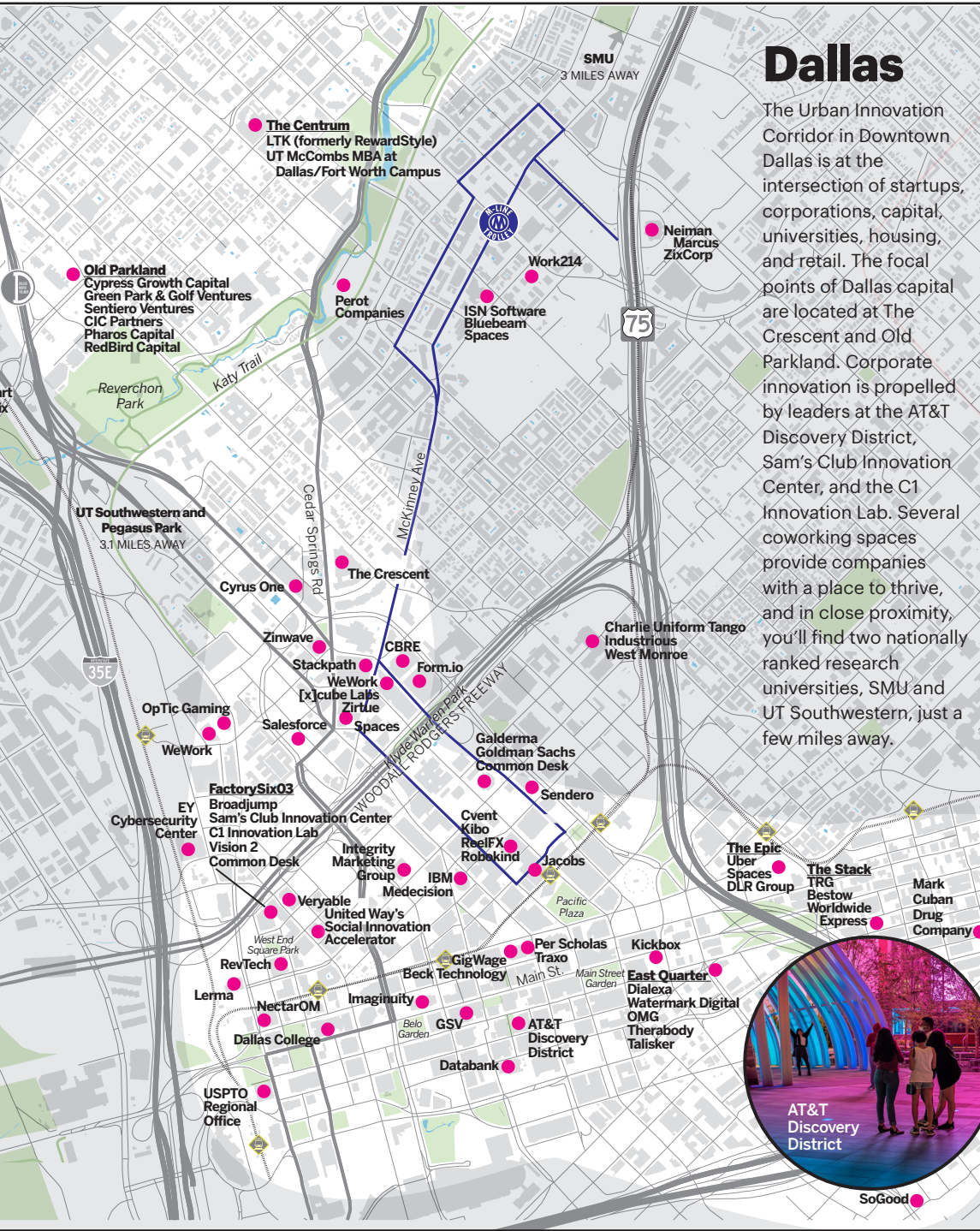


# The Innovation Ecosystem

Texas is arguably the No. 1 state in the country in which to do business, and Dallas-Fort Worth is one of the best places in the country for entrepreneurs. An explosion of startups, coworking spaces, incubators, and accelerators are building a thriving ecosystem in DFW.



