

2024 END-OF-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVIEW



SPACE TO — ELEVATE.



RICHLAND
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
GROUP**

SPACE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.



Alliance Innovations Expands with New Facility and Jobs

Alliance Innovations transitioned to a 55,000-square-foot facility to accommodate their tooling production for manufacturing parts. This expansion supports their growth, adds high-paying engineering roles, and enhances their capabilities.



Richland County Site Summit

In 2024, we hosted the first Site Summit in Richland County, bringing insights from JobsOhio and Team NEO to evaluate major industrial sites. The summit provided a strategic roadmap for site development, positioning the county for business growth and investment.



Shaping Ontario's Economic Future

We joined the City of Ontario's comprehensive planning project with consultant Reveille to shape the city's future. By incorporating research, business input, and visioning, we ensured the city's economic development goals were prioritized with a clear roadmap for success.

Advancing Aviation and Cybersecurity

The 179th Airlift Wing shifted from airlift to cybersecurity missions, emphasizing aviation's economic impact. We hosted the first Aviation Career Day at Mansfield Lahm Airport, exposing students to aviation careers, and convened a panel on Advanced Air Mobility, discussing drones, flying cars, and Richland County's role in these technologies.



Business Financing Support

RCDG's loan fund program assisted local businesses secure financing. It supported key industries by helping companies access vital funds for sustainability and growth.



5

PROJECT WINS

95

NEW JOBS

29

RESPONSES TO
ATTRACTION
OPPORTUNITIES



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\$5M

NEW COUNTY PAYROLL

Production Expands for North Central Fabrication

North Central Fabrication, a structural steel and metal manufacturer, expanded to increase capacity and add new products like stair steps and handrails, previously sourced from out-of-state suppliers. The expanded facility now supports growth and additional hiring of metal fabricators.

Spec 2 Building and RIPL Loan

Adena Development planned a second speculative building at Airport West Industrial Park but faced a financing gap due to rising costs and interest rates. We identified the Rural Industrial Park Loan (RIPL) program and guided them through the application process. The project was approved earlier in 2024, and site work is underway. Building completion is set for December 2025. Thank you to the Richland County Board of Commissioners for supporting this project with enabling legislation.

Redevelopment Plans for Former YMCA Site

The former YMCA's on Park Avenue is being redeveloped with the Land Bank leading the way. Working together to get an architect to design the next phase of that site to represent the highest and best use that is complimentary to the neighborhood. The plan will be utilized with developers for the future of the site.

Mansfield Partnership

After 26 years of service, Mansfield's economic development director Tim Bowersock retired late in 2024. To streamline resources, in 2025 the City is partnering with RCDG/Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development for economic development, following a model similar to Shelby's. This approach enables its economic development initiatives to be supported by a dedicated team and established resources.

\$47M+

NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURES



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SPACE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SHELBY.



Shelby's Five-Year Strategic Plan Delivered

The City of Shelby's Strategic Plan has been updated. With support of Mayor Schag and Carrie Kemerer at the Shelby Foundation and looking to the former plan for guidance, Jessica Gribben led city officials and community leaders through an exercise to condense, prioritize, and cast a vision for a new 5-year strategic plan. The plan was delivered at year end 2024.

Revitalizing Broadway & Main

We worked with a business owner and Richland County Land Bank to find grant funding to demolish buildings and remediate environmental challenges on four parcels at the corner of Broadway and Main Street. This project began in 2021, when Troy Baker purchased the property with an interest in a public/private partnership with the land bank to bring the property back to useful life. Through a series of unfortunate incidents, the project was continually put on hold as we waited for state funding, and bureaucratic rule changes. In a highly collaborative spirit, all entities persevered, pushed back when the answer was no, and funding was secured in late 2024 to demolish the building in 2025.

46

BUSINESS
RETENTION
AND
EXPANSION
VISITS

11

RIBBON
CUTTINGS FOR
NEW AND
RENOVATED
BUSINESSES
AND SPACES



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SPACE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SHELBY.

1

EXPANSION
PROJECT
SUPPORTED
WITH STATE
AND LOCAL
INCENTIVES

Major Manufacturer Expansion Secured for Shelby

We worked with a manufacturer on a large-scale expansion effort. Worked through the incentive process with JobsOhio and added local incentives and infrastructure buildouts to ensure the project happened in Shelby. Multiple states competed for the project. This expansion resulted in 30 new jobs, and \$45M in capital expenditures.

