

City of Phoenix

*Meeting Location:
City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85003*



City of Phoenix

Agenda

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

10:00 AM

City Council Chambers

Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee

*Vice Mayor Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilman Kevin Robinson
Councilwoman Debra Stark*

If viewing this packet electronically in PDF, open and use bookmarks to navigate easily from one item to another.

OPTIONS TO ACCESS THIS MEETING

Virtual Request to speak at a meeting:

- Register online by visiting the City Council Meetings page on phoenix.gov at least 2 hours prior to the start of this meeting. Then, click on this link at the time of the meeting and join the Webex to speak:

<https://phoenixcitycouncil.webex.com/phoenixcitycouncil/onstage/g.php?MTID=e143562531dfe0f28aa478f4ffb8922d2>

- Register via telephone at 602-262-6001 at least 2 hours prior to the start of this meeting, noting the item number. Then, use the Call-in phone number and Meeting ID listed below at the time of the meeting to call-in and speak.

In-Person Requests to speak at a meeting:

- Register in person at a kiosk located at the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St., Phoenix, Arizona, 85003. Arrive 1 hour prior to the start of this meeting. Depending on seating availability, residents will attend and speak from the Upper Chambers, Lower Chambers or City Hall location.

- Individuals should arrive early, 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting to submit an in-person request to speak before the item is called. After the item is called, requests to speak for that item will not be accepted.

At the time of the meeting:

- Watch the meeting live streamed on phoenix.gov or Phoenix Channel 11 on Cox Cable, or using the Webex link provided above.

- Call-in to listen to the meeting. Dial 602-666-0783 and Enter Meeting ID 2553 275 9441# (for English) or 2558 608 7256# (for Spanish). Press # again when prompted for attendee ID.

- Watch the meeting in-person from the Upper Chambers, Lower Chambers or City Hall depending on seating availability.

Para nuestros residentes de habla hispana:

- Para registrarse para hablar en español, llame al 602-262-6001 al menos 2 horas antes del inicio de esta reunión e indique el número del tema. El día de la reunión, llame al 602-666-0783 e ingrese el número de identificación de la reunión 2558 608 7256#. El intérprete le indicará cuando sea su turno de hablar.

- Para solamente escuchar la reunión en español, llame a este mismo número el día de la reunión 602-666-0783; ingrese el número de identificación de la reunión 2558 608 7256#. Se proporciona interpretación simultánea para nuestros residentes durante todas las reuniones.

- Para asistir a la reunión en persona, vaya a las Cámaras del Concejo Municipal de Phoenix ubicadas en 200 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Llegue 1 hora antes del comienzo de la reunión. Si desea hablar, regístrese electrónicamente en uno de los quioscos, antes de que comience el tema. Una vez que se comience a discutir el tema, no se aceptarán nuevas solicitudes para hablar. Dependiendo de cuantos asientos haya disponibles, usted podría ser sentado en la parte superior de las cámaras, en el piso de abajo de las cámaras, o en el edificio municipal.

000 CALL TO ORDER

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1 Minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee Meeting

Page 5

Attachments

[Attachment A - EDH Minutes 06.12.2025.pdf](#)

CONSENT ACTION (ITEMS 2- 4)

2 **One-Stop Operator Services Contract - RFP-CED25-OSO - Request for Award** **Page 10**

3 **2026 Downtown Enhanced Municipal Services District Work Plan and Budget** **Page 12**

Attachments

[Attachment A_2026 EMSD Work Plan.pdf](#)

[Attachment B_2026 EMSD Budget.pdf](#)

4 **Authorization to Amend Ordinance S-51289 Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Venture Café Sponsorship** **Page 23**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (ITEM 5)

5 **Fiscal Year 2025-26 Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative** **Page 26**

000 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

For further information or reasonable accommodations, please call the City Council Meeting Request line at 602-262-6001. 7-1-1 Friendly.

Persons paid to lobby on behalf of persons or organizations other than themselves must register with the City Clerk prior to lobbying or within five business days thereafter, and must register annually to continue lobbying. If you have any questions about registration or whether or not you must register, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 602-534-0490.

Members:

Vice Mayor Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Laura Pastor
Councilman Kevin Robinson
Councilwoman Debra Stark

Report

Agenda Date: 9/10/2025, Item No. 1

Minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee Meeting

This item transmits the minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee Meeting on June 12, 2025 for review, correction or approval by the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee.

THIS ITEM IS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION.

The minutes are included for review as **Attachment A**.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager John Chan and the City Manager's Office.

ATTACHMENT A

**Phoenix City Council
Economic Development and Housing (EDH) Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Thursday, June 12, 2025**

City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ

Subcommittee Members Present

Vice Mayor Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Debra Stark
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington

Subcommittee Members Absent

Councilman Kevin Robinson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman O'Brien called the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee to order at 1:04 p.m. with Councilwoman Stark and Councilwoman Hodge Washington present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee Meeting

Councilwoman Hodge Washington made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025, Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman Stark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 3-0.

