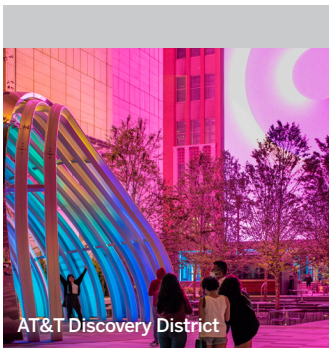


The Innovation Ecosystem

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 innovation, boasting a thriving ecosystem of tech startups, Fortune 500 headquarters, cutting-edge research institutions, and a supportive community that fuels breakthroughs in AI, biotech, fintech, advanced manufacturing, and more.



AT&T Discovery District

Dallas

Downtown Dallas and its surrounding neighborhoods foster dynamic interactions between startups, corporations, investors, and universities, driving a powerful engine of innovation. This momentum is fueled by hubs like the AT&T Discovery District, the Blue Cross Blue Shield C1 Innovation Lab in the West End, the rise of Y’All Street, and the cutting-edge research at UT Southwestern and Southern Methodist University.

Pegasus Park and UT Southwestern form a dynamic innovation ecosystem in Dallas, fostering collaboration between biotech, healthcare, life sciences, and venture capital. Their close proximity and complementary strengths create a powerful synergy that accelerates research, commercialization, and startup growth.



Old Parkland

Old Parkland and The Crescent are the heart of Dallas capital, centered in Uptown Dallas within two architecturally significant office campuses. These are hubs for private equity, venture capital, finance, wealth management, and corporate advisory services.

East Quarter and Deep Ellum are Downtown neighborhoods known for their dynamic blend of innovation, culture, and business. They both continue to involve and are key hubs for startups, creative industries, and tech-driven enterprises.



Texas A&M - Fort Worth

Fort Worth

Fort Worth’s innovation economy is driven by a dynamic mix of startups, corporate R&D, health care, advanced manufacturing, and aerospace technology. Anchored by institutions like TCU, UNT Health Science Center, and the growing Texas A&M-Fort Worth campus, the city fosters collaboration between academia and industry. The Stockyards, Near Southside, and AllianceTexas serve as innovation hubs.

Texas A&M - Fort Worth Campus is being developed on the east side of downtown with the goal of creating a hub for education, research, and innovation. The project includes multiple buildings, including the Law and Education Building and the Research and Innovation Building.

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.



Alliance Texas

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.

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

Arlington

Wallbox, a leading provider of EV charging solutions, autonomous mobility company Mozee, and Spark coworking in the Texas Live! development all call Arlington home. At the city’s core, the University of Texas at Arlington fuels innovation, reporting \$155 million in research expenditures in 2024.

Denton

Denton fosters innovation through Stoke Denton, a coworking hub hosting tech events, supporting startups, and creating jobs. The University of North Texas’ Innovation Greenhouse and Texas Woman’s University AccelerateHER incubator empower entrepreneurs, strengthening Denton’s startup ecosystem and economic growth.

Frisco

The city’s innovation landscape is enriched by 400+ startups and 13 corporate innovation hubs. Plug and Play operates its sportstech and fintech accelerator in the City. In 2024, the Frisco EDC named its First-Ever ‘VC in Residence’ to attract investment and spur innovation.

Mansfield

The Mansfield Innovation Community, or “The MIC,” is set to be the epicenter of a multi-phase, 1 million-square-foot development. This mixed-use hub will include a GSV Labs Innovation Center.

McKinney

McKinney EDC’s Innovation Fund helps companies scale from ideation to Series A, attracting businesses at idea, expansion, and growth stages with funding up to \$500,000 to drive innovation and economic development.

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 (TRQ) was approved in 2024 and will offer over 4 million square feet of life science lab, office, and therapeutic production space.

Richardson

The Richardson Innovation Quarter (The IQ®) is a 1,200-acre urban tech hub fostering innovation and collaboration among over 1,000 businesses and 19,000 workers. It’s anchored by The IQ Headquarters, a collaboration with UT Dallas housing six research centers,

Dallas-Fort Worth high-tech jobs compared to other leading innovation ecosystem metros

Metro	2019 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2019-2024 Change	Cost of Living	Cost of Doing Business
New York	514,556	538,422	23,867	230.6	153.48
Washington D.C.	371,705	370,654	-1,052	141.9	110.27
Los Angeles	354,331	368,160	13,829	149.3	119.31
Dallas-Fort Worth	264,610	306,776	42,165	101.7 / 96.0	101.97 / 97.23
San Francisco	289,439	303,741	14,302	166.7	197.69
Boston	269,282	280,934	11,652	145.8	135.00
Seattle	255,150	260,992	5,842	145.1	112.46
San Jose	235,903	242,085	6,182	180.6	167.31
Chicago	248,199	236,298	-11,902	115.1	102.21
Houston	199,562	213,600	14,038	94.1	96.89

1st MOST HIGH-TECH JOBS ADDED IN THE U.S. SINCE 2019

4th HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF HIGH-TECH WORKERS IN THE U.S.