## Dallas

The Urban Innovation Corridor in Downtown Dallas is at the intersection of startups, corporations, capital, universities, housing, and retail. The focal points of Dallas capital are located at The Crescent and Old Parkland. Corporate innovation is propelled by leaders at the AT&T Discovery District, Sam's Club Innovation Center, and the C1 Innovation Lab. Several coworking spaces provide companies with a place to thrive, and in close proximity, you'll find two nationally ranked research universities, SMU and UT Southwestern, just a few miles away.

Clusters of innovation activity exist all across Dallas-Fort Worth. Below are just a few examples:

### Arlington

Esports Stadium Arlington, operated by OpTic Gaming, is one of the largest dedicated esports facilities in North America with 100,000 square feet of tournament and gaming space. Spark coworking is nearby as part of the Texas Live! development. Innovation is anchored in the city at the University of Texas at Arlington.

### Denton

Stoke Denton is a collaborative coworking center that brings community tech events, assists startups, and creates local jobs. The University of North Texas' Innovation Greenhouse gives novice and seasoned entrepreneurs a place to pitch ideas and start businesses.

### Alliance Mobility Innovation Zone

Hillwood's AllianceTexas in north Fort Worth offers mobility companies full access to an extensive testing ecosystem, resources, and partnerships essential to comprehensively test, scale, and commercialize their technologies.

### Frisco

The City of Frisco focuses on innovation across multiple verticals, including smart city technologies, fintech, cybersecurity, and sports/esports. A new innovation hub, anchored by Plug and Play, will be on the 6th floor of the Baylor Scott & White Sports Therapy & Research Building at The Star.

### Mansfield

The Mansfield Innovation Community, or "The MIC," is set to be the epicenter of a multi-phase, one million-square-foot development. This mixed-use hub will include a GSV Labs Innovation Center.

### McKinney

McKinney EDC's Innovation Fund is designed to help companies scale through "Seed to Series A" in the investment cycle and to invest in small startups at the ideation stage.

### Plano

The city of Plano is home to numerous corporate tech centers, including Carmax, the Capital One Garage, and Toyota Connected. The Texas Research Quarter will offer over 4 million square feet of life science lab, office, and therapeutic production space.

# Incubators and Accelerators

The same landscape that fosters our largest companies also spurs explosive growth in our smallest. The many incubators and accelerators operating in Dallas-Fort Worth make it easy for startups and small businesses to find support and thrive.

## AccelerateHER Incubator

**Dallas**  
Training program specifically for women-owned startups co-facilitated by The Slate coworking and the TWU Center for Women Entrepreneurs.

## BioLabs

**Dallas**  
A 37,000-square-foot coworking lab and office facility in Pegasus Park. The space contains 130 benches, including wet labs, and over \$2 million in shared equipment.

## Blackstone Launchpads

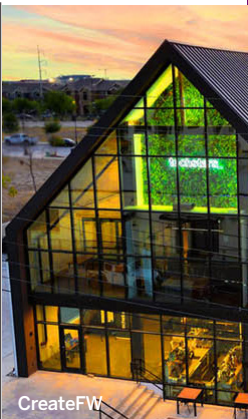
**UTA, UTD, UTSW**  
Located on each campus, the program offers students and recent alumni access to a global network of mentors, advisers, and startup resources.

## Capital Factory

**Texas**  
Serves as a center of gravity for entrepreneurs in Texas. One of the most active venture investors in the state, providing mentorship, coworking, and events across the State.

## CreateFW

**Fort Worth**  
Located in the Near Southside District, CreateFW is working to address the challenges faced by entrepreneurs and small business owners, particularly in BIPOC areas.



## HealthWildcatters

**Dallas**  
A 12-week mentor-driven seed accelerator focused on healthcare by supporting entrepreneurs and companies that are developing solutions for the industry.

## Impact Ventures

**Dallas**  
Accelerator focused on underrepresented founders providing programming, mentors, curriculum, access to capital, and connections.

