



Put Technology TO WORK

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“The City is working to make its data more accessible and interesting to Arlington residents. We are creating maps and charts that will help people decide what public art to check out over the weekend and which restaurants have been given a clean bill of health. Putting data where it’s useful is one of our main goals as we increase our data transparency and innovation.”

-Jennifer Wichmann

Acting Deputy City Manager



Innovation Committee Tasked With Making City's Data More Accessible

After adopting an open data policy last October, the City of Arlington established a Data Governance and Innovation Team tasked with increasing access to valuable data by both city employees and the community.

This cross-departmental team meets monthly to review the data generated by individual departments, ranging from the most common destinations

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From Disney to EA, Branding Dreams Come True at PicturePlane in Downtown

The creative employees at PicturePlane in Downtown Arlington are making branding dreams come true through conceptualizing, character development, 3D modeling, CGI rendering, illustration, layout and logo design, motion graphics and more.

The design studio boasts a growing client list that includes Disney, Electronic Arts, Hasbro, Sega, Mattel, LucasArts, Cartoon Network, Del Monte and Dole.

"Here at PicturePlane we work on everything from cute little things to things that blow up," said Art Proulx, Creative Director, Partner at PicturePlane. "We are artists, illustrators and designers. With all of the disciplines that we have from sketch illustration to photography, all of those combined basically creates magic."

PicturePlane's Downtown office space is located at the Vandergriff Building, 255 N Center St, Arlington, TX 76011. Arlington, with its centralized location in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, has offered PicturePlane the perfect regional advantage for both recruiting talent and business growth.

Proulx and his team are excited about the outstanding growth and the momentum they continue to witness throughout Downtown Arlington.

"We're noticing this growth and a constant, exciting sense of activity here," Proulx said. "We love it here. We are all doing what we love. We are all living the dream."

Updates

(cont'd)

requested by the City's Handitran passengers to what kinds of code violations spike based on the season. The Data Governance and Innovation Team is currently determining how to make certain types of data, such as road closures or the locations of all neighborhood amenities, more readily available to the public through the searchable Open Data portal as a download file, an interactive web app or both.

"The City is working to make its data more accessible and interesting to Arlington residents. We are creating maps and charts that will help

customers or the community.

The Data Governance and Innovation Committee, which recently completed an assessment of Handitran data, will soon begin reviewing Parks and Recreation and Code Compliance data to look for opportunities to improve information access in those areas, said Elaine Dennehy, Research & Analytics Planning Manager.

Other planned projects include working with students in the Library's Girls Who Code program to develop an interactive app related to pet

What Works Cities | Bloomberg Philanthropies

people decide what public art to check out over the weekend and which restaurants have been given a clean bill of health," Acting Deputy City Manager Jennifer Wichmann said. "Putting data where it's useful is one of our main goals as we increase our data transparency and innovation."

By making data more consumable, the City aims to better connect with its residents, create efficiencies for departments and spur collaboration with the private sector, such as partnering with a web app developer who could create an interesting or useful interactive tool for

licenses as well as building an interactive map that would allow residents and visitors to pull up information on their phones about nearby parks, public art, community programming and other recreation and cultural amenities.

Arlington is one of nearly 100 cities partnering with the What Works Cities initiative, which aims to improve the effectiveness of local governments by enhancing their use of data to help determine priorities, allocate resources and tackle challenges facing the community and to increase public transparency.

Highlights

Arlington Celebrates Opening of New Council Chamber

Current and former Arlington city leaders, along with community members, gathered Tuesday night to celebrate the opening of the new Council Chamber.

Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams and City Council members were joined at the ribbon cutting ceremony and plaque dedication former mayors Robert Cluck, Elzie Odom and Richard Greene, all who served during the former Council Chamber's 35-year history. Also in attendance was former City Manager Al Rollins.

"Today is not just a celebration of our rich history, but it's also a day

to capture the excitement that surrounds our future," Williams said. "We look forward to a new state-of-the-art space where important city business can be conducted, and community programs can flourish."

The 6,500-square-foot Council Chamber, which will better meet the City's accessibility and technology needs, was built as part of the \$34 million Downtown Library project. The 191-seat facility replaces the former Chamber demolished in 2016.

"It's terrific to see all of the growth happening in Downtown Arlington," Cluck said. "And I know that in this new City Council Chamber, our Mayor and Council

members will make the decisions to continue the growth of Arlington – downtown and city-wide!"

In addition to City Council meetings, the new Council Chamber will be used for Planning and Zoning Commission meetings as well as a community room



available for library programming, public meetings and other events.

One of the City's goals with the new chamber was to update the technology and accessibility. This includes new video display boards, new AV equipment and cameras, updated lighting, hearing loop technology, handicap accessible bathrooms and other features.



UT Arlington, UNT Health Science Center Launch North Texas Genome Center

The ability to rapidly sequence genomes, DNA and RNA is providing doctors, scientists and engineers critical new tools in healthcare delivery and research and is changing the way that doctors treat patients. Whole genome sequencing is becoming the foundation for precision health, a rapidly growing field that examines differences in people's genetic makeup to provide more personalized and effective healthcare solutions.

The University of Texas at Arlington, in partnership with the University of North Texas Health Science Center, is bringing massive genome sequencing capabilities to North Texas through the launch of the North Texas Genome Center housed on the UTA campus. In addition to enhancing healthcare delivery in Texas and the surrounding six-state region, the NTGC will provide important facilities to spur growth in the region's rapidly

expanding biotech sector.

"The opening of this new center is wonderful news for Tarrant County and will bring a real boost to our local economy," said Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams. "By bringing together the science, engineering and nursing expertise of UTA with the biomedical research experience of UNTHSC, this new center will be able to produce innovative healthcare solutions with a real positive impact on patients."

The North Texas Genome Center will open in March 2018 for academic and corporate researchers. It will offer lower costs and faster service for human whole genome sequencing as compared to other genomics labs. The center will be critical for research in drug development, disease prevention, cancer treatments and fundamental aspects of genetics.

OPEN DATA *by the Numbers*

Top 3 cities using the Open Data Portal:

ARLINGTON

DALLAS

FORT WORTH



116,644
PAGE VIEWS



2,198
USERS



Via On-Demand Rideshare Among Three Arlington Projects Up for Smart Cities Award

The City of Arlington has been selected as a finalist in three categories for the IDC Government Insights 2018 Smart Cities North America Awards.

Arlington residents can help The American Dream City receive recognition for these innovative initiatives by voting in an online poll that is open from now through Thursday, April 5. Winning projects, which will be announced April 9, will be determined by a public

voting process and an international team of experts. [Click here to vote for Arlington's projects](#) (Categories 2, 7 and 11.)

Arlington's Finalist Projects:

- *Arlington On-Demand Rideshare Service* – Connected & Autonomous Vehicles, Public Transit, Ride-Hailing/Ride-Sharing category.
- *Arlington Operations and Asset Management Platform* – Administration category
- *Arlington Cooper Street Connected Vehicle Pilot Project* – Emergency Management category

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