

## City of Dallas Office of Economic Development Strategic Plan Focus Groups

### **Business Incubators, Startups and Entrepreneurs**

Comprised of business incubators, organizations which are designed to help create and grow entrepreneurial companies and startups through an array of business support resources and services that could include physical space, capital, coaching, common services, and networking connections. This focus group includes managers of coworking spaces in Dallas, entrepreneurial mentoring and training programs.

### **Chambers of Commerce**

Comprised of Chambers of Commerce representatives within Greater Dallas. This focus group discusses business opportunities in Dallas, local economy initiatives and attracting new business and development.

### **Creative Industries**

Comprised of a collective of individuals representing entertainment industries including: music, art, television, film, animation, gaming, design, literature, production studios, entertainment attorneys and SAG/AFTRA. This focus group discusses the opportunities and challenges they face with doing business in Dallas.

### **Education**

Comprised of leaders in the education field. This focus group is a collaboration of representatives from Dallas ISD, colleges and universities, trade and technical schools, coding schools, charter schools and the Dallas County Community College District.

### **Grow South Fund**

Comprised of representatives from financial institutions, real estate, development companies and the Dallas Citizens Council. This focus group discusses Mayor Mike Rawlings' Grow South Initiative and economic development in the southern sector of Dallas.

### **Innovation**

Comprised of experts in technology, transportation, IT and networking. This focus group also includes representatives from Dallas Innovation Alliance, automobile manufacturers, Texas Research Alliance and Blackstone LaunchPad at UT Dallas-Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

### **International Strategy**

Comprised of members of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, strategic advisors, investment firms, asset management and financial services companies, international community leaders and development companies. This focus group discusses international connections to enhance the global stature of Dallas.

### **PID & TIF Managers**

Comprised of representatives from Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF) and Public Enhancement Districts (PID). A TIF is a special purpose district; a way for the City of Dallas to reinvest added tax revenue from new development back into the area where it originated. The TIF program is used to finance new public improvements in designated areas. A PID is a special district that allows for the City to levy a special assessment against properties within the district to pay for improvements to the properties within the district.

### **Real Estate Development**

Comprised of real estate professionals, developers and The Real Estate Council (TREC). This focus group advises on community transformation, policy and trends in the Dallas housing and real estate markets.

### **Site Selectors**

Comprised of consultants that advise on the process of choosing the best location for anticipated uses. This focus group discusses attracting and retaining businesses.

### **Small Business Capital Providers**

Comprised of banks, micro-lenders, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the Small Business Administration (SBA). This focus group discusses financial matters and lending practices for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

### **The Black Church and Economic Development Initiative**

Comprised of faith-based leaders, this focus group originated from a forum on the Black Church and Economic Development hosted by Senator Royce West in 2017. This focus group discusses economic justice, gentrification and ways to innovate and encourage entrepreneurial opportunities, specifically in the City's southern sector.

### **Workforce Development**

Comprised of representatives from workforce and industry-based training programs/certifications, employment services, adult education and supportive services organizations. This group discusses the resources needed to develop a strong and prepared workforce and addresses tackling poverty and inequities.

### **Young Leaders**

Comprised of young leaders actively involved in service to the City through initiatives and improvement projects. This group includes young professional in the education, legal, public safety, housing, innovation and impact investing fields.