CONSENT ACTION (ITEM 2)

Item 2 was for consent action. No presentations were planned, but staff was available to answer questions.

2. Annual Review and Updates to the Neighborhood Services Department's Code Enforcement Policy

Consent only. No councilmember requested additional information.

Councilwoman Stark made a motion to approve Item 2. Councilwoman Hodge Washington seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

INFORMATION ONLY (ITEMS 3-4)

3. Head Start Birth to Five Monthly Report – April

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

4. City of Phoenix Naloxone Program Update: March 2025 to May 2025

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEM 5)

5. Phoenix Office of Innovation Update

Office of Innovation Director Michael Hammett presented the item.

Councilwoman Stark expressed that she would like to attend the next Hackathon, and the presentation shows how innovative the City of Phoenix is.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked how future locations are being selected for the Chilled Drinking Water Initiative, and if there was any opportunity for Council input or more community input in the selection process.

Mr. Hammett answered that the selection process was data-driven, and includes the results of surveys and community input, he also noted more input is always welcome.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington stated that the two Hive locations provide one-on-one guidance for various technologies and act as access points for technology to the communities. She asked how the City gathers input from the community on what they want to see on the City Manager's Performance Dashboard.

Mr. Hammett explained that staff had sent out surveys to communities, which resulted in a great response and good ideas.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked if there is a way to make the data presented on the City Manager's Performance Dashboard more cohesive and comparable.

Mr. Hammett answered that the staff is moving towards achieving consistency in data reporting.

6. Economic Development Review of Fiscal Year 2024-25 and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Community and Economic Development Director Christine Mackay, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director Xandon Keating, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Wright, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director LaSetta Hogans, and Special Projects Administrator Gretchen Wolfe presented the item.

Chairwoman O'Brien stated the City has not only been able to attract many businesses and jobs to the City but also attracted high-value industries and high-wage jobs, which have expanded and diversified the make-up of the City's economy. She asked what the staff was doing to retain the small local businesses in the City.

Ms. Mackay answered that the staff meet with small businesses through Small Business Programs to assist them.

Chairwoman O'Brien asked what Dress for Success is.

Mr. Keating answered that their mission is to provide high-quality clothing for job interviews for people who do not have the resources as they enter the workforce.

Chairwoman O'Brien stated the growth in the urban core and investment in Transit Oriented Communities was ongoing and the results of the investment are yet to come. She asked what the economic impact of the investments was on these areas.

Mr. Keating explained the difficulty of estimating the impact but anticipated a significant amount of development coming to the communities, especially along the recently opened South Central Extension of Light Rail.

Chairwoman O'Brien stated there was a need to further develop relationships with school districts to educate students on existing opportunities.

Councilwoman Stark remarked that tourism was important to the City's economy and asked why tourism wasn't included as one of the City's economic development goals.

Ms. Mackay answered that the department works closely with the Phoenix Convention Center and Visit Phoenix who lead efforts to bring in various convention groups as well as planning and execution of the strategic roadmap for tourism and added that tourism is a strong pillar of the city's economic development strategy.

Councilwoman Stark asked if there was a museum showcasing the culture of Phoenix is something that is being considered for development in the future.

Ms. Mackay explained the Arts and Culture Director, Mr. Menchaca was working with the City Manager's Office to propose potential sites for a museum.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked what the City's plan was to attract a medical facility in South Mountain Village, which is a demand expressed by residents as well as the Fire Department.

Ms. Mackay answered that staff conducted a demographic study on the area and talked to Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of hospitals in the area and hospital planning organizations and catalogued existing vacant buildings that could be potential sites for a hospital.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington stressed the need to promote Laveen and South Mountain tech corridors to be offered as potential sites for new companies.

Ms. Mackay answered staff were prioritizing the areas for tech companies that are exploring the City of Phoenix for a new site due to their geographic advantage that comes from being located in the central area of the valley.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked for progress on bringing a new resort to the Gila Foothills.

Ms. Mackay shared the staff created a marketing strategy and brought a delegation for a tour and a planning meeting.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked how many of jobs added last year are accessible in terms of transportation, wages, and skill sets to our existing residents.