Shaw Building Redevelopment Plan Progressing

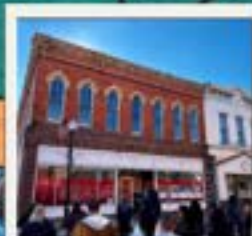
We worked with the Shelby CIC to develop a plan and find funding for development of the Shaw building. We worked with Domokur Architects and Adena Special Projects Group (SPG) to develop an application for Vibrant Communities Planning funding. Our application was presented to JobsOhio on 12/03/24, and the offer letter was received on 01/08/2025. Once this funding is secured, we will work with Domokur and Adena SPG to develop renderings and build out a capital stack to bring the building back to useful life.

4

FAÇADE
GRANTS
FUNDED AT
\$17K+
TOTAL
INVESTMENT
\$43K+

Revitalizing Shelby's Central Business District

We collaborated with the Shelby Foundation and helped them secure three buildings in the Central Business District. We worked with current owners to facilitate the sale, and have continued walking alongside the committee as they secured an architect and are moving through the renovation project. We have begun recruiting future tenants to fill the newly renovated spaces once complete.



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SPACE FOR WORKFORCE.



Aviation Career Day

In partnership with key stakeholders, we hosted Aviation Career Day at Mansfield Lahm Airport, introducing high school students to aviation careers. The event featured industry professionals, interactive demonstrations, and tours, showcasing pathways like piloting, air traffic control, and engineering while inspiring the next generation of aviation talent.



Area 10 Workforce Development Board

In 2024, the Area 10 Workforce Development Board (WDB) was restructured, and a comprehensive 12-month fiscal budget was established. This effort ensures improved financial oversight and strategic allocation of resources to support workforce development initiatives across Richland and Crawford Counties.



Workforce Board Grant

Through a partnership with the Area Agency on Aging, the Area 10 WDB secured a grant to develop In-Home Behavioral Healthcare Professionals, addressing a critical regional need and supporting workforce development in this vital sector.



Speaking Opportunity

Clint Knight presented EmployMePalooza at the 2024 American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) Conference, showcasing the reverse job fair model where students host booths, bridging talent gaps and enhancing workforce development.

Special Project Fund

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services awarded \$250K in Special Project funds to expand training opportunities in medical professions and manufacturing technology, supporting workforce growth and addressing regional industry needs.



\$100K

BUSINESS RESOURCE NETWORK FUNDS USED TO MARKET INCUMBENT WORKER / INDIVIDUALIZED TRAINING

112

EMPLOYEES UPSKILLED THROUGH INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING FUNDS

14

NEW INCUMBENT WORKING TRAINING APPLICATIONS



RICHLAND
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
GROUP**



SPACE FOR WORKFORCE.

\$263K
AREA 10 WDB
DOLLARS USED
TO UPSKILL
REGIONAL
TALENT

105
JOB FAIR
ATTENDEES

27
EMPLOYED AS
A RESULT OF
JOB FAIR /
CAREER FAIR

Microsoft TechSpark Grant Fuels 2024 Digital Upskilling Initiatives

In 2024, we secured a \$50K Microsoft TechSpark Grant, written by Clint Knight and Angie Cirone, prioritizing digital upskilling in Richland County. This partnership between the Mansfield-Richland Area Educational Foundation and Workforce Development has been instrumental in delivering impactful programs:

- **Teacher Bootcamp:** Partnered with MOESC and the Educational Foundation for the second year. Eleven teachers explored technology and built curriculum tied to local industry.
- **Arduino Camp:** Conducted with the 179th Cyberspace Wing, introducing 15 high school students to coding and digital skills.
- **Digital Skilling Camp:** Hosted with North Central State College, offering elementary and middle school students an early introduction to tech careers.
- **Shawshank Showdown:** A national robotics competition hosted by Stellar Robotics at Mansfield Senior, attracting 19 teams from 3 states, with plans to expand in 2025.

Job Fairs

In 2024, we partnered with the Area 10 WDB to host both the EmployMEPalooza student career fair event, as well as the Richland County Adult Job Fair.

- EmployMEPalooza showcased the interests and talents of 35 area students, as they hosted employers in an effort to find part time, summer, and post-graduation positions.
- The Richland County Job Fair saw participation from 45 employers and nearly 70 job seekers at the Mid Ohio Educational Services Center. There were 35 follow-up interviews scheduled as a result of the event.



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SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION.



BrandRichland: Showcasing Richland County's Unique Value

BrandRichland, the community branding initiative from the Mansfield Rising plan, made great strides in 2024. Co-led by the Chamber and Destination Mansfield - Richland County (DM-RC), with support of community partners, it saw 439 file downloads and 1,719 visitors to BrandRichland.com, reflecting broad adoption. The county-wide video debuted, showcasing 30+ locations and narrating Richland County's story. BrandRichland's collaborative efforts earned the 2024 Tourism Excellence Award from DM-RC, and the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) Marketing Excellence Award. In 2025, short videos will be created for targeted digital marketing campaigns to enhance pride of place and attract businesses, talent, and investment.

