. Efforts are underway to explore the creation of a new park at the Eastside Library as those were two of the top recommendations.

- **CDFI Friendly Fort Worth**

During Q4 of FY25, LiftFund has reported as of August 31, funded loan disbursements of \$510K (28% of goal), representing eight loans and the retention or creation of 61 FTE's under the Interest Buy Down program (IBD). Total buy down under the program is \$212K (46% of CDFI invested dollars). A meeting was held with LiftFund executives on October 14, 2025, and they will modify future reports to reflect declination challenges. In Fort Worth, workshops have garnered positive registration yet limited attendees in some cases. Challenges continue to relate to the lack of borrower preparation or continued need for robust financial resources to ensure that borrowers build sustainable business practices.

- **Berry/Stalcup Redevelopment**

After receiving FWLDC and City Council approvals in August of 2024, the City continued to work with Berry Stalcup Redevelopment Partners, LLC, on a revised site plan for the property which includes a proposal for the development of 34 townhouse units and up to 11 live/work units. The design and overall scope of the project will create a catalytic mixed-use environment and provide for open space amenities in the neighborhood. Staff is currently working with the developers on an adjusted timeline for project construction.



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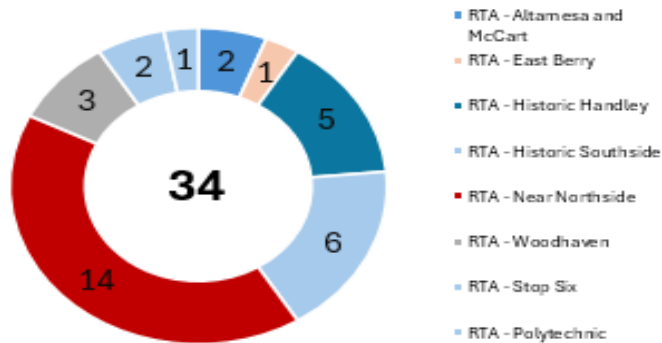
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Community Development Projects by Revitalization Target Area (RTA)

Total Projects: 34

Total Capex: \$332M



Small Business

The Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC) is a comprehensive resource hub dedicated to equipping entrepreneurs with the essential skills and tools they need to start, grow, or operate a business. The BAC offers a range of services including training, technical assistance, access to capital, and business support. During the last quarter, Economic Development staff organized or facilitated more than 37 entrepreneurial events and community initiatives aimed at supporting a diverse range of entrepreneurs while actively engaging community stakeholders to strengthen the local small business community.

This quarter's programming and partnership summaries include the following:

Business Readiness and Entrepreneurial Programming: As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of local small business owners, initiatives like Impact Ventures' Capital Readiness Program and the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition provided cohort-based training series designed to help business owners build a strategic plan for future growth.

The Fort Worth Business Plan Competition, a City-sponsored initiative, launched its 2025 cohort in July. Frost Bank, serving as the lead sponsor, hosted four workshops in July that focused on key aspects of business planning. Participants also received personalized mentoring from community partners to refine and finalize their plans.

By participating in the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition, small business owners get expert guidance, mentorship, and practical tools to strengthen their business, and the top three finishers earn cash prizes of \$10,000 for first place, \$6,000 for second place, and \$4,000 for third place.



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Networking and Start-up Community Connectivity: Recurring gatherings like 1 Million Cups Fort Worth, Cowtown Leads Exchange, and the Guinn Campus Partners' Coffee events continue to strengthen connections within our local entrepreneurial community. This quarter marked a historic milestone as 1 Million Cups Fort Worth launched the nation's first all-Spanish edition alongside its regular English session. Representatives from the Kauffman Foundation traveled from Kansas City to recognize and celebrate the innovative model established in Fort Worth. It is one that will likely emulate in other cities nationwide.

Economic Impacts: The campus continues to be a significant driver of regional growth by generating more than \$39 million in economic impact in the BAC fiscal year ending in August. The campus supported the creation of 610 new jobs, while retaining 1,284 jobs and helping launch 57 new businesses. Together, these achievements highlight the campus' key role in creating a more resilient economy. You can view the BAC Annual Report for FY 2025 here: [2024-2025 BAC Annual Report](#).