Ms. Mackay answered there was prioritization in the jobs attracted to the City because they are multipliers that result in attraction of other jobs that are formed around the jobs, which are accessible to all citizens through various internships and training programs.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Pete Colarelli expressed his appreciation for the Bioscience Core and the medical community in Phoenix, which provides a variety of opportunities for current and future residents of the City.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilwoman Stark requested an update on Sister Cities to be added to the agenda for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Seo
Management Fellow

Report

Agenda Date: 9/10/2025, Item No. 2

One-Stop Operator Services Contract - RFP-CED25-OSO - Request for Award

The report requests the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee recommend City Council approval to contract with the International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC), for One-Stop Operator (OSO) Services on behalf of the Phoenix Business and Workforce Development Board (Board). The aggregate value of the contract will not exceed \$2,200,000. There is no impact to the General Fund.

THIS ITEM IS FOR CONSENT ACTION.

Summary

The OSO coordinates service delivery across all required partners in the ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix One-Stop Network, which connects job seekers and employers. The OSO ensures services at the two ARIZONA@WORK City of Phoenix Comprehensive Job Centers and across the network, are accessible, customer-focused, responsive to community needs, and aligned with the Integrated Service Delivery Model. The OSO also manages referrals and welcomes customers, connecting them to the services that best meet their needs.

Procurement Information

RFP-CED25-OSO, the One-Stop Operator Services Request for Proposals (RFP), was issued on March 11, 2025, and conducted in accordance with City of Phoenix Administrative Regulation 3.10. Four proposals were received, three of which were responsive to the RFP's requirements. An evaluation panel scored the responsive proposals based on the following criteria:

- Proposer's Qualifications & Experience (0-300 points).
- Assigned Staff's Qualifications and Experience (0-275 points).
- Approach to Scope of Work (0-225 points).
- Proposed Budget (0-200 points).

Staff recommends the proposal offered by IRC as the highest-scored, responsive, and responsible proposal.

Contract Term

The term of the contract will be approximately 21 months beginning on or about October 20, 2025 through June 30, 2027, with two one-year renewal options. The purpose of the 21-month term is to align the contract with the City's fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

Financial Impact

The aggregate value of the contract will not exceed \$2,200,000. Funding is available from the City's allocation of federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Concurrence/Previous Council Action

This item was approved by the Board on May 23, 2024.

Location

- ARIZONA@WORK- City of Phoenix- West Job Center
3406 North 51st Avenue
Council District: 5
- ARIZONA@WORK- City of Phoenix- South Job Center
4635 South Central Avenue
Council District: 7

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager John Chan and the Community and Economic Development Department.

Report

Agenda Date: 9/10/2025, Item No. 3

2026 Downtown Enhanced Municipal Services District Work Plan and Budget

This report requests the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee recommend City Council approval of the 2026 Downtown Enhanced Municipal Services District (EMSD) work plan and budget, as outlined in this report.

THIS ITEM IS FOR CONSENT ACTION.

Summary

The City Council authorized the formation of the Downtown EMSD in 1990 to provide enhanced public services above and beyond the level of services provided in the remainder of the City. The Downtown EMSD is generally bounded by Fillmore Street, 7th Street, 3rd Avenue, and the railroad tracks south of Jackson Street. The costs for the Downtown EMSD's services are paid through assessments on property owners within these boundaries, representing approximately 742 parcels.

Arizona state law requires annual City Council approval of an estimate of expenses and a diagram showing the corresponding assessments upon individual properties within the Downtown EMSD. Once the property assessments have been determined, the City Council must hold a public hearing and pass a Resolution declaring the final assessment amount.

The City contracts with Downtown Phoenix, Inc. (DPI) to implement the work plan described in **Attachment A** for the Downtown EMSD. The work plan and budget (**Attachment B**) for calendar year (CY) 2026 provides a variety of service enhancements in the downtown core, including business improvement services and overall business development.

This is the first of three City Council actions required annually to approve the Downtown EMSD budget, work plan, and assessments. Subject to this Subcommittee's recommendation, the City Council will be asked to tentatively adopt the CY 2026 Downtown EMSD budget and assessment diagram, and to provide notice of a public hearing to be held this fall at a future Formal City Council meeting. Once the City Council tentatively adopts the CY 2026 EMSD budget and assessment diagram, City staff will distribute letters to all private-property owners notifying them of

their proposed assessments, and the date of the public hearing. At that hearing, the City Council can receive public comment and then consider final approval of the 2026 Downtown EMSD assessments.

Financial Impact

In June 2025, the Downtown EMSD Board of Directors, which includes representatives of the City and other Downtown EMSD property owners, approved the CY 2026 proposed Downtown EMSD budget of \$5,240,953. This includes \$4,990,953 in assessment revenue and \$250,000 in non-assessment revenue. Non-assessment revenue sources include banners, fees for service, and landscape fees. Included in the budget is \$172,645 for streetscape maintenance expenses, which are paid only by property owners and tenants adjacent to the Streetscape Improvement District.

This proposed budget represents a 5.02 percent change over the CY 2025 budget to accommodate increasing costs.

