



# AUSTIN'S INNOVATION DISTRICT

2018 Annual Review

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# Austin's Innovation District

## Mission

To support and encourage innovation among academic institutions, health organizations, companies, startups and entrepreneurs, developers, government, and creative individuals by combining strategic placemaking and programs that promote partnerships.

## Vision

An inclusive community where Austinites collaborate to create new models of health and economic growth for all.



**CAPITALCITY**  
I N N O V A T I O N

Capital City Innovation is the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is providing vision, strategic direction, advocacy, and synergy among the entities and individuals creating, growing, and sustaining Austin's Innovation District.

It was founded by Central Health, Seton Ascension, and The University of Texas at Austin and began operations in 2017.

# Letter from Capital City Innovation's Executive Director

Capital City Innovation was formed by Ascension Seton, Central Health, UT Austin, with support from the Downtown Austin Alliance and Opportunity Austin. It completed its first full year of operation in 2018.

Capital City Innovation (CCI) and its stakeholders have developed a strategy that builds a consortium of collaborators and district developers, starting with CCI's founding organizations. This past year, we were thrilled to have the National League of Cities include our collaborative approach among significant commitments being made by cities throughout the country.

While CCI might be new, the concept of Austin's Innovation District is not. Many organizations have contributed to the conversation and planning over a number of years, and you can see a timeline on pages 6-7 that outlines some key activities since its inception.

In our first year we have been working to convene Austin's innovators and advance awareness and activities in Austin's health and life science innovation ecosystem. In this year,

almost 3,000 people have engaged digitally or through events and partnerships.

But the stories of Austin's Innovation District are not CCI's – they belong to the creative individuals and innovative entities that are seeding Austin's ecosystem. They include CCI's founders, such as Dell Medical School, and also collaborators like Austin Community College, Huston-Tillotson University, and Waller Creek Conservancy. This review highlights some of the outcomes of their programs and efforts, assembled according to four pillars of activity that are key for creating a successful health innovation ecosystem in Austin: connecting innovators, investing in innovation, growing capacity, and creating place.

Ultimately the promise of the emerging Innovation District, which you can read about on pages 8-10, will be realized over many years. But we are excited to be moving forward with our partners to grow the next great creative hub in Austin.



*Chris Laing*

**Christopher Laing** MRCVS, PHD  
Executive Director

# Lineage of Austin's Innovation District

## 2012

Embracing Watson's vision, the voters of Travis County approved Central Health's Proposition 1, a property tax increase to invest in the community's health.

## 2014

Various individuals from Austin, representing diverse constituencies, visited and studied other innovation districts, such as Kendall Square in Cambridge, Mission Bay in San Francisco and the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto.

## 2011

Senator Kirk Watson laid out 10 Goals in 10 Years, a community vision for healthcare and economic prosperity. A medical school at UT, a 21st Century teaching and safety net hospital and healthcare innovation were key components of that vision.

## 2013

Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, in consultation with Senator Watson, established the "Innovation Zone Working Group" to study how best to stimulate innovation, creativity and economic activity in downtown that would be home to the new medical school and modern teaching hospital as well as Central Health's adjacent 14-acre property that was slated for redevelopment.

## 2016

Following the recommendation of the Innovation Zone Working Group, Capital City Innovation, Inc. is created by anchor institutions and Founding Members: The University of Texas at Austin, Central Health and Seton Healthcare Family.

Dell Medical School welcomes its first class of students.

## 2018

Capital City Innovation enters its first year of operation.

Austin answers National League of Cities call to action through its commitment to launch its Innovation District based on a sustainable, inclusive, coalition model.

## 2015

The Innovation Zone Working Group develops concept design that emphasizes economic opportunity, collaboration and Healthy Community.

## 2017

Capital City Innovation launches and hires an executive director.

The Downtown Austin Alliance and Opportunity Austin become participants.





# The Promise of Austin's Innovation District

When Austin collectively harnesses its creativity, something special results

Austin savvy was leveraged by Sematech and others to help make the region a worldwide technology hub, now home to Dell Computers, AMD, Silicon Labs, and the Army Futures Command. South by Southwest gave Austin's music scene a gravitational force that pulled in the world. It can happen again, now, with health, as a confluence of talent and opportunity offer the chance to make Austin's Innovation District a national center for health technology and innovation.



Innovation districts co-locate academic, business, and civic innovators within amenity-rich, mixed urban environments overlaid with programs that help them more easily collaborate and turn new ideas into new products. Examples include Kendall Square in Cambridge, where MIT, Novartis, IBM, and others collaborate, and Mission Bay in San Francisco, where UCSF, Kaiser Permanente, Bayer and others partner. These places are changing the world.

Austin’s opportunity is to revolutionize community health and vitality by leveraging its well-known academic and industry strengths in software, data analytics and device technologies and its growing capabilities in health and life sciences, including those centered at the new Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. This opportunity couldn’t be better-

nurtured than in Austin, which is known for its creative and entrepreneurial environment.

The city’s Innovation District is both a physical place and a framework for collaboration.

Its core is anchored by UT Austin, Central Health’s Brackenridge campus, and Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas. It blends with the adjacent Waterloo Park, the Red River Cultural District, and the Capitol. And it will grow to create a hub-and-spoke network that connects affiliated innovation sites across Austin, Travis County, and Central Texas.

It is also a carefully-curated and growing set of programs that bring together resources and expertise. They include flexible workspaces, business mentoring, accelerators, and workforce

### The 4 Pillars of Austin’s Innovation District



**Connection**



**Investment**



**Capacity**



**Place**

programs. These programs are the software to the venues' hardware. They catalyze consortium collaborations and they lower barriers to innovation.

We are at the start of a multi-year journey. It will take cooperation, investment, and coordination — so why do it? Austin is growing and thriving. If we do nothing, there will be development across the region.

### From Good to Great

The promise of Austin's Innovation District is not one of revitalization. It is about creating conditions that will make the most of our opportunities. It's about maximizing value along the four pillars of the Innovation District that you'll read about in this review: connection, investment, capacity, and place.

It is about going from good...to great.



Austins Innovation District

The Innovation District is chartered by a consortium of academic and civic stakeholders and place-makers. They share a common purpose, core principles, and a drive to spark innovation that inclusively supports community health and economic well-being. The consortium includes:

- The University of Texas at Austin
- Central Health (Travis County's health district)
- Ascension Seton
- The Downtown Austin Alliance
- Opportunity Austin

Capital City Innovation is the organizing entity charged with stewardship of the Innovation District consortium's vision, activities, and growth.

Join us to develop shared identity and communications tools, invite your stakeholders and tenants into a vibrant ecosystem, and participate in planning this unique and impactful Innovation District.

# Connecting Innovators

Innovation can't be scripted. Austin's Innovation District partners bring together creative people who might not otherwise cross paths. We want to focus their attention on big community problems that might not be solved without diverse perspectives and collaboration. Events, programs, and meetings lead to unexpected collisions and the initiation of relationships that are critical to innovation.

Central Texas is on track to become the country's next super-hub for innovation, and Austin's Innovation District will help us to get there. Most innovation centers are heavily specialized in one area – like gene therapy, agri-bio, or drone technology. But a few super-hubs drive world-changing innovation by combining strengths in multiple sectors. Austin's Innovation District leverages a convergence of engineering, computer science, and health and life sciences, putting us on a path to be the next super-hub.

“Our rising Innovation District brings new strengths in health and life sciences together with existing capabilities in engineering and data analytics. It is the convergence of one of the country’s pre-eminent academic institutions, The University of Texas at Austin, and a vibrant landscape of companies, supercharged by Austin’s creative and entrepreneurial culture.”

– Texas State Senator Kirk Watson





## Large Corporations Look to the Austin Ecosystem for Innovation

JLABS might be physically located in Houston – but they’re keeping a close eye on Austin

On a wet evening in mid-October, a crowd gathered at Capital Factory in Austin to hear from Kate Merton, Head of JLABS New York, Boston and Philadelphia, and a panel of successful innovators speaking to the importance of a collaborative and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Co-hosted by Capital City Innovation and Austin Tech Alliance, the event capped off a full day of meetings between the JLABS team and academic and startup innovators from Austin.

It's been six years since Johnson and Johnson Innovation opened its first JLABS incubator in San Diego. The idea is to provide a capital-efficient and flexible platform where emerging companies can transform the scientific discoveries of today into the breakthrough healthcare products of tomorrow. The group's 2018 impact report shows it's a vision they are realizing. To date, more than 450 companies are part of an ecosystem that spans 12 locations, and these companies have aggregated more than \$11 billion in financing.