## Founders Arena

**Arlington**  
Accelerator program designed to support and accelerate the growth of companies operating in the wealth management sector.

## MassChallenge

**Dallas**  
Boston-based accelerator operating in Dallas since 2022. Key areas of focus include defense, health care, pharmaceuticals, and human potential.

## Plug and Play Sportstech

**Frisco**  
Silicon Valley-based accelerator focused on developing technologies evolving human potential and performance. First cohort will start in 2024.

## Plug and Play Enterprise & AI

**McKinney**  
Silicon Valley-based enterprise and AI accelerator. Focus areas include big data and AI, infrastructure and IT, future of work, customer engagement, and cybersecurity. First cohort will start in 2024.

## Plug and Play FinTech

**Frisco & McKinney**  
Silicon Valley-based fintech accelerator is a joint program based out of Frisco and McKinney. Focus areas include wealth management, payments, retail banking, regtech, and crypto and digital assets. First cohort will start in 2024.

## TechFW

**Fort Worth**  
Since 1998, this accelerator and incubator has been helping entrepreneurs launch and grow emerging technology companies. Programs focus on coaching the inventors, founders, and managers of early-stage companies.

## Techstars Physical Health

**Fort Worth**  
Global investment platform and accelerator focusing on addressing the challenges that exist in the world of physical health. Partners include the City of Fort Worth, UNT Health Science Center, Tarrant County, and Goff Capital.

## RedBird Innovation Center

**Dallas**  
20,000-square-foot space in Southern Dallas offering coworking, business incubation, accelerator programs, and event space. Focused on underrepresented founders and creating a more diverse and equitable entrepreneurial landscape.

## United Way Social Innovation Incubator

**Dallas**  
Supporting human, social, and financial capital in early-stage entrepreneurs in the social innovation sector. The program is designed for entrepreneurs who have experienced systemic racial and gender inequities.



## Organizations

“You should do that!” That’s typically the first response when someone in DFW decides they’re going to start a new business and tells a friend. The next thing that friend likely will ask is, “How can I help?” Our region is abuzz with a wealth of organizations, events, and resources that foster innovation and support entrepreneurial endeavors.



### North Texas Innovation Alliance

A consortium of cross-sector partners working to lower the barriers to deploying, replicating, and scaling smart city solutions. Focus areas include digital infrastructure; mobility and transportation; economic development and entrepreneurship; the built environment; education and workforce; and sustainability and resilience.



### BioNorthTX

The life science trade organization for Dallas-Fort Worth. Created to accelerate the growth of the region’s diverse and balanced life science ecosystem. Companies connect with industry leaders, technologies, investors, universities, consultants, a varied population for clinical research, and an experienced pool of scientists, technicians, and resources.



### DFW CPG

Founded in 2019 to bring together and serve the consumer packaged goods (CPG) community in Dallas-Fort Worth. The group supports early- to late-stage CPG companies through a mix of networking events, speakers, speaker panels on various topics, and opportunities to connect with experts in smaller groups called DFW CPG Huddles.



### Texas Research Alliance

The Texas Research Alliance works with companies to understand their research and innovation needs and bring its network of university faculty, high-growth companies, and startups to help solve challenges. Founded as a non-profit by four of the largest chambers of commerce in Dallas-Fort Worth.

## Capital



Dallas-Fort Worth is home to every stage of capital that a growing company may need. Angel investors, family offices, venture capital, and private equity firms are looking to find and invest in great companies.

### Sample of VC and Angel Investors in Dallas

Access Capital  
Beyond Capital  
Blossom Street Ventures  
Capital Factory  
Cowtown Angels  
Cypress Growth Capital  
Dallas Venture Capital  
Goldcrest Investments  
Green Park & Golf Ventures  
Interlock Partners  
Mark Cuban Companies  
North Texas Angel Network  
Perot Jain  
Republic  
Revtech  
Sentiero Ventures



### Venture Dallas

Venture Dallas exists to amplify the entrepreneurial spirit of Dallas-Fort Worth by connecting innovators with investors, celebrating the region’s pioneering roots, and driving impactful growth in the business community. The organization hosts an annual conference that attracts venture capital investors from around the country. The all-day event features visionary keynotes and panel tracks with industry experts and venture capital leaders, with ample time for networking. Connections are core to the event, where deals are made and founders have secured funding, investment, and mentorship.



