

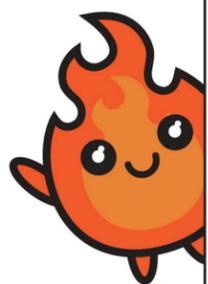
# Phoenix Sister Cities Delegation Visits Prague



In September, Phoenix Sister Cities organized a delegation to Prague, Czech Republic, that was led by District 3 Councilwoman Debra Stark and District 6 Councilman Kevin Robinson. Members of the delegation met with the CEO of Bioinova; made a presentation to the Czech Minister of Industry and Trade; met with Mayor Bohuslav Svoboda to discuss urban planning, smart cities and future collaboration; presented a workshop on autonomous vehicles to the Czech Ministry of Transportation; presented to more than 20 business people at CzechInvest; and toured the Czech Technical University. A highlight of the trip was a reception at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic (pictured).

## Explore Development Opportunities on City-owned Land

The Phoenix Community and Economic Development Department is continually collaborating with developers to bring exciting projects to City-owned land. These carefully selected sites offer unique opportunities and potential to shape Phoenix's future and create vibrant spaces. To explore current offerings, and learn how to partner with the department to bring transformative developments to the Valley, visit [InvestInPhoenix.com/Development-Opportunities](http://InvestInPhoenix.com/Development-Opportunities)



### Keep Up with The Quarterly

Published four times a year, "The Quarterly" celebrates the successes of the Phoenix business community, and provides information about the many resources the City and its partner organizations offer to help local businesses grow, expand and thrive.

To ensure that you continue to receive the newsletter, be sure to click the link below to subscribe. By visiting that link, you'll also be able to read past issues. [InvestInPhoenix.com/Newsletter](http://InvestInPhoenix.com/Newsletter)

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# The QUARTERLY

Stay informed, stay ahead.

PHOENIX COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER



## Farewell Message

from Christine Mackay

*As many of you know, on October 10, I retired from the City of Phoenix after 11 years as Director of the Community and Economic Development Department. But, I haven't gone far, as I had the privilege to move to a new office just a few blocks from City Hall and transition into the role of President and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC).*

*I worked with a talented and passionate team during my time with the City, and many significant accomplishments were made. A few that I'm most proud of include:*

- Adding more than 100,000 jobs, and assisting more than 500,000 people in their job search
- Locating the largest foreign direct investment in U.S. history from TSMC at \$165B, as well as dozens of its suppliers and vendors
- And, generating nearly \$200B in new capital investment into the market

*I look forward to continuing to work with all of you through my new role with GPEC, and strengthening the Phoenix economy and its global profile.*

*Christine Mackay*  
Christine Mackay

### Eric Johnson Named Acting Director

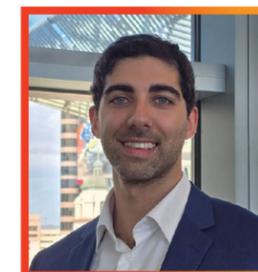


Following the retirement of Christine Mackay earlier this month, Eric Johnson was named the Community and Economic Development Department's

Acting Director. Johnson has been with the City of Phoenix since 2004, most recently serving as the department's Assistant Director. He has more than two decades of public sector experience, having worked in several City departments and other municipalities in Arizona, Colorado and Illinois.

A nationwide recruitment process is underway to hire the department's new permanent Director.

### New Phoenix Sister Cities President and CEO



The Community and Economic Development Department announced earlier this month that Joseph MacEwan has been selected to succeed Rita Marko as President/CEO of Phoenix Sister Cities. Marko, who has led the organization since 2017 and served the City of Phoenix since 2001, will retire in December after more than two decades

of public service and international engagement. The City thanks her for the many years of service working to build new international relationships.

MacEwan brings a strong background in community development, international relations, and civic leadership to the role. Since joining the City of Phoenix in 2015, he has held key positions in both the Community and Economic Development, and Housing departments, where he worked on initiatives that strengthened public-private partnerships and expanded affordable housing opportunities.

### Turquoise Wine Bar Comes to Roosevelt Row

In July, Turquoise Wine Bar along downtown's Roosevelt Row celebrated its grand opening with a festive ribbon-cutting event. It is located on the northeast corner of 5th and Roosevelt streets. Customers can order pours or tasting flights of boutique wines, spritzes, sangria or beer. A menu of small bites and other food items is also available. This was the first franchise location of Turquoise, with the original location in Glendale. Other locations are coming soon to Peoria and Tucson.



### Harkins BackLot Entertainment Concept Opens in North Phoenix

In July, local movie company Harkins Theatres expanded into the "funertainment" business and opened Harkins BackLot, a new family-friendly entertainment center in North Phoenix. Modeled after the soundstages of movie studios, Harkins BackLot is in the Shops at Norterra on Happy Valley Rd. The venue features arcade games, a 12-lane bowling alley, a restaurant and sports bar with a movie theater-esque size screen.



### Tesoro VC Supports Next Generation of Deep Tech Startups

In September, Phoenix-based Tesoro Venture Capital launched its Global AI + Semiconductor Accelerator Startup Hub. Tesoro VC will collaborate closely with industry partners, including Amkor, Cadence, and TSMC, as well as the City of Phoenix and Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), to drive the growth of the local semiconductor ecosystem through:



- **The Global AI + Semiconductor Startup Hub** - designed to launch and scale 40 to 60 deep-tech startups annually
- **The Global Semiconductor Design Center** - an advanced chip design and prototyping facility co-developed with Cadence

Andy Lombard, Founder and Managing Partner of Tesoro VC, said: *"Startups are the lifeblood of innovation in AI and semiconductors. Our mission is to give them a seamless path from idea to impact - accelerating their journey from concept to design to global scale."*

### Phoenix Represented at Semicon Network Summit



In September, Juan Batres from the Community and Economic Development Department represented the City of Phoenix at the Semicon Network Summit in Taipei, Taiwan. The event brought together individuals from government, industry, academia and research to lead high-level dialogue and connect the global semiconductor ecosystem. The event drew more than 600 participants from 28 countries, including the U.S., Japan, UK, France, Germany, and Czech Republic.

## 2025 SEMICON® WEST Makes Debut in Phoenix



SEMICON West 2025 took over the Phoenix Convention Center on October 7-9 - boosting the City's status on the global tech stage. It marked the event's debut in Arizona, after being held for decades in San Francisco. This year's conference set a record with more than 35,000 attendees, 1,500 booths and 860 exhibitors representing the microelectronics industry. Phoenix will now play host to the event on a rotating basis, with it scheduled to return in 2027 and 2029.

SEMICON connects the entire extended electronics design and manufacturing supply chain in one place at one time.



## Taiwan AI Smart Health Showcase Center Unveiled at PBC

In an exciting step forward for international collaboration and innovation, the City of Phoenix, Arizona Commerce Authority, Arizona State University, and Taiwan Digital Health Industry Development Association announced a partnership that will advance health care and biomedical opportunities between Arizona and Taiwan.

A Declaration for Collaboration between those entities will support Taiwanese companies in establishing and expanding their presence in the U.S., and led to development of the Taiwan AI Smart Health Showcase Center at the Phoenix Bioscience Core (PBC) in downtown. A signing ceremony was held on October 9 at Venture Café Phoenix in the 850 PBC Building, 850 N. 5th St. Ceremony attendees included representatives from 15 innovative Taiwan-based health care companies that were part of a delegation visiting the Valley that week to attend the SEMICON West event at the Phoenix Convention Center. Learn more