JLABS opened its first (and, so far, only) Texas location in Houston in March 2016. The 34,000 square-foot facility, at the Texas Medical Center,

is home to the first JLABS prototyping center, complete with computer-aided design and 3-D printing tools. There are also common and private laboratories and offices.

There were two main reasons that J&J Innovation chose Houston for its fifth JLABS site, according to Tom Luby, Head of JLABS, Houston. The presence of MD Anderson, Baylor College of Medicine, Rice University and other healthcare institutions means that there is a large amount of basic science and clinical translational research coupled with an understanding of both patient and payer needs. But just as important is the investment that the nonprofit sector is making in innovation, says Luby.

"Texas Medical Center has been a great partner for what JLABS is trying to achieve. Their suite of important innovation programs – co-working, the TMCX accelerator, partnerships with other



Kate Merton speaks to attendees at Johnson & Johnson Meets Deep Tech, held at Capital Factory.





Networking post presentations by JLABs.

companies, events and networking – are critical to attracting and supporting innovation.” However, Luby is also quick to point out that Houston is a beach-head for J&J in Texas, where their proximity to Dallas, San Antonio, and of course Austin, each with their own strengths, offer great opportunities.

**“Austin has a world-renowned entrepreneurial culture, and its tech strengths are of particular interest to us,” says Luby.**

“There’s always been the potential for health innovation in Austin – but now with the Dell Medical School, its partnerships with healthcare systems and the community, and the planned

innovation district, the potential for translation and public-private collaboration is enormous.”

The evolution of the JLABS network has a history of regionality. For example, from a bulwark in Cambridge, MA, J&J Innovation in the Northeast has had a significant halo effect in adjacent markets. Starting with networking events hosted by partners in Philadelphia and New York, J&J has now established locations in both cities, as well as in Lowell, MA.

Back here in Texas, Capital City Innovation intends to continue its partnership with JLABS with additional events in 2019.

J&J is keeping an eye on Austin – and we intend to make it easy for them by highlighting the best of Central Texas.

Cover photo: Kate Merton, Head of JLABS @ NYC, Boston & JPOD @ Philadelphia, Lindsay Dills Director of Strategic Programs, BabyCenter, a Johnson & Johnson Company, Kim Bond-Evans Co-founder & CEO, Seremedi Inc., and Sara Brand, Founding General Partner, True Wealth Ventures.



# Getting in the Driver's Seat for Healthcare Access

Ford Smart Mobility and Community Leaders Imagine the Future of Patient Access and Mobility

When Ford Smart Mobility, which has an office in Austin, asked Capital City Innovation how it could get involved in the innovation district, it presented an opportunity to imagine how new technologies in both healthcare and transportation could create a model for delivering community-centered health.



While Austin's economy is growing rapidly, the region is also experiencing challenges in both affordability and mobility. Patients with limited mobility are less likely to seek or continue treatment and often have to miss appointments. These cancellations contribute to cost challenges for service providers and can exacerbate ongoing care issues.

In late Fall of 2018, Capital City innovation, Ford Mobility Solutions, and more than two dozen local public officials, non-profit and policy leaders, healthcare providers and representatives of healthcare systems attended a one-day summit and design-thinking workshop on mobility and healthcare access.

Although summit attendees were familiar with the challenges of healthcare access, the workshop represented one of the first times that stakeholders from across such a wide part of the healthcare spectrum have come together on this topic.

"One thing that really surprised me about the day was how similarly the different groups were thinking about this," says Nora Salinas, the manager of the Groceries to Go program at Meals on Wheels of Central Texas, an organization that serves more than 2,400 home-bound clients every month. "Yes, technology was a big part of our thinking, but the real focus came down to the community and social piece of the puzzle."

Greenfield Labs, the human-centered design team at Ford Mobility Solutions, facilitated the workshop. Design-thinking was at the core of the event, which included hearing from real patient

mobility providers and caregivers, and which involved participants generating and prioritizing various solution ideas in real time. Highlights included engaging communities and social networks, overcoming limitations to technology access, and tools such as data sharing, ridesharing themes and public WiFi locations.

### A Catalyst for Sustainable Innovation

"Collaborations like this are an important opportunity for Ford Smart Mobility teams to work directly with community leaders and individuals to understand which use cases are most important to them," said Kathleen Baireuther, Senior Manager for the Texas/Mountain region on the City Solutions team. "We are committed to building products that reflect the priorities of our partners and look forward to deepening this partnership in 2019."



Attendees at the Smart Mobility: Patient Access Workshop working together.

The idea is that the workshop will serve as a catalyst to overcome some of the challenges of healthcare access. The group intends to create online tools for sharing information, and to form working groups around a couple of the ideas that arose during the workshop. The greatest headwinds for the advancement of longitudinal collaboration are funding and sustainability.

“Creating the new, shiny object is sometimes the easy part,” says Sam Woollard, a participant in the workshop and coordinator at the Transit Empowerment Fund, an independent fund that partners with Capital Metro to focus on access to transit for low-income residents. “There has to be

a built-in discussion about how to sustain new models. We had a great group of people at the table – and now we need to do the hard work of convening them around sustainable solutions.”

With thanks to Madeline Shepherd, Ford Mobility Solutions, for drafting parts of this article.

Cover photo: Nora Salinas of Meals on Wheels of Central Texas, Stephanie McDonald of Central Health and Michele Van Hyfte of the Downtown Austin Alliance.



Attendees working together to prioritize challenges and solutions.

### Organizations that Participated

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Austin CityUp           | El Buen Samaritano        |
| Austin Public Health    | Integral Care             |
| Bank of Texas           | Ford Smart Mobility       |
| Baylor, Scott and White | (Chariot, GoRide,         |
| Health Austin           | Greenfield Labs)          |
| Capital City Innovation | Lonestar Circle of Care   |
| Capital Metro           | Meals on Wheels           |
| Central Health          | Profile by Sanford        |
| City of Austin          | Seton                     |
| CommUnity Care          | Texas Innovation Alliance |
| Downtown Austin         | Transportation            |
| Alliance                | Empowerment Fund          |
| Dell Medical School     | Travis County             |
| Design Institute for    | UT at Austin, Center for  |
| Health                  | Transportation            |

# Investing in Innovation

Innovation requires the right ingredients. The right combination of expertise, equipment, and funding turn a great idea into a product or service that can help those who need it. Austin's Innovation District consortium partners are investing in aggregating these resources through workspaces, accelerators, and incubators that ignite health and life science productivity here in Central Texas.

Innovation Districts leverage investment in our public institutions to accelerate community good via new products and services. While companies are responsible for bringing health products to market, 75% of new innovative treatments get their start with public financing. Innovation districts connect public dollars to private investment, accelerating the realization of new ideas and their ability to bring benefit to society.

“What excites me about Austin’s Innovation District is that it brings together diverse partners – world-class scientists, entrepreneurs, companies, and community organizations – from across the region. We envision a place where the work of those partners blends and synergizes.”

– Capital City Innovation Executive Director Christopher Laing





# Dell Med's WorkSpaces @ Texas Health CoLab Set to Graduate its First Company

Corporate spin-out is focused on community preventive health

Babson Diagnostics is a healthcare technology startup that aims to improve consumer experience in the blood testing process and to reduce the number of routine blood tests that are missed every year. By moving routine lab testing out of specialty centers and to the pharmacy counter, Babson aims to help more people seek the preventive care they need to remain healthy.

To achieve this, the startup has developed novel blood collection technology that allows simple capillary collection, single-step sample preparation, and automated processing and analytics.

Babson Diagnostics is the brainchild of Eric Olson, formerly the head of product for central lab business at Siemens Healthineers, where he spent about 17 years of his career. It was there that Olson first recognized the importance of putting customer experience at the center of diagnostics. Some of the underlying technologies and processes used by Babson Diagnostics were developed at Siemens, and spun out as a new startup in March 2017.

Babson immediately embarked on a nationwide search for its headquarters, with prospects including New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.—but it was Austin that caught their attention. Of course, the cost of doing business was a fundamental factor in the decision, but Austin had other compelling attributes as well. A fast-growing market that embraces innovation. An existing pool of laboratory, medical, and business expertise. And a mature entrepreneurial and collaborative ecosystem. The final decision was made after Austin’s Chamber of Commerce took the time to go to New York and meet with Olson.