The City's proposed CY 2026 General Fund assessments total approximately \$452,017, representing an increase of approximately \$8,628 from 2025 due to the increased budget. Assessments for the Phoenix Biomedical Core (PBC) land for which the City is responsible, as well as the Phoenix Convention Center (PCC) and PHX Arena (Arena), total approximately \$891,593, an increase of approximately \$44,591 from CY 2025. The City also invoices certain tenants on City-owned properties for assessments they are responsible for through their leases and treats these funds as an external pass-through to the district. These funds total approximately \$1,732,731. The remaining assessment revenue will be funded through assessment funds billed through Maricopa County Property Tax Bills.

The total EMSD assessment revenue of \$4,990,953 is funded through the following sources:

- General Fund: \$452,017
- Internal Pass-through (PBC, PCC, Arena): \$891,593
- External Billings: \$1,732,731
- Maricopa County Property Tax Billings: \$1,914,612

Location

The Downtown EMSD is generally bounded by Fillmore and Garfield streets, 7th Street, 3rd Avenue, and the railroad tracks south of Jackson Street.

Council Districts: 7 and 8

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Assistant City Manager Inger Erickson and Deputy City Manager John Chan, and the Street Transportation and Community and Economic Development departments.



2026 EMSD Work Plan

****DRAFT****

Administration, Finance, and Information Technology

Goal: To manage shared resources and maximize efficiencies while supporting initiatives and projects organization-wide.

Proposed Objectives to Achieve Goal

1. Provide technical assistance for customer relationship management (CRM) platform
2. Continue to identify process improvements, training, budget saving opportunities, and ways to help staff across all DPI departments and affiliates work more efficiently and effectively
3. Support the work of all DPI departments, affiliates and facilities through finance, administrative, HR and IT services
4. Manage DPI employee benefits and payroll compliance
5. Utilize and maximize resources within Emfluent platform, a local Predictive Insights firm that specializes in talent optimization, office culture development, career pathing and hiring best practices
6. Prioritize employee development and retention throughout the year
7. Oversee the implementation and completion of mid-year and end-of-year assessments
8. Curate a desirable in-office experience for both employees and visitors, making our HQ an increasingly magnetic nexus of city building activity
9. Working with Marketing, Ambassadors and Clean + Green Team, manage inventory and spending of Downtown Phoenix Inc. branded merchandise and uniforms
10. Manage compliance with City contract, including annual audit

Marketing & Events

Goal: Sustaining our neighborhood's positive momentum through mission-driven programming and events, relentless business support, rich, human interest-driven storytelling, and user-friendly resources that reinforce our live/work/play/learn/create identity.

Proposed Objectives to Achieve Goal

1. With Community Engagement and street teams, provide support to City of Phoenix and Local Organizing Committee in hosting 2026 NCAA Women's Final Four; use opportunity of hosting Women's Final Four to elevate and amplify Downtown's increasingly compelling story
2. Continue to develop and expand potential of new dtphx.org web site, which debuted in 2025
3. Continue to leverage the Downtown Insider, which experienced 40 percent subscriber growth in the first five months of 2025
4. Continue to share human interest stories (business owners, students, residents, employees, community leaders etc.) through the DTPHX blog, Insider and social media while also using our platforms to promote the important work we do to propel the neighborhood forward (Clean + Green Team, DTPHX Ambassadors, convention and mega event support, homeless outreach, volunteering, event support, business support, etc.)
5. Develop targeted PR strategies to amplify the organization's initiatives, including reports on economic growth, seasonal campaigns, DPI produced events, and other newsworthy announcements
 - a. Track media results through a media monitoring program that showcases reach, impressions, and publicity value
 - b. Track event results to show growth and community impact
6. Bolster strategic partnerships with City of Phoenix, Visit Phoenix, and Arizona Office of Tourism to streamline marketing efforts and increase awareness of Downtown businesses, cultural institutions, events and amenities
7. Raise public awareness to work DPI is doing to support individuals experiencing homelessness:
 - a. Promoting the work of our Outreach Navigators
 - b. Promoting We're In This Together v2.0 campaign
 - c. Promoting collaborative work being done in DTPHX Community Resource Hub, a new facility managed by DPI that provides office space for key partners like Valley Metro, City of Phoenix Community

Assistance Program (CAP), Upward and Onward, Phoenix PD's Downtown Operations Unit (DOU) and our contracted Outreach Navigators

