

BLUEPRINT 
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting People & Places
Oct 1, 2022 - Sept 30, 2023



BLUEPRINT IA BOARD

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WHAT IS BLUEPRINT?

Overview

A penny makes a big difference in Tallahassee-Leon County! Guided by the vision and leadership of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors (BPIA), Blueprint is at the helm of the community's most pressing infrastructure needs. Blueprint implements roadways, trails, greenways, parks, and stormwater projects that focus on connecting people and places. Funding for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency was approved by voters in 2000 and again as a 20-year extension of the local one-cent sales tax option for Tallahassee-Leon County in November 2014.

Blueprint Vision

To preserve, protect, and enhance the community's quality of life through the implementation of holistic and coordinated planning, transportation, water quality, environmental, green space projects, and economic development efforts to drive the growth of Tallahassee-Leon County's diverse and vibrant economy.

Blueprint Mission

To implement the Blueprint Program in a timely and cost-effective manner through transformative impacts and innovative business practices while keeping the Tallahassee-Leon County community informed and involved.

The Blueprint Promise

"...To provide for projects designed to **improve roads; reduce traffic congestion; protect lakes and water quality; reduce flooding; expand and operate parks and recreational areas; invest in economic development;** and other uses authorized under Florida law; and to seek matching funds for these purposes, shall the existing one-cent sales surtax within Leon County be extended until December 31, 2039, with project expenditures subject to annual independent audit and review by citizens advisory committee."

BLUEPRINT IS...



Improving Roads



Public Buildings



Connecting People & Places



Protecting Lakes and Water Quality



Reducing Flooding



Investing in Economic Development



Bicycle Routes



Expanding Parks and Recreational Areas



Pedestrian Safety



Reducing Traffic Congestion



History and Art



Greenways



Beautification



Recreation



Matching Funds



BLUEPRINT MANAGEMENT



Artie White,
AICP, CNU-A

Director, PLACE

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County Government created the Department of Planning, Land Management, and Community Enhancement - PLACE - under the management of the Leon County Administrator and the Tallahassee City Manager, to better integrate the executive management of three interrelated programs: Planning, the Office of Economic Vitality and Blueprint.



Autumn Calder,
AICP

Director, Blueprint

Within the PLACE structure, the Blueprint Director and team implement significant infrastructure projects throughout the Tallahassee-Leon County area. All projects are refined through robust community engagement and thorough technical analyses to reflect the community's unique vision and build the foundation for sustainable growth.



Keith Bowers

Director, Office of Economic Vitality

OEV is committed to keeping pace with the rapidly evolving business environment, adapting programs and innovative economic development programs and services to suit local businesses best and match the expectations of a dynamic and growing community.



Susan Dawson,
Esq.

Blueprint Attorney

The Blueprint Attorney serves as the General Counsel for the Agency and manages the Blueprint Legal Office. The Blueprint Office is committed to delivering superior legal services to assist and support the Blueprint infrastructure and economic development projects.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors, comprised of the City of Tallahassee and Leon County Commissions sitting as one body, it is an honor to report that the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency celebrated many milestones and accomplishments over the past year. These accomplishments significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of Tallahassee-Leon County.

During Fiscal Year 2023, the Agency initiated and successfully concluded the construction of several impactful projects. Notably, various project elements within the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Project were finalized, amounting to a collective investment exceeding \$10 million. These projects encompassed noteworthy additions like the **Hammock Garden at Coal Chute Pond, St. Marks Trailhead, Community Gathering Space, 3DB Stormwater Facility, as well as the development of the Debbie Lightsey Nature Park and the Golden Aster Trail.**

Over the year, the IA Board authorized the issuance of the **Series 2022 Bond**, securing **\$90.3 million** dedicated to the advancement of nine pivotal infrastructural initiatives. Through Blueprint's partnership with FDOT, they provided **\$90.8 million** toward three Blueprint Infrastructure projects including, the North Monroe median landscaping, Westside Student Gateway project design and engineering, and the Capital Circle Southwest: Orange Avenue to Springhill Road construction and utilities. Together, Blueprint and the Office of Economic Vitality won **nine awards**, **applied \$6,844,355 in outside funding** to projects, hosted a groundbreaking, hosted a free community event at the Skateable Art Park, released the Capital Cascades Trail video, assisted with several public art installations for the History and Culture Trail, launched the Artful Infrastructure webpage: blueprintia.org/public-art/, and launched a successful public information plan with an additional branding tagline, "Connecting People and Places."