Babson’s initial office space is located at the WorkSpaces @ Texas Health CoLab, a co-location space operated by Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin where companies work alongside academic innovators. Launched in October 2017, the WorkSpaces today host 24



The Health Discovery Building at Dell Medical School.

companies in areas that are compatible with Dell Med’s mission of rewarding value in health care, accelerating research and innovation, and redesigning the academic health environment, all with a focus on local impact. WorkSpaces members innovate in areas such as data analytics, devices, and oncology treatments.

### A Pipeline for Growth

“Babson was one of the first companies to land in the WorkSpaces,” says Ruben Rathnasingham, managing director of the Texas Health CoLab, “and is a great first graduate with their patient-centric diagnostic tools and approach.”

Olson points out that this opportunity to embed alongside research faculty and clinicians helped Babson refine and validate their product and has been a big factor in their success. In October 2018, the company closed a \$3.5 million financing

round. Its team has now grown to five people, with a mix of local hires and relocated subject matter experts. Babson is expected to be the first company to graduate from the WorkSpaces when it moves to a purpose-built facility in North Austin in early 2019.

But does Olson wish there was anything else?

“Well, we needed to go outside of Austin to find the right investors – we closed our round with venture capital from New York,” he says. “Austin’s investment community has its roots in tech – small bets placed in opportunities that are close to the market. This doesn’t work so much for major innovations in medical technology.”

Nevertheless, Olson is optimistic about Austin’s health innovation ecosystem.

“Austin’s healthcare community is growing rapidly, and the region is very attractive. It will nurture and attract health and life science entrepreneurs – and as that experience develops so will the investment pool. But Austin needs to be deliberate in this – in strategically building its innovation district.”

With more and more companies like Babson Diagnostics blossoming in Austin each year, this strategy is sure to be realized.

Cover photo: The Babson team in their news space.



Founder Eric Olson of Babson.





# Community Partnerships Drive Population Health

In the nearly three years since its founding the Center for Place-Based Initiatives has built a model for supporting and implementing health solutions proposed by and for residents of Central Texas communities

About 80% of what influences our health happens outside the clinic. That's why Lourdes Rodríguez, director of the Center for Place-Based Initiatives, collaborates with community innovators on solutions that impact health where it happens most: in our homes and neighborhoods.



The center, which started in 2016 as an initiative of the Department of Population Health at Dell Medical School, was formed through a gift from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. “Our approach is like a community potluck, where we set the table and invite community partners to create the menu,” Rodríguez explains. “We want to build a movement for health in non-clinical settings – for applying a health lens to everything.”

To date, the center has provided support to 24 projects, selected from more than 200 ideas submitted in response to its invitation. Among them are mobile markets providing rural residents with affordable, nutritious foods; inter-generational gardening projects; and mobile dental care for seniors. The proposal developers collaborate with the center’s five-person team to apply robust research methods to drive project development

and, in some cases, implementation.

One project the center supports is led by Marika Alvarado, a Lipan Mescalero Apache medicine woman who preserves and practices the healing methods of her mother and the *Curandera* who visited her home in her youth. She wants to integrate indigenous healing methods with healthcare. The center’s team is working with Alvarado to create a curriculum that will help her train community healers and has facilitated a series of indigenous healing workshops at Dell Med. Later this year, indigenous healing practices will be incorporated into clinical services at Lone Star Circle of Care at Collinfield, contributing to a more inclusive, culturally relevant health ecosystem.

Another example: The Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center and Travis Audubon Society wanted to encourage children to spend more



The Population health Team. Photo Credit Dell Med.

time outdoors. During project development, the team focused on a shared but underutilized 10-acre wilderness property in East Austin: Blair Woods. They devised a plan for new access points and signage to invite people in, trails and amenities to encourage people to stay, and partnerships with nearby elementary schools and churches to build community involvement. Rodríguez sees longer-term partnerships as a key focus for future work by the center: helping mission-based organizations to apply evidence-based logic models to meet their objectives for better community health.

This vision is reflected in the center's joint project with Youth Rise Texas, a nonprofit that supports teens affected by parental incarceration or deportation, and a participant in the center's 2018 call for ideas. The center is exploring a collaboration with the group on mental health

program planning.

"Our work with the Center for Place-Based Initiatives has been a game-changer for us, helping us build a strong base of empirical evidence for our educational interventions and policy platform," says Kandace Vallejo, executive director of Youth Rise Texas. "Our relationship is a true collaboration, not just a one-way street. Having the support of brilliant scholars and prestigious institutions like Dell Medical School enables us to increase our impact."

Rodríguez recognizes that it can be challenging to create truly substantive and equitable collaborations between academia and community. She points to simple ways that she and her colleagues have built trust, including meeting people where they are, accepting that it is the responsibility of the center to communicate how it can collaborate, and adapting to partner needs. Above all, she says, real collaboration requires a simple starting point: respect for the community.

Cover photo shows the Population in a brainstorming session. Photo credit Dell Med.

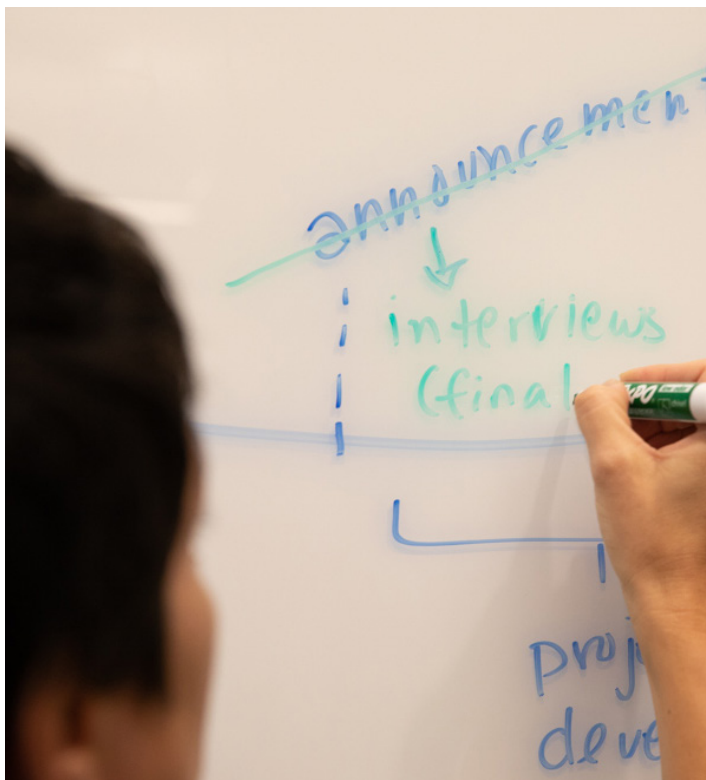


Photo Credit: Dell Med.





## Hiding in Plain Sight

Environmental Quality Operations is a startup that is cleaning up Texas waterways with the help of Austin Community College, Austin Technology Incubator, and Mass Challenge Texas - and it has big plans

John Higley first recognized the similarity between treating cancer and cleaning up the environment during a conversation with friends at a party, in 2012.



Russian Zebra mussels, brought over as stowaways, have been wreaking havoc in northeastern U.S. waterways since the 1980s. Soaking up micronutrients, they starve out native ecosystem inhabitants and clarify the water, encouraging toxic algal blooms. Their colonies block water treatment and energy plant pipelines, pumps, and turbines. An estimated \$7 billion is spent each year in mitigation.

Zebra mussels started showing up in Texas in 2009.

Higley, a molecular biologist who has worked with global and startup companies, realized that principles for developing cancer therapies could be adapted to clean up the environment.

“With cancer, the challenge is to kill only malignant cells, without harming normal cells,” Higley explains. “That’s just like dealing with invasive species in waterways - you have to detect rare occurrences and then selectively remove them before they get out of control.”

He founded Environmental Quality Operations (EQO) to address the problem of invasive species, starting with Zebra mussels. EQO’s approach not only detects the presence of mussels, but also assesses the state of the infestation - whether they are growing or responding to mitigation.