8. Continue to curate an events portfolio and inclusive placemaking pop-ups that check multiple mission-driven boxes:
 - a. Family Friendly
 - b. Activating Public Spaces
 - c. Inclusive
 - d. Promoting Downtown Businesses
 - e. Budget Friendly
 - f. Multi-Cultural
 - g. Arts-Centric
9. Continue to identify new creative event spaces to expand our Venue Menu, positively impacting other areas of Downtown while relieving stress on Downtown parks
10. Increase event attendance through outreach to Downtown employees, students and residents
 - a. Continue working with ASU leadership to activate Civic Space Park
 - b. Work with Community Engagement and residential property managers to attract more Downtown residents to events
11. Continue celebration of cultural months, including DPI campaigns, produced and sponsored events, stakeholder engagement and community feedback (social media, surveys)
12. Continue to advance our event recruitment and curation strategies by growing our trusted network of Downtown event producers and convening those producers, in partnership with the City, twice yearly
13. Continue to grow sponsorship opportunities, focusing on providing opportunities to our investors and stakeholders
14. Continue to work with Visit Phoenix, Phoenix Convention Center, and hospitality partners to sell Downtown to convention clients and event producers, including assisting on site visits, executing golf cart tours and leveraging our constantly improving amenity package

DTPHX Ambassadors and Clean & Green Team

Goal: To curate a distinguishing sidewalk experience that is clean, safe, welcoming, and inclusive.

Proposed Objectives to Achieve Goal

Ambassador Program

1. Continue to serve as eyes and ears for Downtown by maintaining up to 24 full-time positions
 - a. Includes funding to financially support two (2) City of Phoenix Civic Space Park Rangers
2. Continue to participate in the City's coordinated efforts to reduce homelessness by connecting individuals in need to services and shelter
 - a. Continue to provide services to EMSD and Greater Downtown through two (2) dedicated dehp Integrative Services Outreach Navigators, who office out of the DTPHX Community Resource Hub and coordinate with DTPHX Ambassadors and Downtown stakeholders directly
3. Continue to professionally develop Ambassadors through monthly training programs, beyond 30/60/90-day onboarding
 - a. Provide street-level business tours and walking familiarization tours to Ambassadors to keep up with the rapid growth and development of Downtown
 - b. Schedule ongoing field trainings and other professional development opportunities
4. Manage the front lobby of DPI's main office
5. Continue to track daily (and report monthly) Ambassador interactions and services delivered through Eponic handheld devices; continue to explore viability capabilities of Eponic's web-based app, which would give stakeholders direct access for services requests
6. As Downtown development continues to deliver new residential and commercial offerings, evolve deployment to best serve entire EMSD, including newly added northern portion of Phoenix Bioscience Core

Clean & Green Team

1. Continue to clean high-traffic public spaces and infrastructure with pressure washing equipment
2. Improve walkability of Downtown's corridors and enhance the street level experience through landscaping
 - a. Increase pedestrian friendliness through tree plantings and potentially, with the help of grant funding, manufactured shade installations
 - b. Continue adding planters with flowering plants to beautify building exteriors near intersections throughout the EMSD
 - c. Continue to focus on west/northwest portions of EMSD, where thousands of apartment units have recently opened
 - d. Continue to design, install and maintain dog stations throughout the EMSD
3. Continue to assess and improve public amenities throughout the Streetscape Improvement District, such as:
 - a. Additional trash/recycling receptacles
4. Assist City of Phoenix with implantation of Downtown Parking Plan recommendations regarding signage
5. Continue to support Downtown's bike culture and pedestrian experience with an emphasis on improving the safety of sidewalks, crosswalks and bike lanes
6. Continue to work with City of Phoenix Streets Department to address signaling improvements throughout EMSD
7. Support stakeholders, such as ASU, working with the City of Phoenix to create pedestrian malls/corridors

Community Engagement

Goal: To inform and engage Downtown Stakeholders in Downtown Phoenix Inc.'s events, resources, and services by building and supporting avenues of reciprocal communication.

Proposed Objectives to Achieve Goal:

1. Continue staff's familiarization and proficiency in the utilization of Client Relationship Management (CRM) platform Virtuous, and refine stakeholder

lists to maximize performance and allow for more targeted communications and stronger historical data

2. Ensure proper communication channels are in place with property management teams, security teams, and parking management teams to support Downtown's high volume event days; implement tech systems that will streamline these communications
3. Raise awareness of our services with residential property managers and ownership of new and recent apartment communities within the EMSD, with the ultimate goal of seeing our welcome kits and printed collateral reaching residents who live in those towers
4. Continue placemaking efforts throughout EMSD by partnering with stakeholders on a variety of projects
 - a. Continue Family Friendly infrastructure initiatives, like Story Walk, and create a guide to family friendly amenities Downtown
 - b. Establish partnerships with local sustainability experts for greening projects and redevelopment of green space
5. Continue to partner with Downtown neighborhood groups like Downtown Core Community and Evans Churchill Community Association (Ex: Group bike rides, volunteer cleanups, etc.)
6. Strategically utilize streetpole banners for evergreen marketing and placemaking initiatives
7. Continue stakeholder engagement through monthly meetings (Open House, Events, Streets + Transportation), email communications (SOE, Stakeholder Alerts), events and one-on-one touchpoints
8. Leverage Downtown focus groups—made up of residents, students, event producers, employees, business owners, etc.—to help inform staff direction; formalize structure and cadence to maximize feedback
9. Continue to grow The Flock volunteer program:
 - a. Host a wide variety of volunteer opportunities that increase engagement with Downtown students, employees and residents
 - b. Continue to deploy The Flock as an additional value to event producers
 - c. Partner with local non-profit organizations to host satellite volunteer opportunities in public spaces and residential + office towers
 - d. Continue to build the database of volunteers
 - e. Pilot a community impact program that engages local businesses