3rd HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF COMPUTER OCCUPATIONS IN THE U.S.

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.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (NCTEDD) - Designated in 2016 by the Economic Development Administration and encompassing the 16-County North Central Texas region, the NCTEDD brings together the private and public sectors in partnership to provide a coordinated strategy and economic development technical assistance. The designation serves as a foundation for regional collaboration and cooperative economic planning.

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.

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 cross-sector consortium advancing smart city solutions. In 2024, NTXIA launched programs like the Immersive Innovation Program, Urban Resilience Fellowship, Smart Cities Global Startup Challenge, and Cybersecurity Workshops, fostering regional innovation, sustainability, mobility, and cybersecurity solutions while strengthening North Texas’ defenses against digital threats.



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.



Artificial Intelligence in Dallas-Fort Worth

THE HOME TO APPLIED AI

Dallas-Fort Worth has emerged as a key hub for applied AI due to a combination of industry presence, talent pool, infrastructure, and investment. Fortune 1000 companies leverage AI across industries such as telecommunications, finance, healthcare, and logistics.



ECOSYSTEM

With a strong community of 8,000+ AI enthusiasts, Dallas AI is the largest nonprofit AI forum in DFW. The group hosts educational talks and workshops, partnering with top companies and academia at the forefront of AI research. AI Connex offers consulting and accelerator services to support AI technology entrepreneurs. Plug and Play, the global startup accelerator program, has launched an Enterprise & AI vertical in McKinney.

EVENTS

Convergence AI, organized by the Dallas Regional Chamber, brings together a diverse group of leaders, including executives, entrepreneurs, and innovators, to explore the latest trends and developments in artificial intelligence. The focus is on real-world applications of AI in business, making it an essential event for anyone interested in the transformative power of this technology. Technologists will find other AI focused events throughout the year.

RESEARCH

- Center for Artificial Intelligence and Big Data (CARIDA): The University of Texas at Arlington
- Center for Applied AI and Machine Learning (CAIML): The University of Texas at Dallas
- Center of Electric, Connected and Autonomous Technologies for Mobility (eCAT): The University of North Texas
- AT&T Center for Virtualization Technologies: SMU
- AI/ML Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD): The University of North Texas Health Science Center

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 Arlington, Dallas, Fort Worth, Frisco, Irving, Northeast Tarrant County, and Plano.

IQ Brew—The IQ Brew is held every second 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.

Big Design Conference—Now in its 18th year, this award-winning event is the premier gathering of design, tech, product, innovation, and AI in North Texas.

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.

DFW 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 DFW 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.

Incubators and Accelerators

The same dynamic landscape that fuels our largest companies also drives rapid growth for emerging companies. With numerous incubators and accelerators across Dallas-Fort Worth, startups have the support they need to grow and succeed.

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.



CreateFW

Health Wildcatters

Dallas
A 12-week mentor-driven seed accelerator focused on healthcare for 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. The first cohort started in 2024.



Where Imagination Becomes Reality

UK-based Merlin Entertainments chose NRH for their second North American Theme Park.

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. The first cohort started in March 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. The first cohort formed in February 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.

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.



Health Wildcatters at Pegasus Park

North Richland Hills

It's Easy Doing Business here.

Bring your business to centrally-located North Richland Hills (NRH), Texas. Our team stands ready to support you with a straightforward, streamlined path to success.



15 MIN

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



Selected by Merlin Entertainments for a 20-acre theme park next to NRH₂O Family Water Park.



Selected by Five Star Parks & Attractions for their first 139,000 square foot indoor theme park in Texas.



Two commuter rail stations in NRH that connect to both Downtown Fort Worth and DFW Airport.

Fourth largest City in Tarrant County with access to

500,000 people,
185,000 households,
18,000+ businesses and
200,000 employees

within a 15-minute drive.



Call the NRH Economic Development Office today to discover how our city can support your business growth.

817.427.6090
www.nrhed.com
nrhed@nrhtx.com