The IA Board approved over **\$240.5 million over the next five years** for Infrastructure Capital Improvement Projects. These projects are set to yield substantial outcomes, encompassing the improvement of more than **26 miles of roadway**, providing more than **121 miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities**, creating or improving **over 348 acres of public space**, creating **seven new public parks**, implementing **52 miles of greenways and thousands of new tree plantings**. In all, current Blueprint projects previously funded, or receiving funding over the next five years represent an over **\$397 million investment in the Southside** that will have impacts across generations.

The Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) focused on **15 active projects** with the potential to create **over 1,800 jobs, \$99.4 million in income or wages, and \$298 million in total economic output**. OEV conducted **78 business consultations**, which resulted in **104 active leads, 41 recruitments, six business expansions, and 135 new and retained jobs**. The Minority, Women, & Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) Division **certified 582 local businesses**. Certified MWBEs earned **over \$8.8 million** by participating in **27 City and County projects**. Additional accomplishments include securing **\$244,355** in external funding, revitalizing the MWSBE Academy series, publishing 27 issues of the OEV Newsletter, launching www.LoveYourLocalTLH.com, and releasing a new video called Inside these Walls: Florida's Most Powerful Attraction.

These triumphs are a testament to the Agency's dedication to driving innovation, igniting growth, and shaping a vibrant future for the Tallahassee-Leon County community. The Agency is poised to continue this momentum into the coming fiscal year and reach even greater heights—driven by the Agency's core values and a shared vision of creating a better quality of life and vibrant community for all.

In summary, the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency's dedicated efforts, collaborative partnerships, and visionary projects led by the IA Board have enriched Tallahassee-Leon County's fabric. They have also set in motion a transformative legacy, promising pedestrian and motor vehicle safety, water quality protection, connectivity, economic growth, prosperity, and an enhanced quality of life for generations to come.

BLUEPRINT IMPACTS

2000 - 2040

44 PROJECTS

\$1.44 BILLION TOTAL INVESTMENT

OVER \$660 MILLION IN SOUTHSIDE INVESTMENT



1 million invested annually for Operating Costs of Blueprint Funded Parks, creating new parks and public spaces.



Over \$3 million is invested annually in sidewalk projects and StarMetro.



Over 40 miles of improved roadways.



Blueprint infrastructure staff continually searches for outside funding to leverage the sales tax dollars.



Over 208 miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



Over 45 miles of new or improved sidewalks.



\$135 million is invested in water quality and stormwater projects.



17 public parks.



Over 114 miles of greenways and trails.



History and art are incorporated in Blueprint projects such as Smokey Hollow Commemoration, History and Culture Trail, and many more.



Leon-County Development Projects resulted in **\$6.30 ROI**.

LEVERAGING THE BLUEPRINT FUNDS

Blueprint Infrastructure staff continually search for outside funding to **leverage** the sales tax. As part of the **promise** to be **faithful stewards** of taxpayer dollars, these leveraging opportunities **maximize the benefits** to the public more than the sales tax dollars could alone. Blueprint staff applied for numerous grants in FY 2023 and undertook **significant efforts** to explore other outside **leveraging opportunities**.

Grants and Partnerships

\$6.5 MILLION

State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Loan for the NE Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard project.

\$732,402

from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for enhancing North Monroe landscaping.

\$1.5 MILLION

from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Northeast Gateway Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Grant.

\$1.6 MILLION

from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Westside Gateway (Pensacola) project design and engineering (PD&E).

\$572,052

from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Grant for the Orange/Meridian Placemaking Project

\$76.2 MILLION

Florida Department Of Transportation (FDOT) for Capital Circle Southwest: Orange Avenue to Springhill Road Construction & Utilities.

\$11.5 MILLION

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Capital Circle Southwest: Springhill Road to Crawfordville Road.

\$6.5 MILLION

SIB Loan reimbursement for the NE Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard Project. Additional reimbursement checks anticipated to support continued project implementation.