Business Development

Goal: To foster Downtown as a sustainable, inclusive, family-friendly and economically-viable business, education, entertainment and residential center of our city and region.

Proposed Objectives to Achieve Goal:

1. Assist the City of Phoenix's Community and Economic Development Department with the attraction of new businesses and companies while also targeting retail gaps in Downtown, with emphasis on non-F&B businesses
2. Assist the City of Phoenix's Community and Economic Development department in prioritizing office retention efforts; enhance employee retention and attraction by leading strategic engagement initiatives, such as regular employer/employee surveys and proactive relationship-building with company leaders
3. Continue to serve as "one-stop" information + data resource for developers, brokers, and companies interested in locating/expanding Downtown, including access to a new digital twin platform specifically for Downtown
4. Maintain and regularly update Downtown Business Core data resources, including but not limited to: monthly Facts & Figures one sheet, demographic reports and development tracking; this data ensures accurate reporting by DPI and its partners and helps develop a strong understanding and visualization of Downtown trends
5. Continue to promote, organize and facilitate curated golf cart tours of Downtown for brokers, potential tenants, developers and other stakeholders to showcase the area and foster valuable new business connections
6. Maintain connectivity to commercial property management teams and increase their awareness of business development services and economic development data and collateral available to them through DPI
7. Conduct regular business retention + expansion visits with Downtown street-level businesses to build relationships, identify challenges, connect to resources, and provide direct technical assistance where needed
8. Support the Downtown Phoenix Community Development Corporation [DP CDC] in advancing affordable housing development in/adjacent to the EMSD
9. Continue to manage and curate the Downtown Phoenix Digital Twin, including providing user support, coordinating with technical partners, maintaining existing data, and identifying new data sources

ATTACHMENT B

CY 2026 EMSD Budget - Estimated

Account	2026 Budget
EMSD General Office	709,560
EMSD Admin Salaries	200,982
EMSD Events	433,358
EMSD Marketing	467,460
EMSD Bus Dev	219,998
EMSD BID/Field Services	2,831,950
EMSD SID	172,645
Total District Expenses	4,990,953
Miscellaneous non-district expenses	250,000
Total Budgeted Expenses	5,240,953
Assessment Revenue	4,990,953
Non-assessment Revenue	250,000
Total Revenues	5,240,953



Report

Agenda Date: 9/10/2025, Item No. 4

Authorization to Amend Ordinance S-51289 Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Venture Café Sponsorship

This report requests the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee recommend City Council approval of an amendment to Ordinance S-51289 for the sponsorship of Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation's Venture Café Phoenix Events Programming on the Phoenix Bioscience Core (PBC) in the amount of \$200,000 annually for three years, for a total amount not to exceed \$600,000. There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding is available in the Genomics Facilities and Operations Fund.

THIS ITEM IS FOR CONSENT ACTION.

Summary

Launched in 2022, Venture Café Phoenix is a collaborative initiative to bring people of all backgrounds together with a shared vision of building and sustaining an inclusive community that champions innovation in Arizona. To date, this has been accomplished through weekly gatherings of meaningful events that connect, inspire, and encourage participants to take positive action and support one another's goals. Venture Café Phoenix is a community-driven movement to unleash local and state-wide potential and make Phoenix a leader in innovation.

Since its inception, Venture Café Phoenix's event programming has facilitated 157 weekly events that resulted in over 1,097 break-out sessions with over 20,400 attendees, over 960 speakers, and an average weekly attendance of 160. The highest attended Thursday Gatherings have ranged from 225 to 340 attendees. One-on-one mentorship and office hours with subject matter experts are now available for attendees. Venture Café Phoenix's weekly events encourage connectivity and collaboration and serve to enhance Phoenix's ecosystem and infrastructure to support the growth of existing Phoenix companies, both in early-stage development and mature organizations, along with the formation of new companies leading to the creation of new jobs for Phoenix residents. Venture Café Phoenix has been an instrumental platform for showcasing Phoenix's domestic and international economic development efforts in bioscience, sustainability, advanced manufacturing and other synergistic industries and was awarded 2023 Fastest Growing Venture Café "Making

Things Happen Award” by Venture Café Global.