Small Business Development Program: The new Small Business division of the Economic Development department was created and the Small Business Development Program was launched in August. Six team members, led by an assistant director, are focused on several initiatives that assist small businesses, including assisting them to get their Small Business Enterprise (SBE) certification, working collectively with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to provide more resources, build long-term bonding and insurance partnerships, assist with matching qualified small businesses with City contracting opportunities, and leveraging extensive communication tools to expand reach of City of Fort Worth contracting opportunities.

Key activities in Q4 include:

- Initial discussions of performance metrics were held with all three Chambers of Commerce. Execution of these contracts is expected in Q1 of FY 2026.
- Execution of an agreement with the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (NCTRCA) is also expected to be completed in Q1 of FY 2026. This agreement will help expedite the SBE certification process and assist up to 95 small businesses with the expedite fee.
- Initial discussions were held with the Beck School of Construction to bring the 2026 cohort to Fort Worth.
- The Small Business Advisory Board replaced the former BEF Business Advisory Council and notifications were sent out for the first meeting being held on Monday, November 3.
- The Veterans Affairs Office moved into the Economic Development department and now has a refined focus on assisting veteran-owned businesses, specifically helping guide them to certifications, procurement access, training and workshops, and other resources like potential financing and grant funding.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation (E&I)



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Fort Worth's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem continues to expand through high-impact collaborations, community-led programs, and purpose-built spaces. CreateFW is thriving in its new Near Southside location, featuring event space, a dedicated training room, and expanded meeting areas that strengthen the city's growing entrepreneurial community. AccelerateFW continues to foster early-stage innovation through programs like 1 *Million Cups*, a weekly meetup where entrepreneurs share ideas, receive feedback, and refine their business strategies in a supportive environment.

In partnership with the Fort Worth Tarrant County Innovation Partnership (FWTCIP), Texas A&M–Fort Worth is launching the Center for Advanced Aviation Technologies (CAAT), a \$50 million groundbreaking initiative designed to accelerate research and development in emerging aviation technologies and further position Fort Worth as a national leader in next-generation flight.

Economic Development Marketing/Messaging

- **Collaboration with Quinn PR:** The Quinn team continued working with department staff, the Mayor's Office, and the Fort Worth EDP to strategically place stories in national outlets and capitalize on broadcast opportunities to support Fort Worth's economic development efforts. Deliverables from Q4 of FY 2025 include a feature with Mayor Parker in the New York Stock Exchange's *NYSE TV*, an interview with Ian Kinne (AllianceTexas) with *Fleet Equipment Magazine* highlighting the Mobility Innovation Zone, and an interview with Robert Allen (FW EDP) on *ShovelTalk*, Golden Shovel Agency's podcast for economic development professionals.
- **BAC Marketing and Promotion:** Continued promoting campus programs, including the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition and updating the BAC web calendar, BAC newsletter, and BAC social media channels.
- **Department Marketing and PR:**
 - Worked on and/or secured 131 placements in local and regional media in total during this FY.
 - Continued building the department's social media presence:
 - LinkedIn
 - Growth: 693 new followers in Q4
 - Average engagement rate: 7.3% (Industry average: 3.6%)
 - Facebook

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- Growth: 1,355 new followers in Q4
- Average engagement rate: 1.8% (Industry average: 2%)

Workforce Development

- Continued collaboration with the Mayor's Council on Education & Workforce.
- Activities include:
 - Served as an official committee member of the Mayor's Council on Education & Workforce's newly formed Pathways Leadership Committee. This committee is part of the new Texas Regional Pathways Network (TRPN) initiative. The TRPN is a joint effort of the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, a collaboration between the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
 - Economic Development staff participated in the manufacturing industry convening that took place as part of this effort.
- Hosted four talent site visits:
 - M&M Manufacturing
 - Essner Manufacturing
 - Cowboy Aerospace
 - Range Resources

The above highlighted projects and initiatives are an overview of the collective and collaborative work that the staff of the Economic Development Department are doing to address the goals and outcomes outlined in the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Jessica Rogers, Economic Development Director at jessica.rogers@fortworthtexas.gov.

Jesus "Jay" Chapa
City Manager