\$2.5 MILLION

TRIP grant in FY 2025 from the FDOT Five-Year Work Program for the NE Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard Project.

Total: \$119.3 MILLION In FY 2023

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



2022 Tallahassee/Leon County Historic Preservation Award for rehabilitating and restoring the Smokey Hollow Barbershop from the Tallahassee-Leon County Trust for Historic Preservation.



2022 Employer of the Year Award by Florida's Capital Area Chapter of the Women's Transportation Symposium (WTS). This award honors an organization for recruiting, retaining, and advancing women.



2023 Local Project of the Year Award for the Debbie Lightsey Nature Park from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).



2022 Project of the Year Award for Structures Less Than \$2 Million for the Skateable Art Park from the Big Bend Local Project American Public Works Association (APWA) Big Bend Local Chapter.



2023 Public Works Project of the Year for Structures Less than \$2 Million for the Skateable Art Park from the American Public Works Association Florida Chapter (APWA).



2023 Florida Historic Preservation Award for the Smokey Hollow Barbershop for the restoration work of this building from the American Institute of Architects.



2023 Outstanding Development/Design Excellence Award for the Skateable Art Park from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association.



2023 APA Florida Award of Excellence for the Skateable Art Park from the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association.

PROJECTS INITIATED AND UNDERWAY FY2023



\$57.5 Million Invested in
Capital Projects



8 Projects
in Construction



**6 Major Project
Components**
Completed



Leveraged over
\$4.6 Million in
Outside Funding



\$4.25 Million
Invested in Water
Quality and Stormwater
Projects



Over 26 Miles of
Roadway Improvements



Over 121 Miles
of Bicycle and
Pedestrian Facilities



Over 348 Acres
of New or Improved
Public Space



**Thousands of
Tree Plantings**



7 Public Parks

BLUEPRINT PROJECTS MAP

Legend

See the numbers and color coded areas on the map to identify Blueprint projects.

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 Northeast Corridor Connector: Bannerman Road | 11 Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest - N2 (Completed) | 21 College Avenue Placemaking | 31 Orange Meridian Placemaking | 41 Tallahassee-Leon County Animal Service Center |
| 2 Northeast Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard | 12 Westside Student Gateway: Pensacola Street | 22 Smokey Hollow Barbershop | 32 Orange Meridian Park | 42 Lake Lafayette and St. Marks Regional Linear Park |
| 3 Northeast Park | 13 Martha Wellman Park | 23 Magnolia Drive Trail | 33 Bike Route System: Blair Stone Trail | 43 Mahan Corridor |
| 4 Market District Placemaking | 14 Debbie Lightsey Nature Park | 24 DeSoto Winter Encampment (Completed) | 34 Fairgrounds Beautification and Improvements | |
| 5 Greenways: Thomasville Trail/Market District Connector | 15 Broadmoor Pond Park | 25 Cascades Trail Pedestrian Bridge | 35 Bike Route System: Ridge Road Trail | |
| 6 Midtown Placemaking | 16 Bike Route System: SW Area Connector | 26 Bike Route System: Downtown-University Protected Bike Lane | 36 Southside Gateway: Woodville Highway | |
| 7 North Monroe Gateway | 17 Greenways: University Greenway | 27 Coal Chute Pond Music Park | 37 Capital Circle Southeast - E3 (Completed) | |
| 8 Greenways: Lake Jackson Greenways | 18 Airport Gateway | 28 Florida A&M Entry Points | 38 Capital Circle Southeast - E2 (Completed) | |
| 9 Northwest Connector Corridor: Tharpe Street | 19 Greenways: Capital Circle SW Greenway & Debbie Lightsey Nature Park | 29 Monroe-Adams Corridor Placemaking | 39 Greenways: Southwood Greenway | |
| 10 Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest - N2 (Completed) | 20 Skateable Art Park | 30 Cascades Park (Completed) | 40 Capital Circle Southeast - E1 (Completed) | |

TALLAHASSEE



PROJECTS



BLUEPRINT 
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY
Connecting People & Places

MAJOR PROJECT COMPONENTS COMPLETED



CAPITAL CASCADES TRAIL ST. MARKS TRAILHEAD COMPLETED IN THE SUMMER 2022

Project Benefits: Located at 3DB Pond, the Trailhead connects to the Cascades Trail and St. Marks Historic Rail Trail. The design is truly impressive, featuring an open, well-lit trailhead perfect for visitors. Plenty of amenities are available, including a water-bottle filling station, bike-repair station, and a drinking fountain. The St. Marks Trailhead is part of a larger project, the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Project.