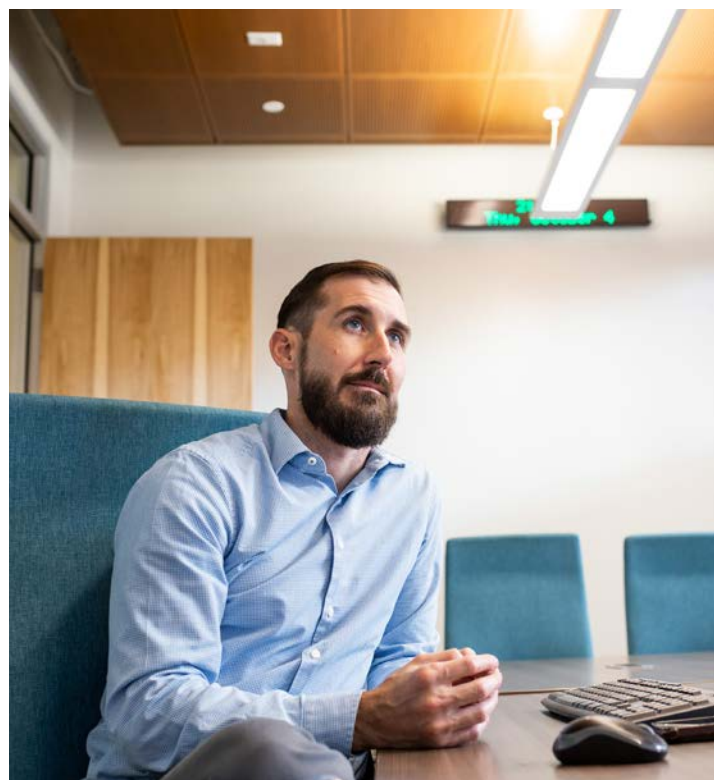
Higley moved the operations to Austin in 2017 in order to complete a project in Central Texas lakes, funded by a grant from the University of Nebraska where he was completing his doctoral research. He took up residence at the Austin Community College’s Bioscience

Incubator, a 10,000 square foot facility with shared equipment and business development programming at ACC’s Highland Campus. The incubator had its first-year anniversary in spring of 2018.

### Innovation at its Finest

“This is innovation at its finest, which is what ACC is all about,” says ACC President and CEO Richard Rhodes. Tyler Drake, the incubator’s director points out that “The facility allows life science entrepreneurs to move technologies from ideas to products. But it isn’t just about the infrastructure. We are also building a critical mentor and student network.”

Higley started going to ACC’s office hours with Austin Technology Incubator mentors, and credits them for helping EQO’s transition from



Tyler Drake, the Director of the ACC Bioscience incubator



a science project to a real business. They were bootstrapping, with friends-and-family funding and a small amount of angel investment, less than \$250,000 in total. But in 2018 they hired a chief scientific officer and a chief financial officer. And the year turned out to be a big one.

EQO set up pilot installations in Texas and Colorado through partnerships with Texas Parks and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Early results are promising, and they have since submitted a Small Business Innovation Research proposal to the National Science Foundation to scale their program. EQO was selected from among 400 companies for the inaugural Mass Challenge Texas program, which they subsequently won, receiving \$100,000 in prize money.

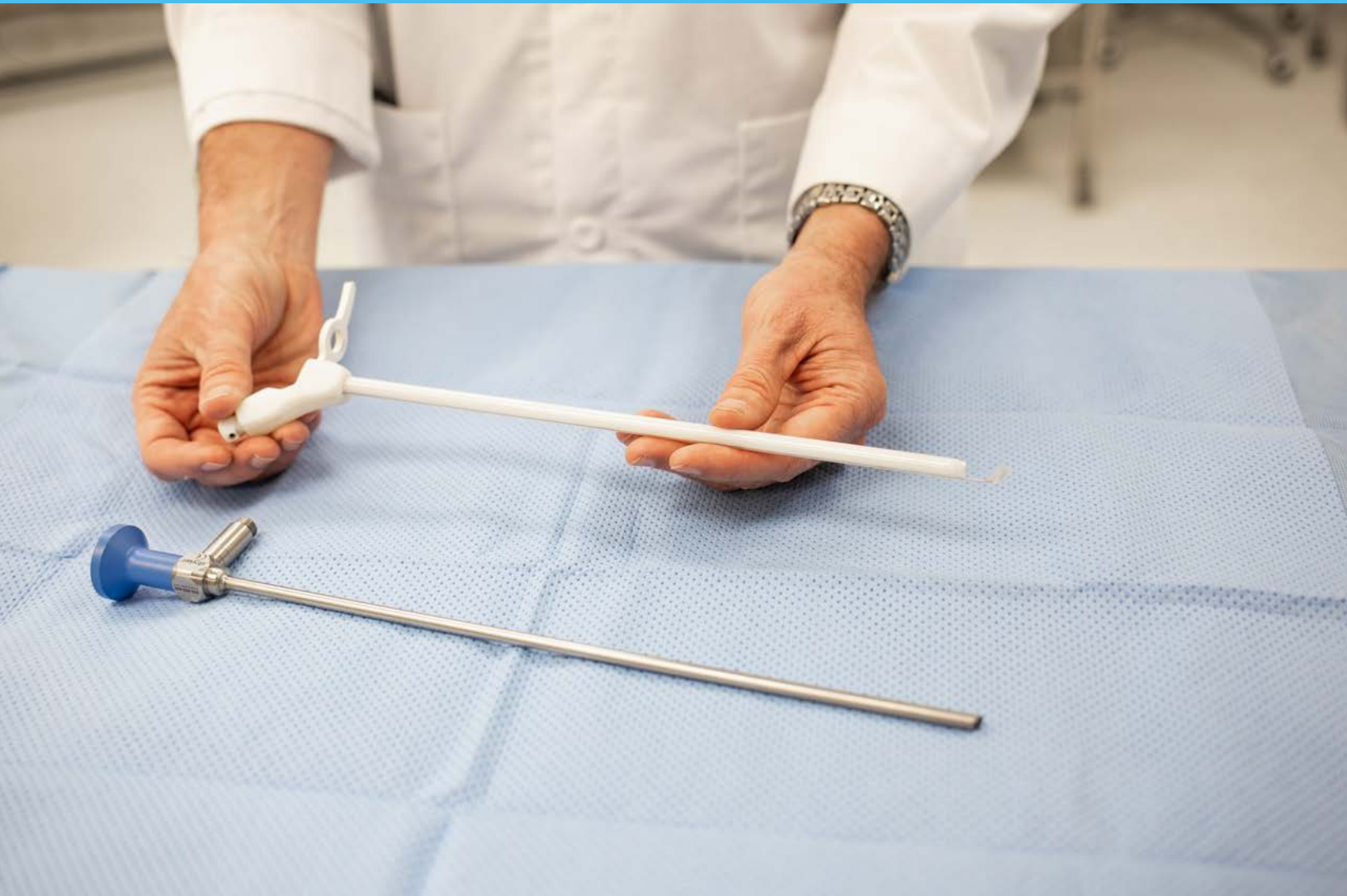
In 2019, EQO is focused on building sales of their monitoring system – they expect to reach \$1 million in revenues by the end of the year.

But they are also looking to the future, actively fundraising to set up more pilot sites and to develop their first eradication protocol for use alongside their monitoring system. If funded, they expect to hire scientists, engineers, and business personnel, primarily based here in Central Texas.

Cover photo shows the EQO team working the field. Photo Credit EQO.



Zebra Mussels. Photo Credit: EQO.



## A Medical Device Spinning Out from the University of Texas at Austin

Austin health innovation ecosystem programs help a young company on its quest to commercialize an important biomedical technology

Imagine a tiny windshield wiper on the tip of a surgical camera. That's basically what ClearCam, a startup company spinning out of The University of Texas at Austin, is developing.

Laparoscopy enables shorter, safer abdominal procedures. But the accumulation of debris and moisture on the camera lens is a problem that plagues laparoscopic surgeons because it can obscure the image. When that happens surgeons must stop the procedure and remove the camera to clean it.

In 2015, John Uecker, an associate professor in the Department of Surgery and Perioperative Care at Dell Medical School at UT Austin, posed this problem to students at the Cockrell School of Engineering: how could technology prevent or reduce the number of times the camera needs to be removed and cleaned?

“Being part of a comprehensive, Tier One research university enables critical interactions between clinicians, who understand the challenges in the operating room, and

engineering innovators, who can help to solve common problems,” says Uecker.

One student in particular, Chris Idelson, a PhD candidate, really took to the challenge. Idelson and his mentor Chris Rylander, associate professor of mechanical engineering, decided that the simplest approach was the best. They designed a miniature “wiper” that is inserted along with the camera, without any additional incisions or instruments, which cleans the camera lens whenever it gets dirty.