439
BRAND-RICHLAND
FILE
DOWNLOADS

2
BRAND-RICHLAND
AWARDS



Solar Eclipse Resource Landing Page

A resource landing page was developed to prepare Richland County businesses for the solar eclipse, which was well received locally and internationally. The site attracted over 14K visits in 2024 from visitors in more than 100 countries, as another resource did not exist. Collaborative efforts with local agencies ensured owners and managers were informed about scheduling, supply, and safety considerations. This initiative resulted in one of the region's most effective global awareness campaigns, assisting businesses in navigating the event's challenges while remaining informed and prepared.

100
COUNTRIES
VIEWED
ECLIPSE
LANDING PAGE

15K
WEBSITE
REFERRALS
FROM GOOGLE
ADS



Amplifying our Impact with Google Ads

The \$10K per month Google for Nonprofits Grant and Richland County Foundation support enabled us to drive over 15K website visits and reach over 149K people in 2024. Top pages included Economic Development and Workforce. Improved tracking and strategic management continue to enhance visibility and impact across Richland County.

149K+
GOOGLE ADS
IMPRESSIONS



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SPACE FOR — COLLABORATION.

BuildRichland: Supporting Business Growth

In 2024, the BuildRichland collaboration was created to unite RCDG, county commissioners, and regulatory agencies to streamline processes, create a business-friendly environment, and reduce barriers for development.

Area 10 Workforce Development Board

In 2024, Clint Knight began leading the Area 10 Workforce Development Board, overseeing WIOA funds for Richland and Crawford counties. The Board engages employers, develops career pathways, and ensures efficient use of resources to strengthen the region's workforce and economy.

US 30 Broadband Expansion

OARnet US30 expansion: Broadband RFI went out and responses processed. We met with the best respondents and are now working to secure funding before issuing an RFP.

Mansfield Rising 2.0

Sandy Messner joined the Mansfield Rising 2.0 cohort, attending South By Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas to propose a project for the updated plan. In May, we partnered with NECIC for a panel on gun violence, engaging officials, law enforcement, educators, and the community. Her project and seven others will debut in early 2025.

Northeast Ohio Development Exchange (NODE)

Jessica Gribben serves on the NODE board and programming committee, fostering regional collaboration through meetings and programs that connect Richland County to Northeast Ohio's economic development efforts.

Hamilton's Redevelopment Success and 17STRONG Model

Hamilton, Ohio's former city manager, Joshua Smith and current Director of Strategy and Information, Brandon Saurber, shared Hamilton's community redevelopment efforts, highlighting 17STRONG program, a resident-led initiative that has been recognized by OCMA and IEDC. The program builds pride and addresses blight with innovative strategies and incredible community engagement.

Strategic Planning and Priorities

With our three organizations united, the Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development, we held a planning retreat with our all of our board members at the end of 2024 to align our focus with our community needs and resources. More information will be shared later in 2025.



YEAR IN REVIEW

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COUNTY)


95
NEW JOBS


\$5M
NEW COUNTY
PAYROLL


5
PROJECT
WINS


29
RESPONSES TO
ATTRACTION
OPPORTUNITIES


\$47M
NEW CAPITAL
EXPENDITURES


61
RIBBON
CUTTINGS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (SHELBY)


46
BUSINESS RETENTION
& EXPANSION VISITS


11
RIBBON
CUTTINGS


\$43K
INVESTED IN 4
FACADE GRANTS


1
EXPANSION
PROJECT

WORKFORCE


\$100K
BRN FUNDS USED TO
MARKET INCUMBENT
WORKER TRAINING


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EMPLOYEES UPSKILLED
THROUGH INCUMBENT
WORKER TRAINING FUNDS


14
NEW INCUMBENT
WORKER TRAINING
APPLICATIONS


\$263K
AREA 10 WOB DOLLARS
USED TO UPSKILL
REGIONAL TALENT


105
JOB FAIR
ATTENDEES


27
EMPLOYED FROM
JOB/CAREER FAIR

EDUCATION


9 SCHOOL DISTRICTS REPRESENTED AT
TEACHER TECHNOLOGY BOOTCAMP


120 BUSINESS CYBERSECURITY
STRATEGY PARTICIPANTS


56 COMMUNITY TOUR PARTICIPANTS


\$50K MICROSOFT TECHSPARK GRANT
SECURED

MARKETING

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100 COUNTRIES VIEWED ECLIPSE
BUSINESS RESOURCE LANDING PAGE 
15K GOOGLE AD WEBSITE REFERRALS

149K+ GOOGLE AD IMPRESSIONS 