CAPITAL CASCADES TRAIL 3DB STORMWATER FACILITY COMPLETED IN THE FALL 2022

Project Benefits: The 3DB Stormwater Facility is truly innovative, as it features the Duperon FlexRake mechanical screen system, which effectively prevents trash from entering the drainage ditch. This crucial feature helps keep the facility clean and well-maintained, ensuring a safe and healthy environment for everyone who visits. The 3DB Stormwater Facility is part of a larger project, the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Project.



CAPITAL CASCADES TRAIL HAMMOCK GARDEN COMPLETED IN THE SUMMER 2023

Project Benefits: The Red Hills Rhythm Musical Parklet is a unique and creative space located near the Skateable Art Park and Coal Chute Pond Park. It's a place where residents and visitors can gather and enjoy the sounds of music together. Walking past the musical parklet, you'll discover a serene hammock garden just behind it. This is the perfect spot for anyone looking to unwind and relax on a peaceful afternoon. The gentle swaying of the hammocks and the soothing sound of the parklet's music create a truly tranquil and rejuvenating experience. The Hammock Garden is part of a larger project, the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Project.



GOLDEN ASTER TRAIL GRAND OPENING IN THE FALL 2023

Project Benefits: The Golden Aster Trail provides more opportunities for residents to recreate through the 0.3-mile nature trail within the City's Golden Aster Nature Preserve. The Trail is lined with gravel preserved from the old Gamble Bridge, which helped reduce carbon emissions. The Golden Aster Trail is part of a larger project, the Capital Circle Southwest Greenway, which will create 10.6 miles of greenways and trails in the southwest area of the community.



DEBBIE LIGHTSEY NATURE PARK GRAND OPENING IN THE FALL 2023

Project Benefits: This 113-acre nature park includes 1.6 miles of multi-use trails that are lined with preserved gravel from the old Gamble Bridge that helped reduce carbon emissions, as well as two boardwalks. The boardwalks and viewpoints are perfect for bird-watching in the natural wetland. The project site will also feature a future 2.2-mile single-track mountain bike trail. The Debbie Lightsey Nature Park is part of a larger project, the Capital Circle Southwest Greenway Project.

COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE COMPLETED IN THE SUMMER 2023

Project Benefits: Located adjacent to the 3DB Stormwater Facility, this 4,000 sq. ft. gathering space provides a unique and enriching experience for visitors. The project features three wood sculptures that serve as dynamic embodiments of Tallahassee's history, conveying tales of transformation, resilience, and the very spirit of community that defines this vibrant city. This space allows visitors to gather, connect, and fully immerse themselves in the tranquility of the Capital Cascades Trail.



PROJECTS UNDERWAY



Animal Service Center:

- Renovating the current facility to meet animal needs and reduce animal stress.
- Enhancing staff's ability to care for animals safely and efficiently.



Capital Circle Southwest:

- Completing the last phase (5.8 miles) of improvements to the Capital Circle Corridor.
- Road widening and safety-enhanced multiuse trails.
- Stormwater treatment and enhanced landscaping.



History and Culture Trail:

- Part of the Capital Cascades Trail Segment 3 Project.
- Featuring public artworks and history monuments.
- Celebrates local neighborhoods, businesses, and individuals.



Lake Jackson Greenway:

- Creating trails, cycle routes, and sidewalks.
- Connecting Lake Ella to Lake Jackson.



Lake Lafayette and St. Marks Linear Park:

- Connecting 7,200 acres of recreation lands.
- Trail connections to amenities like Tom Brown Park, Lafayette Heritage Park, Upper Lake Lafayette and the Apalachee Regional Park.



Magnolia Drive Trail:

- Safety-enhanced connectivity from South Adams Street to Apalachee Parkway.
- Improved roadway, trail, landscaping and utilities.