Idelson and Rylander took the idea and ran with it – taking advantage of a lot of programs and resources along the way. The Austin Technology Institute’s Student Entrepreneur Acceleration and Launch (SEAL) program gave Idelson his first taste of entrepreneurship. A seed grant from the Cockrell School of Engineering’s Innovation



The ClearCam Team including John Uecker, Chris Idelson, and Douglas Stoakley.



Center in 2017 enabled the team to launch their company, ClearCam, and to build their first prototypes. They also brought on board Doug Stoakley, an experienced entrepreneur introduced to them through the Innovation Center, to drive operations, fundraising, and business strategy.



Chris Idelson, one of the inventors of the technology.

In 2018, Rylander and Uecker got help for the next steps from Texas Health Catalyst, a Dell Med program operated in collaboration with the Cockrell School, College of Natural Sciences, College of Pharmacy and the Office of Technology Commercialization at UT Austin. The program, which supports researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs in accelerating the translation of innovations to health products, has awarded almost \$600,000 in funding to 16 projects, which have gone on to attract more than \$12 million in

follow-on investment. Perhaps most importantly, it has facilitated more than 5,000 hours of advice from industry leaders.

“We had to get very pragmatic about talking not only with doctors but also investors and industry people, who helped guide us on how to think about things like raising capital and commercializing,” says Stoakley.

**“Texas Health Catalyst really began to expose us to the world outside the university.”**

At the end of 2018, ClearCam leased space at Dell Med’s WorkSpaces @ Texas Health CoLab, in the heart of Austin’s Innovation District, where its team can continue to work alongside university collaborators.

And Idelson, who has just completed his PhD work, came on board full-time as ClearCam’s VP of Engineering. The team has also submitted its first Small Business Innovation Research grant to the National Institutes of Health. Stoakley hopes the company’s first clinical pilot projects will be initiated, in Texas, as early as Fall, 2019.

Idelson credits the many programs of the Austin health innovation ecosystem for catapulting the company along its so-far upward trajectory. And his advice to other young entrepreneurs just starting out? “Be flexible, and take advantage of every opportunity out there!”

Cover photo shows the ClearCam device.

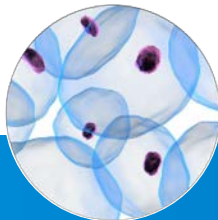




## An Open Enabling Platform



Small Molecule Drug  
R&D and Manufacturing



Cell Therapy and  
Gene Therapy



Drug R&D and  
Medical Device Testing

Research

Development

Testing

Clinical Trials

Manufacturing

Capital City Innovation would like to  
thank its supporter WuXi AppTec.

# Building Capacity

Innovation is a team sport. Austin's Innovation District partners are creating workforce programs that connect locally-trained people to new opportunities. The philosophy is to prepare for tomorrow's jobs, to facilitate local hiring, and to create pathways for professional mobility.

A strong health and life science ecosystem creates economic opportunities that Innovation districts are intentionally connecting to local communities. People who participate in innovation district workforce programs benefit from professional mobility and higher earnings. Austin's Innovation District seeks to open doors for people across Central Texas to health, data, laboratory, biomanufacturing and other careers of the future.

“We are a region of communities. And I’m excited that frameworks like the health and life science ecosystem are adopting a hub and spoke approach – opening doors of opportunity for the workforce in Travis County and beyond.”

– Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt



# Diversifying Health Sector Jobs In Central Texas

Impact Hub Austin's Workforce Accelerator Helps Create Pathways to Living Wage Jobs

When Jereka Thomas-Hockaday decided to advance her career and become a surgical assistant, she faced a dilemma. Central Texas didn't have a surgical assistant training program. So, she did her training by distance – from Tennessee and she resolved to fill this gap for future trainees.



Today, Thomas-Hockaday's 20-years in the health sector extends beyond the operating theater and into the classroom. She has spent four years training the next generation of allied health professionals in a variety of roles such as medical and surgical assistants, radiology techs and others who work alongside doctors and nurses.

Now striking out on her own, Thomas-Hockaday is launching the Central Texas Allied Health Institute (CTAHI). CTAHI is a non-profit focusing on allied health education for people from low-income neighborhoods around Austin who may not have previously had access to this type of training. Not only can CTAHI provide pathways to middle-skills, living-wage jobs, Thomas-Hockaday believes that increasing diversity among allied

health professionals will ultimately benefit the health of Central Texas communities.

CTAHI was one of nine organizations that participated in Impact Hub Austin's inaugural Workforce Development Accelerator from April to June, an innovation program supported by Capital City Innovation, Digi City, Google, JP MorganChase, Workforce Solutions Capital Area and others. Using the Austin Metro Area Master Community Workforce Plan as a guide, the accelerator supported companies in healthcare, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

### Investing in Our Workforce

Of the more than 99,000 people in Austin who are not earning a living wage, more than three-quarters of them are employed – they are the working poor.

"We're not currently doing a good job matching Austinites to middle class jobs," says Ashley Phillips, Managing Director of Impact Hub Austin. "That's one of the issues that the Workforce Development Accelerator seeks to address." She estimates that about five hundred people are in training, being trained, or placed in jobs due to the work of just the first cohort.

Thomas-Hockaday particularly emphasizes the exposure and connections she made while in the Accelerator, as well as the weekly mentoring, peer-learning, and workspace at Impact Hub's Monroe site.

Now graduated, Thomas-Hockaday is gearing up to open CTAHI's doors in the Fall of 2019.



Jereka Thomas-Hockaday describing her concept to Chris Laing during a mentoring session.

She expects it to offer up to eight programs, including, of course, Surgical First Assistant. Within a couple of years, she hopes that CTAHI will be graduating 280 allied health professionals per year.

“Austin has grown exponentially,” Thomas-Hockaday says. “And the strain is being felt on the floor of the clinics and hospitals – we need more staff for the caseloads. If Austin is going to get serious about being a premiere city, we’re going to have to be brave enough to invest in our health workforce.”

Still today, in Central Texas, the need for surgical

assistants far exceeds the number of training opportunities, creating a significant employment gap for acute care facilities across the fast-growing Capital Region.

With that sort of need, the future looks bright for CTAHI.

Cover photo: Ashley Phillips, Managing Director of Impact Hub and Jereka Hockaday-Thomas, Founder of the Central Texas Allied Health Institute.



Thomas-Hockaday at the Monroe Impact Hub coworking space.





# A New Type Of Apprenticeship

Dell Medical School's Health Leadership Apprentice Program turns the traditional approach to engaging students on its head by empowering participants to be agents of change

Inspired by bystanders who lament feeling helpless in emergencies, Claire Zagorski believes everyone should be trained to help a person who is bleeding. And she has perhaps done more than anyone to achieve that here in Austin.



Claire Zagorski studied anthropology at The University of Texas at Austin but has always been interested in health. So, when she graduated, she trained as a paramedic at Austin Community College and started to explore pre-med.

That's when she learned about the new Health Leadership Apprenticeship (HLA) Program at Dell Medical School. She applied to its first class immediately, assuming it would be a traditional internship. But she was in for a surprise!

### An Experiential Opportunity

"HLA is an experiential opportunity for students to engage with Dell Med's work in health care transformation," says Dr. Steve Steffensen, chief of the Learning Health System at Dell Med. "We designed it to be more equitable than other apprentice programs and to catalyze community leadership among our participants."

HLA was an instant hit. More than 500 applicants from across UT Austin competed for only 25 spots. And in 2018, when the program started giving course credit in partnership with 11 departments, it brought students with a variety of perspectives, from biology to engineering to Zagorski's anthropology.

The program creates student teams that work for a year to propose, design and implement a project aimed at improving health in the local community. Zagorski's team, for example — mentored by Dr. Nick Bryan, chair of the Department of Diagnostic Medicine at Dell Med — helped develop a decision-support tool for MRI brain scans.

Each participant is also required to engage in at

least one self-initiated project, which encourages them to pursue a personal interest alongside Dell Med faculty and staff. Zagorski's project was obvious — she wanted to empower bystanders to be helpful in emergencies.

At Austin's annual Trauma and Critical Care Conference hosted by Ascension Seton, Zagorski was inspired to bring an American College of Surgeons program called *Stop the Bleed* to Austin. *Stop the Bleed* trains bystanders to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives, much like CPR training in a cardiac arrest. Steffensen, who has a military background, was



Claire Zagorski

instantly supportive and worked with Zagorski to roll out *Longhorn Stop the Bleed*, starting at The University of Texas at Austin. Since it was first launched, *Longhorn Stop the Bleed* has trained

more than 2,000 people, and is now looking to expand across the city.