Venture Café Phoenix was modeled after the successful Thursday Gatherings of Venture Café programs taking place in Wexford Science+Technology innovation communities that have served to grow and strengthen the innovation districts in those respective communities. Venture Café Phoenix events are free, open to the public, and serve to connect attendees to employers, innovators, academic educators/researchers, business mentors, and the community. Presentations and breakout sessions are purposely curated to support the community’s connectivity, collaborations, talent and workforce development, business strengthening and access to resources. Venture Café strengthens Phoenix’s entrepreneurial ecosystem and enhances the City’s Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative.

Venture Café Phoenix plans to host approximately 40 Thursday Gatherings annually with an annual goal of more than 6,000 attendees who will all convene on the City’s Phoenix Bioscience Core, elevating its visibility as a premier location for companies to locate for bioscience research, collaboration, and access to talent. Venture Café Phoenix is hosted at the 850 PBC building and includes benefits such as:

- Serving as a convening hub of innovators from the region.
- Elevating the PBC’s brand as a premier location for bioscience-related companies and Phoenix’s robust bioscience ecosystem.
- Increasing partnerships between and among the City, academia, industry, the startup ecosystem, arts and culture.
- Facilitating international connections via the Innovation Bridge programming with visiting business delegations.
- Curating meaningful events that connect, inspire/encourage participants to take positive action.
- Prioritizing participation and support of attendees with marginalized identities.
- Enhancing infrastructure for research, education, entrepreneurship, arts and culture.
- Providing access to one-on-one mentoring with subject matter experts.
- Bringing entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, artists, designers, corporate innovators, technologists, community members together to find commonalities, share knowledge from different perspectives, forge partnerships, and explore opportunities for collaborations.

The City’s original Founders Circle sponsorship has proven to be very successful in engaging with Phoenix’s innovation community. The increased level of sponsorship to a Legacy Founders sponsorship will provide the City with heightened visibility and engagement, increased program planning and direct messaging to attendees to further

the City's economic development position as setting the standard for advanced technology innovators to thrive.

The Legacy Founders Sponsorship will include at a minimum:

- Two seats on the Leadership Council.
- Premier logo placement on Venture Café's website and newsletters with recognition as the sole Legacy Founders sponsor.
- Recognition at all events, including announcements at beginning and end of event programs.
- Inclusion in marketing material, social media, and Venture Café Phoenix's weekly newsletter.
- Monthly City of Phoenix economic development short article in the weekly newsletter.
- Two City of Phoenix pop up banners at each event.
- Program planning for six events with the option for more to include programming around visiting international delegations and industry conferences.
- Dedicated Legacy Founders slide with City of Phoenix logo on monitor rotation for programming during events.

The increased sponsorship level will allow staff to be more actively engaged in the planning and attending of events to pursue opportunities for business recruitment, retention and expansion, and introductions to workforce development services and programs.

The organizational framework will include the Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation as the host institution along with providing programming, financial management, and staff support. Venture Café will provide the City with an annual report of metrics of attendance, voluntarily collected demographics of attendees, qualitative and quantitative information from surveys, and engagement metrics.

Financial Impact

The fee for a Legacy Founders sponsorship is \$200,000 annually, with a three year total amount not to exceed \$600,000. There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding is available in the Genomic Facilities and Operations Fund.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager John Chan and the Community and Economic Development Department.

Report

Agenda Date: 9/10/2025, Item No. 5

Fiscal Year 2025-26 Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative

This report requests the Economic Development and the Arts Subcommittee (Subcommittee) recommend City Council approval to implement the Fiscal Year (FY) Bioscience Healthcare Strategic Initiative, including authorization of an Arizona Bioindustry Association (AZBio) membership for FY 2026-27 and participation at the BIO International Convention in 2026. Further request the Subcommittee recommend approval to accept funds from the City's BIO International Convention partners to offset costs associated with the 2026 convention expenses, and for the City Controller to disburse funds associated with the request. Funding for the AZBio membership and convention efforts will not exceed \$130,000. There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding is available in the Genomics Facilities and Operations Fund.

THIS ITEM IS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION.

Summary

Phoenix has grown to be one of the nation's fastest growing hubs for bioscience activity and is now ranked in the Top 20 of U.S. Life Science Markets. CBRE's annual life science reports ranked Phoenix First in Life Science Job Growth and First in Life Science Graduate Growth Rate among emerging U.S. Life Science Markets. Arizona is now ranked as the second fastest in life science job growth and ranked eighth in the nation for the economic impact of clinical trials. An estimated eighty percent of the state's clinical trials take place in Phoenix. Much of this success is attributed to Phoenix's world-class medical centers, institutes of research excellence, research universities, quality community colleges, a growing educated population, a pro-business environment, and the spirit of entrepreneurship and collaboration. To build upon these strengths, staff is continuing to implement a strategic plan introduced in 2018 designed to grow, strengthen and sustain a healthy bioscience industry. Since the launch of this effort, there has been an acceleration of investment and growth in the bioscience industry in Phoenix. By mid-2025, more than \$6.7 billion has been invested in new and expanded bioscience and healthcare facilities, and more than eight million square feet of primary facility space for discovery, development and care delivery creating more than 14,000 jobs for Phoenix residents.