Market District Placemaking:

- Creating a community park.
- Enhancing pedestrian safety and trail connectivity.
- Improving streetscaping in the Market District area.

Monroe-Adams Corridor Placemaking:

Creating safe and comfortable streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

Northeast Corridor Connector - Bannerman Road:

- Providing safety-enhanced and multimodal accessibility (new lanes, multi-use, and sidewalks).
- Stormwater improvements.



Northeast Gateway: Welaunee Boulevard:

- Improving regional mobility, connectivity, and canopy road protection.
- Roadway improvements, multimodal trails and greenways.

North Monroe Gateway:

- Collaborative project with FDOT.
- Signage, art, landscaping, crosswalks and pedestrian enhancements.
- Landscaped median project in progress.

Orange/Meridian Placemaking:

- Creating a neighborhood park and community gathering space.
- Located at Orange Avenue and Meridian Street.
- Providing stormwater and greenway trail improvements.

Southwood Greenway:

- Construction of segments for the Southwood Trail and Tram Road Trail.
- Collaboration between City of Tallahassee and Blueprint.



EVENTS

History & Culture Trail Artful Celebration

On October 13, 2022, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, Leon County Government, and the City of Tallahassee launched the History and Culture Trail along FAMU Way with an artful celebration. The Artful Celebration was an exceptional event, showcasing the collaborative effort between local leaders and the community as they left their mark on the "We Are All One" murals at Anita R. Favors Plaza.

During the celebration, the seven artists selected to create public artworks as part of the History and Culture Trail were announced. This project represents the single largest infusions of outdoor public art in Tallahassee-Leon County history, featuring a dozen artworks, including three murals and nine sculptures.

The inclusion of art into any environment plays a significant role in sustaining cultural identity and creating a sense of place. The return on investment is substantial. Public art serves as a tourism driver, encourages lasting economic growth, and contributes to business development. It fosters community pride, connects citizens to their shared history, and makes cultural heritage a tangible community asset.



"The History and Culture Trail represents Blueprint's dedication to going above and beyond standard infrastructure by incorporating history and arts in projects around the community," said **Blueprint Director Autumn Calder**.

Artful
Celebration
Video



7 Commissioned Artists



Yasaman Mehrsa
"We Are All One"
murals



Alisha Lewis
"For the Generations
to Fulfill the Dream"
sculpture



Joseph Cowdrey
"A Stroll Down
Seaboard"
mural



Bradley Cooley
"The Jazz Man"
sculpture



Julia Sinelnikova
"Dream Waves"
sculptures



Mark Dickson
"In Honor of
the Worker"
sculpture



John Birch
"Your Move, Community,
and Metamorphosis"
wood sculptures



Skateable Art Park & Boards for Bros Event

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, Leon County Government, and the City of Tallahassee hosted a free skate event at the Capital Cascades Trail Skateable Art Park. People of all ages enjoyed the festivities which included music, food, demonstrations, free skate lessons, and workshops provided by professional skaters. Boards for Bros, Team Pain Skate Parks, Necessary Skate Company, Phaze One Skate Shop, and others distributed a limited number of free refurbished skateboards and handed out other free items.

Blueprint partnered with Boards for Bros to make the event one to remember. Boards for Bros is a nonprofit organization that believes skateboarding is more than a mode of transportation. In addition to being a tool for play, skateboarding is a tool to teach problem-solving and perseverance. Boards for Bros believes a skateboard can change someone's life.



This event is a testament to the power of thoughtful amenities in bringing our community together and providing safe spaces for people of all ages to enjoy. It was heartwarming to witness both new and seasoned skaters coming together, reinforcing the sense of unity and camaraderie that defines this incredible space." - Harrison Quan (Local Resident)



Peter Koenig

Skateable Art Park
Artist

"I'm passionate about creating beautiful, inclusive, and accessible public art. I believe that there is no better opportunity for engaging with art than in our own neighborhoods." – Peter Koenig

Event Video

Click or Scan>>>



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hosted **19+** project-specific community meetings and events (virtual and in person) that engaged hundreds of citizens.

25+ presentations and panel sessions.