Zagorski, who is completing her Master's of Medical Sciences at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, a final step before medical school, is enthusiastic about her experience as a Health Leadership Apprentice. She would like to attend Dell Med.

"Dell Med's focus on the community is very aligned with my values," Zagorski says. "While my background is emergency, now I'm focused more on family medicine – I want to connect with patients' lives."

Community connectivity is exactly what Dell

Med's HLA Program was intended to facilitate for its participants. The participants – and their projects were diverse in 2018. They include David Biko, who worked on combating geriatric social isolation and loneliness with StreetCred and Senior Care Centers; and Mallory Culbert, who worked on utilizing YouTube for queer sex education with the Kind Clinic. These early experiences are leading to the program's expansion. Last year, the program was expanded to include students at Huston-Tillotson University.

Cover photo: Dr. Steve Steffensen, Claire Zagorski, and students from the HLA program.



David Biko, Clair Zargoski, Kristen Kristen Helmsdoerfer, and Robert Epstein from the HLA program.

# Example HLA Projects

**David Biko**

Spring 2018 HLA Cohort

Topic: "Combating Geriatric Social Isolation and Loneliness"

Worked with StreetCred and Senior Care Centers

**Mallory Culbert**

Spring 2018 HLA Cohort

Topic: "The Internet Raised Me: Utilizing Youtube for Queer Sex Education"

Worked with the Kind Clinic

**Robert Epstein**

Fall 2017 HLA Cohort

Topic: "GED Youth Health  
Education Program"

Worked with StreetCred and LifeWorks GED program

**Kristen Helmsdoerfer**

Summer 2018 HLA Cohort

Works with Community First Village serving meals to the community once per month





# The Future of Workforce Training Is Practical Engagement

A collaboration between Merck and Huston-Tillotson creates pathways for students to hone their skills by analyzing health data

Austin's oldest institution of higher education, Huston-Tillotson University, a private, historically black university, is also forward-thinking about opportunities for its students.

When Merck opened an IT and digital health office in Austin in 2017, Huston-Tillotson's president, Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, immediately recognized a partner that shared her institution's interest in diversity and innovation. So, in Spring 2018, Merck and Huston-Tillotson launched a course at the intersection of health and data analytics.

The program enrolled 11 undergraduates from biology, mathematics, and computer science programs. In addition to classes, students also worked on self-directed group projects, mentored by Merck and Huston-Tillotson professionals.

"We worked with large collections of data to see what we could find in them," says DeVon Rasch, a 2019 mathematics major.

One dataset available to the students was the Jackson Heart Study, an independent study which has tracked the health of African-American heart disease patients and their families for 15+ years. Rasch, a born-and-bred Austinite, has been intrigued by math and statistics for as long as he can remember. But his project with Merck allowed him to use data analytics to explore the intersection of socioeconomic and health. "I wanted to see how neighborhoods influence health. It was important to me that we were working with real data and that I was discovering new things."

Rasch credits Huston-Tillotson and Merck mentors with his positive experience.

The collaboration is the brainchild of Huston-Tillotson's Amanda Masino (associate professor of biology), Abena Primo (assistant professor of



Huston-Tillotson Students working on their data projects. Photo credit Huston-Tillotson.



computer science), Merck's Peter Lega (director of emerging technology), and Marc Sylvestre (former director of IT strategy and execution, now retired).



DeVon Rasch, Huston-Tillotson alumnus and Merck employee.

"We want STEM majors to have real-world experiences," says Masino, also director of HT's STEM Research Scholars Program. "This collaboration bridges single discipline teaching and interdisciplinary team work, which is more relevant to the workplace."

### Real World Experience

Oluwaseyi Adediwura couldn't be more different from Rasch. Adediwura is from Nigeria and came to Huston-Tillotson in 2015 with a background in biology. Data science was new for him and he never put computer science, math, and biology together. But, like his classmate, he points to the program as a key to his immediate future.

"Interviewers kept asking about my experience with Merck," Adediwura says. He has received four job offers but when he graduates in 2019 he will join PayPal in San Jose as a software engineer. His only regret is leaving Austin – but he's adamant he'll eventually return. "Central Texas is growing too quickly for companies to ignore – I'm hoping I can help them look at the opportunities here," he says.

Rasch's graduation pathway will be shorter. After considering several job offers he's accepted a position at Merck in Austin, working on "edge technologies". With two children under the age of three, he's excited that he can stay in his hometown and still work on emerging technology.

And that's just what Merck had hoped all along. "Austin has a rich talent pool and a deep bench of universities and colleges," says Heather Paffe, who heads up external affairs for Merck in Austin. "We want to engage with this robust learning community to create career paths for students and early-in-career professionals."

The program will enroll 10 new students this Spring, and students from last year, including Rasch, will return as peer leaders for the new cohort.

Cover photo: Associate Professor Amanda Masino and the students of the 2018 program.



# Creating Place

Innovation needs a home. The environment is an important catalyst. Austin's Innovation District consortium partners are creating vital, coordinated places that are intentionally inclusive and that encourage creative enterprise. They are the convergence of academic, civic, public, entrepreneurial, and entertainment precincts. And they continue to connect via a hub-and-spoke network throughout Travis County and Central Texas.

Austin's Innovation District will be more than an extension of the existing business district — it will be “downtown-plus.” Innovation districts across the U.S. generate significantly greater returns, up to a third greater, compared with adjacent business districts in the same city. This is true even in the hottest property markets. This value can drive community amenities and regional benefit.

“Austin is known the world over for its vibrant and creative entrepreneurial culture. The emergence of its health and life science Innovation District is an exciting step into a future where we are collaborating to think about inclusive health and inclusive economic growth.”

– Austin Mayor Steve Adler

# CCI's Health & Life Sciences Affinity Group

In 2018 we assembled partners from across Central Texas that are providing resources, programming, and space for innovators in the health and life sciences to thrive.

## Our Affinity Partners are:

- ACC Bioscience Incubator
- Austin Technology Incubator
- Dell Medical School Texas Health CoLab
- Drug Dynamic Institute
- Texas State University's Star Park
- Temple Health & Bioscience District

## 6

Health and life science collaborators

## 53K

Square feet to support innovation

## 37

Companies

## 151

Employed

## \$65M

In risk capital deployed







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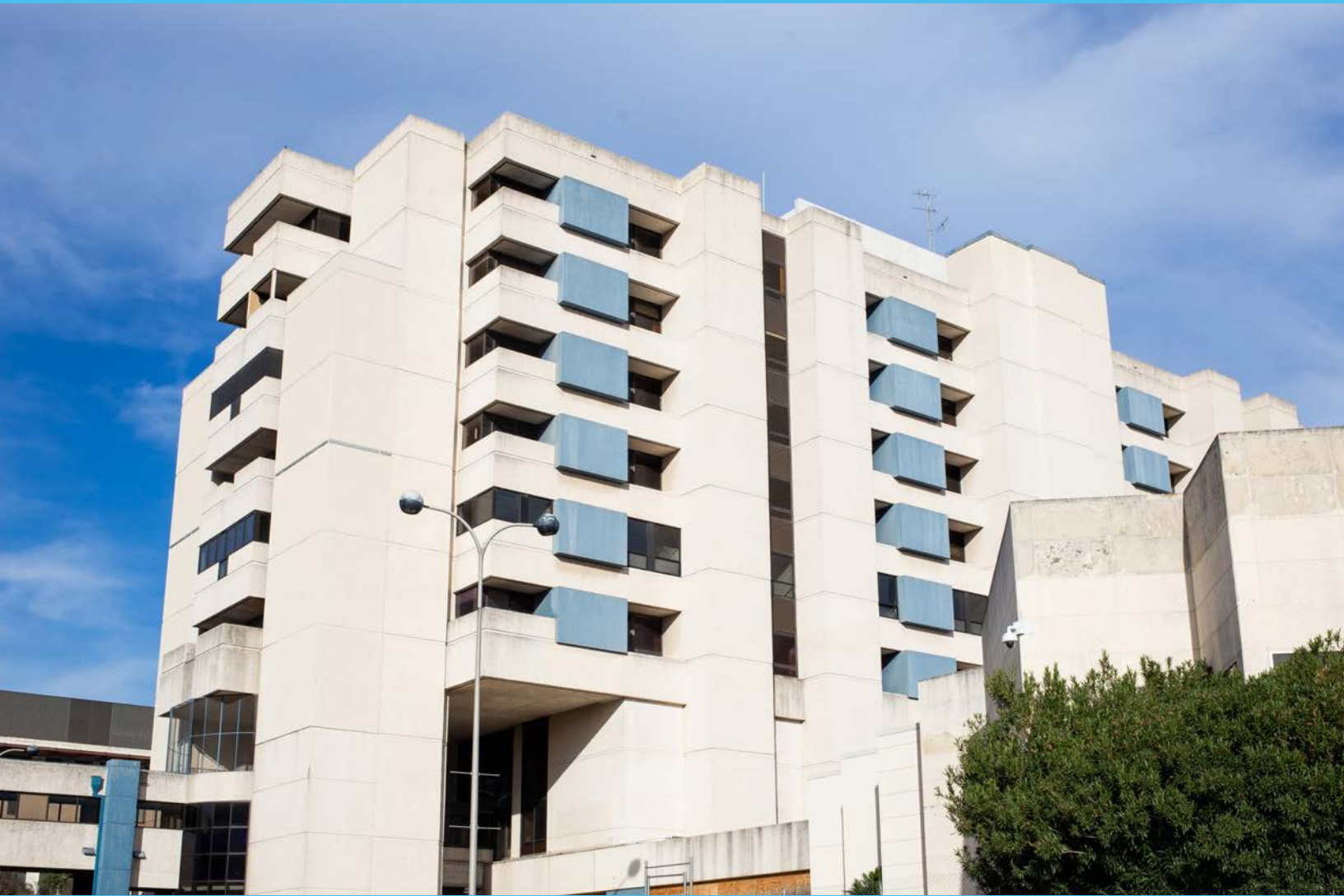
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Capital City Innovation would like to  
thank its supporter Husch Blackwell.