## Federal Investment in DFW Innovation

**ARPA-H** - In September 2023, Dallas’ Pegasus Park was selected as the national headquarters of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, known as ARPA-H, Customer Experience Hub. The goal of the Customer Experience Hub is to ensure that future healthcare advancements are patient-centric and deliver improved outcomes for all Americans.

**EDA SEMICONDUCTOR TECH HUB DESIGNATION** - In October 2023, the Economic Development Administration unveiled 31 U.S. Tech Hubs in the U.S., including the SMU-led Texoma Semiconductor Hub. It will work to strengthen, build on, and drive innovation in the existing semiconductor supply chain in 29 counties in North Texas and Oklahoma through regional collaboration and workforce development.

**NSF INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT ENGINE** - In May 2023, a team led by the University of North Texas was selected for a Type-1 innovation development engine grant. The team received \$1 million and will, over the next two years, work with collaborators from industry, local governments, public agencies, and workforce development organizations to develop a proposal for a regional innovation ecosystem focused on logistics and compete for an NSF Type-2 Engine, which could receive up to \$160 million over ten years.

**USPTO REGIONAL OFFICE** - DFW is home to one of four satellite offices of the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Located in Downtown Dallas, it works with small businesses and entrepreneurs to help them navigate the patent process, meet with examiners, and access USPTO’s comprehensive search databases. It serves as a patent examination office for technology developed in the region and throughout the South.

## Events

**1 Million Cups** - Every Wednesday, 1MC communities around the country meet to give each other support, encouragement, and feedback over a cup of coffee. At 1MC, entrepreneurs present their businesses to inclusive, welcoming audiences. It’s not a pitch; it’s a chance to learn, collaborate, and grow. 1MC locations include Dallas, Fort Worth, Frisco, Irving, and Northeast Tarrant County.

**IQ Brew** - The IQ Brew is held every 2nd Thursday of the month and is hosted at The IQHQ in Richardson. It is a networking and educational series featuring presentations from entrepreneurs, small businesses, and subject-matter experts.

**Digital Fight Club** - This annual event puts two experts on stage in front of five accomplished “referees” and a crowd of their peers and lets them defend their position on a topic in their field.

**Code Launch** - A startup accelerator event that pairs early-stage tech startups with professional software development teams to accelerate their trajectory toward MVP, seed funding, and beyond.

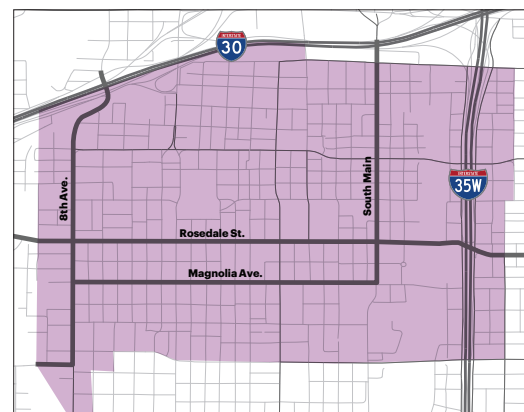
**Startup Grind** - A series of events that brings together founders, industry experts, and aspiring entrepreneurs to share insights, experiences, and advice. Startup Grind meetings are held in Fort Worth, Dallas, and Frisco.

**Dallas Startup Week** - A free, five-day celebration of our community that builds momentum and opportunity around entrepreneurship. Multiple special events and summits occur throughout the week. Industry tracks are at the core of Dallas Startup Week’s programming. With 11 different tracks that include Marketing, AI, Automation, Quantum and Healthcare, there’s something for every entrepreneur or innovator, no matter what stage of the journey they’re in.