Hosted **13** TCC, CAC, and IA Board meetings, hearings, and workshops.

Collected data that developed project concepts.

Conducted **1** online survey for the Skateable Art Park.

Led **1** door-to-door outreach efforts: Bull Headley Sidewalk part of the NE Corridor Connector: Bannerman Road Project.

1 groundbreaking on October 13, 2022 - History and Culture Trail.

Launched a public information plan and a new tagline, "Connecting People & Places."

Led **8 tours** for state and local leaders and organizations, including the City of Tallahassee Attorney's Office, Opportunity Tallahassee (Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce), FSU Department of Urban & Regional Planning and the College of Business Real Estate class, and the City of Tallahassee's Neighborhood Leadership Academy.

8 interviews including television and news articles by WTWC 40, Tallahassee Democrat, WXTL, WFSU, ABC-27 and the FSU College of Social Sciences and Public Policy's annual magazine, Engage.

Represented the Agency at several community partner-sponsored events (e.g., the 2023 Florida Planning Conference, 2023 Florida Public Relations Conference, FSU Real Estate's 28th Real Estate Trends Conference, Leon Works, and City-County Communications & Marketing Association Conference).

Attended numerous homeowner, neighborhood, and special interest meetings.

Initiated many conversations and attended meetings with individual project stakeholders.

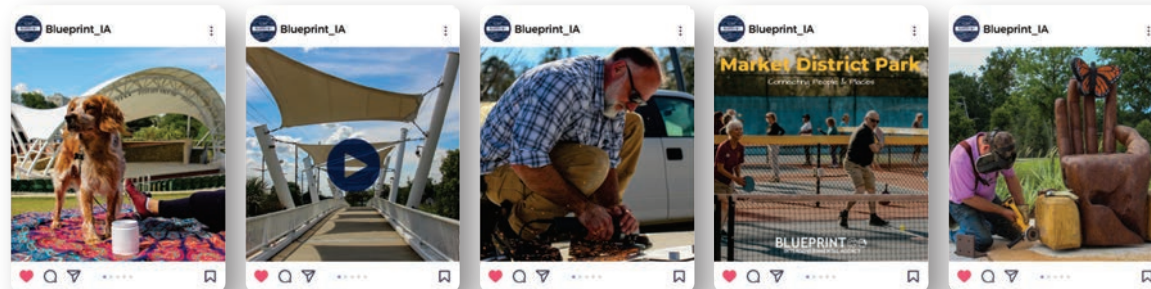
Leveraged its social media accounts and email distribution list to strategically communicate to the public about project milestones, celebrations and information.

Launched multiple advertisements (digitally and in print) in the Tallahassee Magazine, 850 Magazine, Tallahassee Reports, Tallahassee Democrat, Capital Outlook, and Blueprint's social media platforms.

Launched an Artful Infrastructure webpage to show the commitment to going beyond traditional infrastructure by incorporating history and arts into community projects seen throughout Tallahassee-Leon County.

Top Performing Social Media Posts

Blueprint has leveraged its social media accounts to strategically communicate to the public about project milestones, celebrations, and information. The top-performing posts across all platforms since January 1, 2023, were:



Followers: **910**



Followers: **815**



Followers: **230**



Followers: **396**

OFFICE OF
**ECONOMIC
VITALITY**



October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

ONE-CENT SALES TAX & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview

In November 2014, an overwhelming sixty-five percent of voters elected to extend the one-cent sales tax through 2039. For the first time in the tax's history, twelve percent of the proceeds—or over \$90 million—would be allocated to economic development. These funds support initiatives that focus on job creation; business recruitment, retention, and expansion; talent development; community partnerships; public outreach and engagement; minority- and women-owned business development; and innovative programs that contribute to the sustainable development of the local economy.

About The Office of Economic Vitality (OEV)

The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is the economic development organization of record for the City of Tallahassee and Leon County. OEV's economic development model values diversity, equity, and economic inclusion and ensures accountability, transparency, and professional management of all economic development projects.

OEV Mission

To lead Tallahassee-Leon County's economic development efforts by leveraging existing resources and assets that grow and drive economic vitality.

OEV Vision

To drive the growth of Tallahassee-Leon County's diverse and vibrant economy.