# Austin's Innovation District Begins to Take Shape

The core of a collaborative health-focused Innovation District in Austin has achieved significant steps in 2018 within the context of an exciting set of downtown plans

In May 2017, University Medical Center Brackenridge closed. The site had been home to the community's safety-net hospital for more than 130 years. It was replaced by Dell Seton Medical Center at the University of Texas.

With this move, the residents of Travis County started in a bold and decisive new direction in getting and keeping the community healthy.

The new Dell Seton is the result of a partnership between the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, Ascension Seton, and Central Health, and places a substantial focus on helping make health happen in the community.

The partners recognize that charting a new course for health requires an “all-hands” approach – between academia, health systems, government, community groups, corporations, and entrepreneurs.

Central Health’s Downtown (Brackenridge) campus is the logical starting point. While the Innovation District will grow to include adjacent

locations and become a hub-and-spoke network across the region, the Brackenridge campus is a core for health innovation for the community.

2018 saw several significant steps in the realization of this vision.

After a potential master developer withdrew in February 2018, a local non-profit working with The University of Texas at Austin opened the door to the Innovation District’s first development by leasing from Central Health two of the six blocks on the 14.3-acre site.

“Our priority in redeveloping the campus is to fund Central Health’s mission. The revenue from the Brackenridge campus is a means of providing health care services for Travis County residents with low income,” said Central Health President



Brackenridge details.



and CEO Mike Geeslin. “This gives stable, near-term cash flow for access to healthcare – while supporting community-identified priorities.”

## Creating Value

Central Health’s decision to begin development of the Brackenridge campus in this way draws from substantive prior experience. In other urban centers, innovation district development commands premiums – in some cases up to 33% more compared with adjacent, unaligned business districts. Companies recognize the value of nearby universities and of programmed innovation activities that facilitate collaboration. This premium return can fund community priorities, like Central Health’s mission to improve the health of our community.



District Resources.

The first building on the Brackenridge campus will be across Red River Street from Waterloo Park. It is expected to break ground in summer 2019 to house operations for Dell Medical School as well as to provide space for mission-aligned, collaborative innovation by companies.

Central Health is keeping its options open on the remaining 10 acres of Brackenridge. Additional developments here, and at other sites that could join the Innovation District, are anticipated to include commercial space, retail, non-profit uses, and innovation programming such as community and collaboration space, training venues, and creative enterprise workspace.

The Brackenridge project synergizes and integrates with several other district developments that are underway. Phase 1 of the Capitol Complex redevelopment, immediately to the west, has already broken ground. And Waterloo Park, which is being rejuvenated as downtown’s largest public green space, is expected to open in 2020. UT Austin’s health district expansion, which includes the demolition of the existing Frank Erwin Center, is in its planning phase.

One thing’s for sure – the northeastern part of downtown will become an exciting anchor for health and community in Texas’ future.

Cover photo: The tower of the University Medical Center Brackenridge



## Red River Cultural District: Preserving Austin's Live Music Roots

The Red River Cultural District seeks to give businesses that are preserving Austin's music legacy a voice in our region's development

Urban revitalization through the establishment of cultural districts is a trend that has grown in popularity since the mid 1990s. Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and, more recently, Indianapolis have each rejuvenated and expanded the cultural centers of their cities through the creation of trusts and public-private partnerships.



These cities recognize that not only does this draw residents and visitors to cultural attractions, it also cultivates a vibrant environment that is attractive to nearby businesses and their employees.

Where Austin is lucky is that it already has a thriving, historic music district. Clustered in a strip along Red River street from about 6th to 9th streets are some of the city's most famous and significant music venues.

"If Austin's Innovation District didn't already have a cultural element like Red River, we'd be trying to create it," says Dewitt Peart, President and CEO of the Downtown Austin Alliance.

This strip of Red River has always been a gritty and diverse downtown experience. Originally a series of subcultures created the vibe – the venues tended to be very "niche". Groups of people would hang out at the same venue, like cliques. That worked when Austin was small, but as the city has grown and become more expensive, it became more important for venues to broaden their customer bases and eventually to begin working together to preserve the district amid rapid development.

Last year, the Red River Cultural District, a merchant's association formed in January 2016 with the help of Souly Austin, the City of Austin's business incubator, named Cody Cowan as its first executive director.



The Red River Cultural District during the day.



An Austin native, Cowan grew up in Zilker – an Austin neighborhood that has historically been very popular among artists and musicians. He got involved in the music scene with friends – many of whom own and run Austin venues or events today.

After graduating from The University of Texas at Austin in 2008, Cowan joined Mohawk, eventually becoming its general manager, where he focused on combining its creative success with sound business performance.

“I was proud to bring integrity to the live music business, modeling an ideal of what the business & culture could be,” he says. “I imported transformative models of leadership that I experienced from my counterculture upbringing.”

It was during his time at Mohawk that Cowan and



The Mohawk. A Red River Cultural District Staple.

several of his fellow venue managers and business owners along Red River started recognizing that while they were focused on strengthening internal characteristics of their businesses, they were neglecting external opportunities. There was a general feeling that they wanted more of a voice in the region’s development.

