

NEWS FROM THE HUMAN CAPITAL



Austin
The Human Capital

Austin Chamber of Commerce

Texas Tour: Austin Entertains to Build Business

Site selectors from across the country gathered in Austin in early March for the second annual Tour of Texas, a signature event put on by the Economic Development and Tourism division of the Governor's Office in conjunction with the Austin Chamber. The full-day event focuses on the best of what Central Texas has to offer. The tour aims to create a lasting impression of the Austin region that illustrates its diverse regional economy, vibrant culture and all-around potential for business growth.

This year's tour included selectors from across the U.S., specializing in an array of industries. The tour included a regional welcome lunch, a facility tour and case study of Dimensional Fund Advisors' headquarter relocation to Austin from Santa Monica and a literal overview of Greater Austin via helicopter. The evening concluded with a dinner and tour of the Austin City Limits studio, featuring musician Carolyn Wonderland.



Featured Real Estate

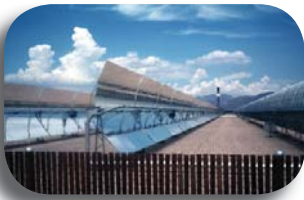
Aspen Lake

Built on a 50-acre lot, the Aspen Lake property features more than 205,000 square feet of premier luxury office space. Development in this area benefits from the recently-completed highways 183A and 45 North as well as the new-to-Austin commuter rail line.

Located just 15 miles from downtown, housing and amenities are plentiful. With a handful of other office projects slated for the area, Aspen Lake will be distinguishable as the highest class office site of the bunch.

For more information about developments highlighted by the Austin Chamber visit: www.austinchamber.com/DoBusiness/RealEstate

Chamber Announces Austin Smart Grid



Austin, Texas, the capital of the Lone Star state, is known for its high-quality of life, outdoor activities, live music scene and entrepreneurial spirit. A community with a strong commitment to the environment, Austin is also recognized as one of the leading "green" communities in the country. Ready and willing to make its mark as the clean energy capital of the world, Austin has been taking steps to further capitalize on its ability to create and maintain green collar jobs, especially in energy.

The landmark Smart Grid Project is bringing together the City of Austin, Austin Energy, University of Texas, the Austin Chamber and the Environmental Defense Fund to design the energy system of the future. These companies are working together to develop the infrastructure and technology needed to position Austin as a clean energy hub.

Austin Weathering Economic Storm



While many parts of the country has been affected negatively by the economic downturn, those in Texas, especially Austin, may weather the storm better. *Forbes*, in conjunction with Moody's Economy.com announced in October that Austin was ranked No. 1 "Best Bang for the Buck" city. Austin topped the list, but San Antonio, Dallas and Houston follow close behind.

Texas' manufacturing sector has grown in recent years, and its reputation for affordable housing continues to be a deciding factor for those moving to Central Texas. In addition to affordable housing, other factors that made Texas a valued city included: relatively low gas prices, sluggish inflation and a vibrant job market.

Inevitably every city will feel the strain, but Austin continues to weather the storm and is expected to turn around quickly.



"Texas, as a whole, is one of the few economies performing extremely well because of the energy and technology sectors."

-Andrew Gledhill, Moody's Economy.com

The Austin Chamber takes Central Texas to the Next Level

Opportunity Austin 2.0 "Taking Austin to the Next Level" (2009 - 2013) officially began implementation on January 1 of this year. The five-year goal of this economic development initiative is to generate 117,000 new jobs and \$10.8 billion in new wages by 2013. Fundraising for the \$21 million program is ahead of schedule, a true accomplishment in the challenging times across the country. To date 255 companies have pledged over \$16.5 million towards the goal of \$21 million. Nearly 140 of the original investors in Opportunity Austin (2004 - 2008) have increased their contributions by 62%. Fundraising is scheduled to conclude early summer of 2009.

Austin Hosts Delegates from Around the World

Economic Development staff from the Austin Chamber recently hosted a number of international delegations to the Central Texas region. This February the Chamber held a Business Round Table with the Thai Embassy to discuss the Thai economy, political state and investment opportunities. Patrice Lefeu, organizer for the World Investment Conference, recently visited and toured the Austin area as well.

The Chamber also had the opportunity to host a delegation from the State of Niedersachsen, Germany in which twenty companies toured Austin and attended a networking reception with members of the regional business community. Each of the delegations and international visitors gained knowledge and appreciation for the Central Texas region and discovered the many reasons why Austin is the Human Capital.

Jump on the Bandwagon: SXSW celebrates 23 years in Austin

South by Southwest (SXSW) is an internationally acclaimed 10-day, music, film and multimedia event showcasing more than 1,800 musical performances of all genres from across the globe on more than 8 stages in downtown Austin. Each day, SXSW features multimedia and music industry exhibitions, educational panel discussions and workshops, while the evenings are dedicated to celebrating the creativity and enthusiasm behind some of the most progressive and traditional forms of music and film.

Taking place March 13-22, this year's SXSW will hold a 3-day film/music tradeshow and introduce a Flatstock Poster Show, which will exhibit art from more than 100 artists. They are also extending hours on the ScreenBurn Gaming Arcade, which allows the public to roam and explore some of the newest inventions to hit the high-tech market.



Austin in the News

Austin-Bergstrom tops airport survey. Airports Council International (ACI) announced ABIA as one of the top performing airports in its Airport Service Quality Survey. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport ranked third in North America, as well as third for its size among airports around the globe.

(ACI, 3/09)

Austin ranks 10 in job creation. The Austin area added 6,200 private-sector jobs in the 12-month period between November 2007 and November 2008—the 10th biggest gain in metro employment in the country—according to recently released figures.

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1/09)

Cooler North American Cities. Austin was named one of America's 15 coolest cities. Whether you're looking for world-class museums, breathtaking architecture, lush parks and gardens or vibrant nightlife, Austin has it all.

(MSN Travel, 1/09)

Recent Expansions and Relocations

January - February 2009

BAE Systems	25 jobs 33,000 sf	Expansion in Austin, TX
Gerson Lehrman Group	50 jobs 10,000sf	Expansion in Austin, TX
Integrated Bank Technology	17 jobs 4,000 sf	Expansion in Cedar Park, TX
Red Oxygen	12 jobs	Relocation from Brisbane, Australia
SmartSpark Energy Systems	20 jobs	Relocation from Champaign, IL
Sony Online Entertainment	13,500 sf	Expansion in Austin, TX
St. Jude Medical	20,000 sf	Expansion in Austin, TX
Touch International	100 jobs	Expansion in Austin, TX
Viryd Technologies	20 jobs	Expansion in Cedar Park, TX
2009 Total	244 jobs	

Announced Company Layoffs

January-February 2009

Asuragen	30 jobs
Spanion	163 jobs
Acuity Lighting Austin	34 jobs
Freescale	90 jobs
Google	30 jobs
HelioVolt	15 jobs
Samsung Austin Semiconductor	19 jobs
Sun Microsystems	19 jobs
2009 Total	400 jobs

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