FY2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Certified 204 firms, with an additional 378 firms certified by the Florida Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD). This resulted in a total of 582 firms ready to participate in the local procurement process.

Certified MWBEs participated in 27 City and County Projects, earning a total of \$8,882,811.

Focused on 15 active projects with the potential to create over 1,800 jobs, \$99.4 million in income or wages, and \$298 million in total economic output.

Amazon Ribbon Cutting

On September 14, 2023, the Office of Economic Vitality celebrated the opening of the Amazon Tallahassee robotics fulfillment center—the largest recruitment project in Tallahassee-Leon County history. This state-of-the-art facility will bring over 1,300 jobs and significant economic growth to our community.



Broadband Expansion

As the lead entity for the Broadband Local Technology Planning Team, OEV has continued to work with the local Internet Service Providers (ISP), Community Partners, and interested citizens to expand high-speed internet access to all the unserved and underserved areas within the City of Tallahassee and Leon County. To date, the State and Federal Governments have released three grants to fund the installation of network extensions.

Love Your Local

Coordinated the annual Love Your Local Campaign, which involved the creation of a new website (**LoveYourLocalTLH.com**) and the launch of a print and digital ad campaign in collaboration with the Tallahassee Democrat. The campaign featured six print ads published in the Tallahassee Democrat throughout December, and the online banner ads garnered an estimated **355,000** digital impressions. As a result, we successfully added **over 430** local businesses to the Love Your Local website.

AWARDS

The OEV Newsletter won a **Silver Excellence in Economic Development Award** from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

OEV was awarded a **\$214,355 Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant** by the Federal Communications Commission to conduct outreach in support of the Affordable Connectivity Program.

The National League of Cities recognized and **commended OEV's exceptional diversity and inclusion programs with a \$30,000 grant to host a regional financial inclusion conference.**

EVENTS



Leon Works Expo

Hosted the eighth annual Leon Works Expo in April 2023 in partnership with Leon County Government. This highly anticipated event brought together over 700 students from Leon, Wakulla, and Gadsden counties, offering them a valuable opportunity to connect with nearly 100 local employers and academic institutions. With a focus on showcasing skilled career opportunities available in the Big Bend Region, the Expo served as a crucial platform for our future workforce to forge meaningful connections, gain insights, and lay the foundation for bright and promising futures.



Superconductivity Summit

Partnered with MagCorp, we hosted a two-day 'Superconductivity Summit' aimed at recruiting companies focused on High-Temperature Superconducting (HTS) technologies. The event attracted multiple prospective businesses, with active participation from community partners, including the Governor's Office, Florida State University's Office of Research, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Florida State University's Office of the Provost, the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Enterprise Florida, the Tallahassee Chamber, the Leon County Regional Development Authority, and more.



Amazon Hiring Information Sessions

Coordinated two 'Amazon Hiring Information Session' events to inform the public about employment opportunities at the new fulfillment center scheduled to open later this year. The first Information Session held at the Dr. B.L. Perry Jr. Branch Library was an incredible triumph, drawing over 450 participants. The Amazon Team conducted a total of 13 sessions covering career opportunities, company culture, benefits, and the hiring process. The second Information Session was held at Railroad Square in tandem with the First Friday festival. Despite rain, the Amazon team engaged with nearly 50 participants eager to learn more about working at Amazon.



OEV Open House

Hosted two "OEV Open House" events to share the activities and programs offered by OEV to the broader Tallahassee-Leon County community. These informative events featured an overview of OEV services, including the Non-Competitive Projects process, business consultation resources, and SizeUpOEV. Over 100 citizens learned about the wide range of resources and support available to businesses and entrepreneurs in our community.

MWSBE DIVISION

Updated Disparity Study

The 2023 Updated Disparity Study for the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency was completed and accepted by the Blueprint IA Board of Directors. The recommendations from the Disparity Study will be included as updates to the Consolidated MWSBE Policy.



30th Annual Big Bend Minority Enterprise Development Week

Coordinated the 30th Annual Big Bend Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, which included an awards program, a supplier diversity exchange, and three live-streamed webinars to assist MWBEs.