**EarthX E-Capital Summit** - EarthX’s annual E-Capital Summit is an invitation-only conference that convenes hundreds of investment firms, early to late-stage innovators, established global companies, industry thought leaders, national policymakers, incubators and accelerators, and researchers. Participants tackle some of the world’s greatest investment and business opportunities in sustainability, resilience, conservation, clean technology, and climate technology.



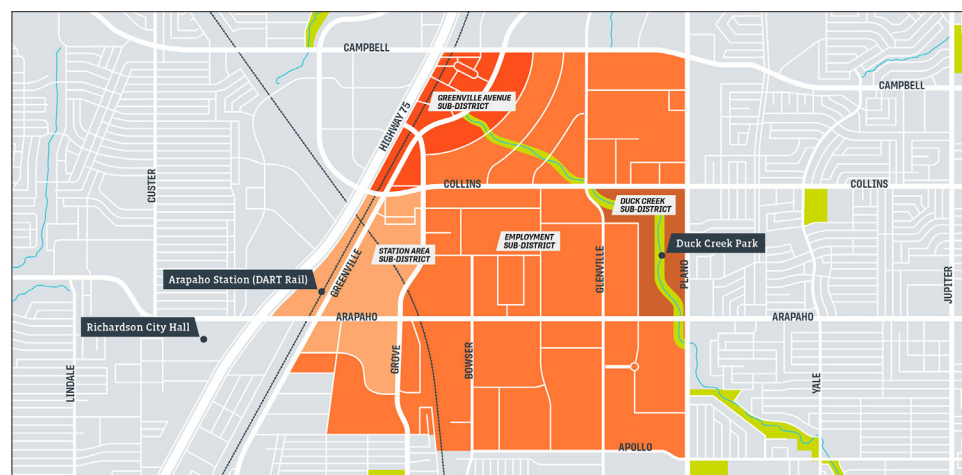
## Fort Worth Medical Innovation District



In the Near Southside district, Fort Worth's growing medical industry is joining forces with its local entrepreneur community to explore new and exciting frontiers in the medical and biotech industries. The 1,200-acre district is designed to attract top talent with a variety of places to live, work, play, and collaborate on new health advancements. [www.nearsouthsidefw.org/medical-district.html](http://www.nearsouthsidefw.org/medical-district.html)

## The Richardson IQ

Built on the area's rich history of innovation and entrepreneurship, the Richardson Innovation Quarter (IQ) has been precision-engineered to foster growth, attract, and retain talent, and encourage collaboration. Today, The Richardson IQ is home to video game giant id Software and a nano-tech lab operated by Zyvex. Honeywell manufactures sensors here, and Raytheon's EO Innovations makes optical lenses. Digital Realty currently oversees nearly one million square feet of data centers. Ericsson, Verizon, Siemens, and Argo Data all have offices here. In 2022, the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and the City of Richardson opened the IQHQ, a new 27,500-square-foot collaboration space. Along with coworking, office, and lab space, the building houses five UTD research centers under the umbrella of the Centers for Emergent Novel Technology (CENT-IQ). The new research hub contains the Center for Applied AI & Machine Learning, the Center for Imaging and Surgical Innovation, the Multi-Scale Integrated Interactive Intelligent Sensing Center, the Center for Smart and Connected Mobility, and the Center for Applied AI. [richardsoniq.com](http://richardsoniq.com)



# NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

Central  
to  
Success.



15  
MIN

North Richland Hills is **centrally located** between DFW Airport, Downtown Fort Worth and the Alliance Corridor.

TEXRail

2

Two **TEXRail** stations located in NRH connect downtown Fort Worth and DFW Airport.



2ND

Home to the second **Peppa Pig Theme Park** in North America.

CITY POINT

NEW

**City Point** - New quarter billion dollar masterplanned redevelopment of the former North Hills Mall.

ALLIANCE

NRH

DFW

FORT WORTH

DALLAS

North Richland Hills is a centrally located and attractive city that utilizes a wide range of tools to promote quality development. NRH has access to almost 500,000 people, 185,000 households, over 18,000 businesses and 200,000 employees within a 15-minute drive time.

**NRH**  
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
[nrhed.com](http://nrhed.com) 817.427.6090