



The Austin Chamber partnered with Capital Factory in 2012 to launch a community center and coworking space that became the center of gravity for entrepreneurs in the heart of downtown Austin and in more recent years the Department of Defense DIUx outpost in Austin. The Chamber approached this partnership as the result of the work done by the Chamber's Opportunity Austin initiative 2.0, the first of three such multi-year initiatives that have raised \$54 million almost exclusively from the business community to support efforts identified as critical to the success and sustainability of Austin and Central Texas.

Since 2012, this collaborative effort has magnified Austin's brand as a leading global city for innovation and attracted the presence of President Barack Obama, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Apple CEO Tim Cook, and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. Last year, Capital Factory hosted 1,200 meetups and hack-a-thons that attracted 130,000 entrepreneurs and programmers from across Texas and all over the world. Partnering with Joshua Baer and his team on this initiative was an enormous success and the region has benefitted immensely from the meteoric growth, ongoing innovation, and success of Capital Factory.