### Austin’s Live Music Experience

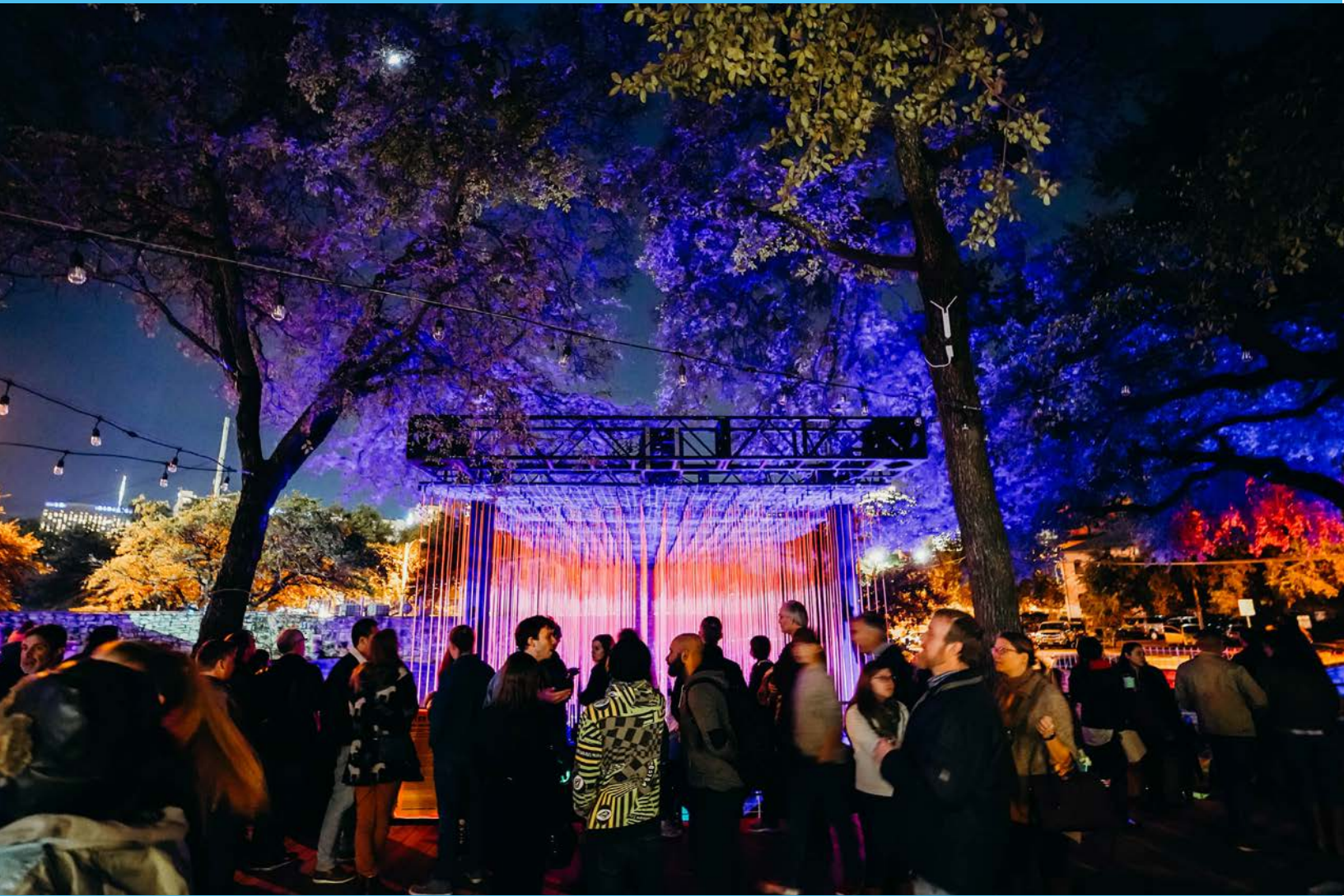
This led to the creation of the Red River Cultural District. The organization’s charter is to engage in community development, tackling neighborhood challenges, and business development for its members. The organization has grown from 20 to 42 members -- almost all of them merchants in the district -- including Barracuda, Cheer Up Charlie’s, Empire Garage + Control Room, Mohawk, and Stubb’s.

Looking ahead, the Merchant’s Association will focus on equity and diversity. It plans to roll out strong and targeted marketing of the district and increase awareness. It will also propose policy solutions that work for both the music and non-music communities in the neighborhood.

Asked about his vision of success, Cowan says “we want our district to be internationally recognized as the center of Austin’s live music experience.”

And this can only be good for Austin’s Innovation District.

Cover photo: Cody Cowan, Red River Cultural District executive director on Red River Street.



## Where Conservation and Innovation Meet

The Waller Creek chain of parks, the green “spine” of the Innovation District, reached a number of significant milestones in 2018, including increased engagement, advancing its physical presence, and securing funding for the future of this important project

With more than 37 -acres and three miles of hike and bike trails planned from Lady Bird Lake to 15th Street, the linear urban greenbelt that is Waller Creek will track through the heart of the Innovation District. But it is more than a passive set of open parks. The planned project includes educational programming, arts, and culture.



The greenbelt is both a conservation area and a vital part of the Innovation District. Like Bailey Park and the Innovation Quarter in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the conservation and innovation portions are synergistic.

Peter Mullan believes that what is good for the neighborhood is good for the whole city, and *vice versa*. He is the president and CEO of the Waller Creek Conservancy, the non-profit organization that is developing an extraordinary chain of urban parks and public spaces along the restored Waller Creek in downtown Austin.

“Projects like the High Line in New York City and Waller Creek adapt to urban geographies, but they also give their neighborhoods focus and form,” Mullan says. “They are rooted in history, and they provide significant character to their

surroundings.” Before joining the Waller Creek Conservancy, Mullan was executive vice president of the Friends of the High Line.

Mullan noted that Waller Creek has achieved several milestones in the past year and is on track to realizing its potential as a significant, inclusive community amenity.

He attributes the surge of engagement to a few related factors. The first is the growth in popularity of the annual Creek Show event, which drew 50,000 attendees this year and included new features like live, local music performances. The second is another milestone realized by the Waller Creek Conservancy in 2018 – the opening of their new headquarters and community hub at the freshly renovated Symphony Square.



Planned redevelopment of Waller Creek in Downtown Austin. Photo credit Waller Creek Conservancy.



In addition to the Conservancy's offices, the new headquarters also has a number of indoor event spaces and an amphitheater, giving Waller Creek Conservancy the opportunity to begin building out and testing their programming models. They are already hosting events both by local and national organizations, establishing the site as a platform for the community and galvanizing people and organizations to come to the creek for their own reasons.

In spring 2019, the Conservancy will begin offering its own programming at Symphony Square, including films, talks and exhibits. Their starting point will be a 250-foot linear gallery displaying the works of 25 artists, *New Monuments for New Cities*. The installation is part of a collaboration led by the High Line Network and will also travel to Houston, Chicago, Toronto, and New York City. This year, there will be more reasons than ever to visit the east-side of downtown.

In May 2018, Austin City Council approved the amendment of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) mechanism to support the project, enabling \$110 million in bond financing against future revenues expected to be realized as a result of an increased tax base. Funding will be used to complete the physical development of Waterloo Park and the other 26-acres of parkland, and to maintain and activate the sites. The Waller Creek Conservancy has committed to raise the remaining \$100 million in private financing expected to be needed for the project.

Cover photo: Creek Show, 2018. Photo credit Waller Creek Conservancy.



The renovated Symphony Square. Photo Credit Waller Creek Conservancy.

# Capital City Innovation

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[Our Board](#)

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[Founding Organizations](#)



## Our Team

### **Christopher Laing**

Executive Director

As executive director of Capital City Innovation, Laing leads an organization that is coordinating the stakeholders of the innovation district emerging around Austin's new health complex. Previously, he was a member of the senior management team of Philadelphia's University City Science Center, the country's oldest and largest urban innovation hub, where he had specific oversight of commercialization programs, startup investment, and business incubation/acceleration.

### **Victoria O'Dell**

Program and Communications Manager

Victoria O'Dell is Program and Communications Manager of Capital City Innovation. A native of Mesquite, Texas she brings together diverse stakeholders to recognize the potential we have to transform the way we approach health in Austin and beyond. As an advocate for open government, open data, and civic technology, O'Dell believes residents, businesses, and government can together design resilient communities.



# Our Board

## **Ray Anderson**

Senior Vice President and  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Ascension Seton

## **Stephanie McDonald**

*Board Secretary*

Chief of Staff  
Central Health

## **Kerry Hall**

President, Austin Region  
Texas Capital Bank  
and Board Director,  
Opportunity Austin

## **Dewitt Peart**

*Board Treasurer*

President and CEO  
The Downtown Austin Alliance

## **Maninder “Mini” Kahlon**

Vice Dean, Health Ecosystem  
Dell Medical School  
The University of Texas at Austin

# Financials

## Combined statement of FINANCIAL POSITION

For year ending December 31, 2018

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$892,581
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Accounts receivable	\$250
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Total current assets	\$892,831
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Total Assets	\$892,831
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### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	\$473,489
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Accounts Payable	\$25
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Total current liabilities	\$473,514
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Total Liabilities	\$473,514
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#### Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets	\$419,317
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$892,831
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## Combined statement of ACTIVITIES

For year ending December 31, 2018

### REVENUES

Contributions and sponsorships	\$664,000
--------------------------------	-----------

Total revenues	\$664,000
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### EXPENSES

Strategy development, engagement, communications	\$208,573
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Programs	\$120,834
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General and Administrative	\$138,213
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Total expenses	\$467,620
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Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$196,380
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These consolidated summaries are extracted from the unaudited financial statements for Capital City Innovation as at December 31, 2018, which are available upon request.

# Founding Organizations



# Supporters