MWSBE Academies

Produced a seven-part “MWSBE Academy” series. MWSBE Academies are a series of trainings and workshops exclusively for certified firms. They are a valuable resource for MWSBEs who want to bolster their business profile and tackle larger projects with confidence. Participating MWSBEs have the opportunity to network with other certified businesses, learn about new opportunities, and gain the skills & knowledge they need to grow their businesses.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



NORTH FL INNOVATION LABS

At the direction of the Blueprint IA Board, OEV **invested \$2.5 million** to support the North Florida Innovation Labs project. This investment will sustain **over 600 full-time high-quality jobs** in the region and **support over 100 growing, early-stage companies**. This new facility is slated to open in January 2024 and represents a capital investment of **over \$24 million**.

DANFOSS EXPANSION

Extended support to further aid Danfoss Turbocor with its latest expansion, which has doubled in scope and scale to a 134,000-square-foot manufacturing facility that represents a **\$48 million** capital investment. The facility will **create or retain over 500 permanent jobs**. The total economic impact of the project, including the long-term job growth, is calculated to be **over \$140 million**.



INSIDE THESE WALLS: FLORIDA'S MOST POWERFUL ATTRACTION

Released a captivating new video titled **"Inside These Walls: Florida's Most Powerful Attraction"** that inviting businesses to witness the game-changing possibilities that awaits them in our vibrant and magnetic ecosystem. This video reinforces our mission to position Tallahassee-Leon County as the global leader in magnetic innovation, cementing our reputation as the Magnetic Capital of the World.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIsZyHvJwWk>



FLORIDA'S MOST POWERFUL ATTRACTION

& INTELLIGENCE DIVISION



PHILIPS MRI AND MAGLAB COLLABORATE ON NEW MAGNET DESIGN

Facilitated a partnership between Tallahassee-based Magnetics Corporation (MagCorp) and Philips, the global leader in MRI research and manufacturing, to collaborate with scientists at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory to develop a lower-cost MRI. This successful connection creates significant long-term benefits by fostering the growth of MRI manufacturing in the region.

DANFOSS TOUR FOR GODBY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

In celebration of Manufacturing Month (October), the Big Bend Manufacturers Association, in collaboration with Leon County Schools, organized a special plant tour of Danfoss Turbocor for the students of Godby High School's Engineering Academy. This immersive experience provided valuable insights into the world of manufacturing and showcased the innovative practices and technologies employed by Danfoss Turbocor. It offered an exciting opportunity for the students to deepen their understanding of the industry and explore potential career paths in manufacturing.



TALLAHASSEE GAINS INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

Increased international interest in Tallahassee, resulting in three major projects originating from Estonia:

- Project Guard (Rolling Unit, LLC) — the North American expansion of MDSC Systems, which manufactures portable buildings.
- Project Guten (Renoport) — an environmental services provider and specialist in outdoor electrical equipment manufacturing.
- Project Paper — a cybersecurity firm that wants to expand operations to the United States.



3 Projects from Estonia

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Coal Chute Pond Park

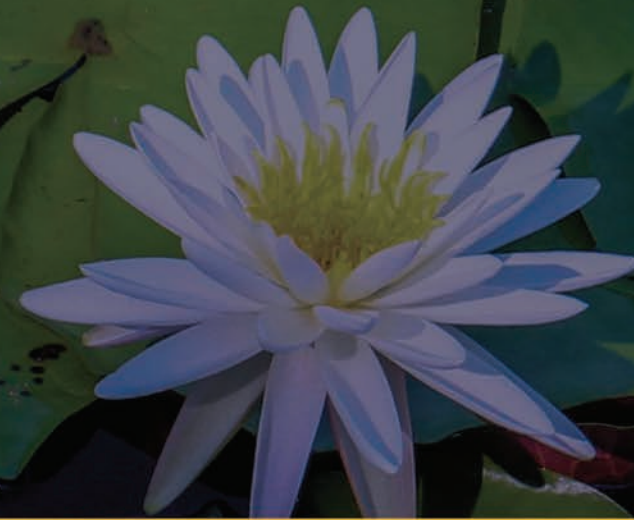


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Cascades Park



Various photos used in the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Annual Report were from the City of Tallahassee, Leon County Government and Visit Tallahassee.