Staff has focused its economic development efforts in the areas of research,

development, precision medicine, healthcare delivery, health-tech and education. Focusing on these areas strengthens and solidifies Phoenix as a leader in the nation's bioscience healthcare industry. The Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD) will continue to ensure there is a world-class real estate inventory to meet the unique needs of life science companies. This commitment includes support of Phoenix's four bioscience hubs: Mayo Clinic's Discovery Oasis, the Phoenix Medical Quarter/Midtown, the Phoenix Bioscience Core (PBC) and the Cotton Center, in addition to other submarkets within the City. CEDD has been working closely with Wexford Science & Technology, to bring prospective tenants to the 850 PBC building and its recently opened Connect Labs by Wexford on the fifth floor. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases is the latest example of a major tenant to lease space in 850 PBC. NIH will move out of its temporary space on the fifth floor and to its new 35,000 square-foot lab on the seventh floor in October of this year.

To continue to advance the City's position in the bioindustry, CEDD is requesting to continue the City's annual membership with the AZBio, the only statewide organization exclusively focused on building Arizona's bioindustry. AZBio is committed to building a top-tier life science industry in Arizona and is a critical partner for Phoenix. As specialists, AZBio provides industry insight, programs specifically designed for life science organizations, visibility into investment opportunities, and a voice for the industry in the media, across the community, and with elected leaders and government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. The AZBio annual membership cost is \$15,000 for FY 2026-27.

Another key effort is the promotion of Phoenix's bioscience efforts nationally and internationally by attending and exhibiting at the 2026 BIO International trade show to be held in San Diego. The 2025 BIO International was held in Boston, with close to 22,000 attendees and 73 countries represented. The City received heightened visibility with its partnership with BIO and the BBC StoryWorks with the debut of its film as part of The Next Frontier series. The film showcases the world's largest brain health study taking place in Phoenix through the MindCrowd initiative at the Translational Genomics Research Institute part of City of Hope. The CEDD Director participating on The Next Frontier panel alongside global leaders sharing the story of the rapid and intentional rise in Phoenix's bioscience industry's growth.

As a sponsor of Start-Up Stadium, the City was able to kick off the event this year and nominate three Phoenix-based companies that were selected as finalists. These early-stage companies were able to engage with key members of the investment community, venture philanthropy groups, and BIO attendees. This year's Phoenix delegation included 60 attendees, representing 33 Phoenix companies and

organizations. The delegation held more than 450 productive meetings along with continuous engagement with BIO conference attendees in the Phoenix Pavilion. More than 200 people attended the Phoenix Fast Pitch Reception featuring 15 Phoenix life science leaders sharing their innovations with the audience. Attendance at the event provided valuable networking and partnership opportunities and synergy with the City's attending partners looking to promote their research and products to a global audience. The knowledge and contacts generated by attending this trade show will be used in communicating the City's competitive advantage, existing ecosystem and resources in Phoenix to attract and grow companies in this industry to thrive and generate quality jobs for the community.

Planning is currently underway, subject to City Council authorization of funding, for the 2026 BIO International trade show. Preliminary estimates for participation such as sponsorships, pre- and post-targeted advertising, lead generation/retrieval, equipment, pavilion set-up and shipping costs total approximately \$115,000. Staff will continue to work with industry partners to co-locate at the trade show. This shared effort may allow the City to reduce its costs and boost visibility while assisting its partners in promoting Phoenix.

These continued efforts enable CEDD staff to showcase Phoenix's citywide assets and ensure success of future projects. CEDD and its partners continue to generate qualified prospects to create a pipeline of businesses considering expansions and/or relocations to Phoenix through a multi-faceted marketing approach targeted at this industry. Phoenix's involvement and partnership with AZBio and the BIO International trade show elevates the City's visibility as a hub for bioscience, building a critical mass of life science and healthcare-related companies and attracting and developing top talent vital to sustain the long-term growth of this thriving industry.

Financial Impact

There is no impact to the General Fund. Funding for the AZBio membership and to participate in BIO International 2026 will not exceed \$130,000 total for both efforts. Funding is available in the Genomic Facilities and Operations Fund. Funding received from the City's BIO International Convention partners will reimburse the Genomic Facilities and Operations Fund.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager John Chan and the Community and Economic Development Department.