



MCKINNEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

September 12, 2013

To: MEDC Board

From: John Valencia

Director of BRE & ET Programs

Subject: September 17, 2013 MEDC Board Meeting; BREP Report/Update

Business Retention & Expansion Program

On the retention side, all is good and we haven't heard of anyone leaving. So that is good!

We are now fully engaged in the StatLab expansion and even though early in the process, lots going on.

On Emerson - They're moving in! On Monday, September 9th, employee move in started. They received their Temporary CO the day before and so the move began. In speaking with Ira Dalhman, VP Human Resources, all was proceeding pretty well and all are very excited. Now they just have to get organized, back to work and prepare for the November 8th community open house!

Major Employer Surveys

One of the key elements of the BRE Program is Major Employer Surveys. To date, I am actively working thirteen companies to which I have eight completed. This effort continues and ongoing.

Emerging Technology

Emerging Technology Program updates: At this time I am having discussions with three different companies. The three companies do not meet The Collide Center criteria based on their size, and so will be evaluated as BREP & ET program candidates. One of the companies will be presenting today. Activity has certainly picked up since The Center has opened.

Today marks the three month anniversary of the opening of The Collide Center. At this time we have 18 resident companies, one anchor tenant (Curious Complex) and the Boss Fight Entertainment group upstairs. All toll, we have 60 people in and out since we opened with more applications on deck and a few more waiting in the wings. The Collide Corridor is functioning as our “break room” and “extra space” at the moment, as not all of the furniture is in yet. The Cotton Mill is also in the process of refinishing the floor so, until we have it all put together, we are not “formally” announcing the public opening, but hope to do so in the next week or so. In any event, we do have the CO and are able to use it.

On August 29th The Collide Center hosted the Tech Cocktail Dallas event. It was attended by nearly 225 people and was a wonderful success. The Tech Cocktail group has already asked us if we would like to host the 2014 events in May and August.

About Tech Cocktail

Tech Cocktail is a media company and events organization for startups, entrepreneurs, and technology enthusiasts. Since 2006, its goal has been to amplify local tech communities and give entrepreneurs a place to get informed, get connected, and get inspired. Tech Cocktail dedicates itself to covering news, how-to's, up-and-coming startups, and industry trends online, and hosting events in over 20 cities in the US and abroad.

From a simple community-building event, Tech Cocktail has transformed into a full-fledged media company with thousands of fans, followers, and supporters across the globe. Tech Cocktail has hosted local mixers, breakfasts, conferences, festivals, and other events around the country that have attracted thousands of attendees, educating entrepreneurs as they showcase their latest achievements and the local technology communities they live in.

Working with Tech Cocktail has helped startups find employees, co-founders, funding, and even acquirers. Tech Cocktail has hosted events in Chicago, DC, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Boulder, Austin, and more. A better informed, recognized, and connected tech community is possible through Tech Cocktail.

75 Construction Communication - Most recently we have heard some rumblings about the current construction and schedule, primarily in the Eldorado Plaza area. This past week I have been “making rounds” and just touching base. Of course my first question is “how’s business?” Interesting enough it’s actually mixed. I don’t hear great things, but the negative side isn’t catastrophic. They say good days and bad. Chipotle has been my outlier if you will. The manager of Chipotle, Cecilia, says business fell off a little when the construction started, but at this time is back where they were and doing pretty well. It is important to note that Cecilia has been with the restaurant since it opened in McKinney. I highlight this particular restaurant because if you know where they are, they are tucked way back in the corner right next to it all! Anyway, I continue to get around and allow them to have me as a sounding board. Haven’t got to them all, but I am making the rounds to let them know we are trying to address their concerns and meet their specific needs as they arise.

The Team here continues to work hard in promoting our wonderful community. These are exciting times and we are blessed to be a part of McKinney!

Respectfully Submitted,

John Valencia

Director of Business Retention, Expansion & Emerging Technology
MCKINNEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.