DOWNTOWN PHOENIX
DEVELOPMENT

Phoenix

Phoenix encompasses more than 517 square miles and has a population of over 1.4 million, ranking it the sixth largest city in the country. Phoenix is a premier destination with more than 300 sun-filled days a year and an average temperature of 74.2 degrees; the risk of natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, and tornados is extremely low.

Phoenix is the vibrant center of one of the fastest growing job markets and economies in the United States. Phoenix is emerging in the new economy with strength in high technology, manufacturing, bioscience research, and advanced business services. Escalating growth of local Incubators, Accelerators, Coworking and Maker spaces, Phoenix is also developing into a renowned entrepreneur hub. Global companies such as Honeywell Aerospace, Freeport McMoRan, Avnet, and APL/NOL call Phoenix home, while companies such as American Express, USAA, SUMCO Phoenix Corporation, Charles Schwab, Republic Services, United Healthcare and Mayo Clinic have major operations here. Companies are growing in Phoenix because it’s not only a thriving business environment, but a great place to live.

Downtown Phoenix

Downtown Phoenix is the thriving urban epicenter of the Phoenix metropolitan area and is Arizona’s focal point of business, government, education, culture, sports, entertainment, and biomedical research. The Phoenix City Council adopted the Downtown Strategic Vision and Blueprint for the Future to incorporate advancements in development, to guide future development and recognize significant initiatives of the city and community. Many of the goals have been achieved to date as a result of the more than $4.7 billion of private and public investment over the past decade.

Today’s Downtown boasts the highest concentration of employment in Arizona, offering impressive urban amenities including living, shopping, arts, and entertainment. The dramatic growth is providing a surge in momentum for even more development. In addition to the large-scale projects such as the Phoenix Convention Center expansion, Metro Light Rail and the Phoenix Biomedical Campus serving as major activity centers, there is a real grassroots effort to create a true downtown community. The evolution of Downtown was and continues to be driven by neighborhood residents, business owners, students and the thousands of people who live, work and play in Downtown.

Transportation & Streetscapes

Central Phoenix has excellent access to many modes of transportation. Only minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, downtown also lies at the core of the freeway and public transportation networks. Virtually any suburban area in the region can be reached from downtown within 30 minutes.

Downtown is also the center of the region’s $1.4 billion light rail system. For more information, please visit http://www.valleymetro.org.

The City and private sector have also invested millions of dollars in making downtown streets pedestrian friendly, maximizing shade and making connections to major points of interest easy and convenient. Over the past several years, the city has made a commitment to embracing “complete streets” as well as improving our bicycle master plan. For more information, please visit http://phoenix.gov/streets/index.html.

Business, Hotels and Convention Center

Downtown Phoenix is the legal, government, and banking center of the Phoenix metropolitan area, with a daytime population of approximately 66,000. In January 2009, the 900,000 SF Phoenix Convention Center completed a $600 million renovation making it the premier location for conventions and trade shows in the Southwest and one of the 25 largest in the U.S.

Within easy walking distance of the Convention Center are major convention and business hotels such as the Hyatt Regency Phoenix and the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel. The state’s largest hotel, the $350 million, 1,000-room Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel opened in October 2008 and is one block from the Phoenix Convention Center. In 2010, the 242-room Westin Phoenix Downtown hotel opened in the Freeport McMoRan Center. In June 2012, the 242-room Hotel Palomar Phoenix opened within CityScape, a $500 million multi-block mixed-use development in the heart of downtown. In total, the downtown’s supply of hotel rooms is over 3,500.
Arizona State University (ASU) Downtown Phoenix Campus

The ASU Downtown Phoenix campus opened in August 2006 with approximately 2,000 students. Now more than 12,000 students take classes here and more than 1,200 live on campus. By 2016, investments in campus construction and renovation will be more than $500 million. The campus is home to the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, the Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, and the Morrison Institute for Public Policy. In addition, the Herberger Institute for the Design and the Arts has recently expanded to include studio space in the Warehouse District within Downtown Phoenix.

The ASU Downtown Campus continues to grow, as construction began in July 2014 on the Arizona Center for Law and Society. It will be home to the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, a “Great Hall” for lectures and public events, the Ross-Blakley Law Library, the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, the ASU Alumni Law Group legal clinic, as well as parking, retail amenities, and open space. For more information, please visit https://campus.asu.edu/downtown.

Phoenix Biomedical Campus

The Phoenix Biomedical Campus (PBC) is a 30-acre urban research park in the heart of downtown with an annual economic impact of more than $1.3 billion. The PBC currently includes 1.5 million square feet (SF) of biomedical-related research, academic and clinical facility space, with more than 6 million SF planned at full build-out. Presently, the PBC contains seven buildings, plus three currently under construction.

The PBC is anchored by the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN) and is home to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK); University of Arizona (UA) College of Medicine, Pharmacy and Public Health; ASU School of Nutrition & Health Promotion; Northern Arizona University (NAU) College of Health and Human Services; Viomics and Dignity Health (Barrow Neurological Institute / St. Joseph’s Hospital); as well as the nation's recognized Bioscience High School.

By Fall 2015, the UA Cancer Center will treat approximately 60,000 patients annually, while bringing an additional 500,000 visitors downtown. The $136 million Biosciences Partnership Building (BPB) is the latest development in the expansion of the PBC, and will be the largest building on the campus, at 10 stories and 245,000 SF. Additionally, the Boyer Company is leasing space for a planned 6-story, 150,000 SF wet lab research facility and has begun construction on an 8-story, 1,200 space parking structure to support the campus. All of these efforts are helping the city to fulfill its mission of creating a world-class biomedical campus focused on translational research and clinical care. For more information, please visit http://biomedicalphoenix.com.