

# Economic Development

*Creating a healthy, diverse economy and community*

Keeping the pulse of economic trends and development opportunities is what makes San Antonio a thriving community. From providing assistance for local businesses, creating more effective workforce development programs and welcoming new industries, the City of San Antonio is committed to maintaining a competitive marketplace.



- For the first time in nearly 20 years, the Mayor and Council invited new relationships and markets to San Antonio by establishing a Sister City in Chennai, India with immediate results of a \$1 million investment.

- The Casa San Antonio program celebrated its 16th year in Mexico, engaging over 670 businesses in bilateral trade and investment. Clients attributed more than \$61.5 million dollars generated in international trade and investment, or a \$75 rate of return for every dollar invested in the program.

- The San Antonio Economic Development Department launched a new program, Bridge to 550, to raise awareness about the multitude of City government contracts available as a result of the 2007 \$550 Million Bond Program.



- The Office of Military Affairs commissioned an economic impact study to determine the military's economic impact for San Antonio. The study determined the military provides a \$13 billion annual economic impact and employs nearly 200,000 people in the community. Once the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is implemented, it will provide an additional \$2.9 billion boost for San Antonio's economy.

- Valero Services, Inc., the largest petroleum refiner in North America, currently employs an estimated 1,600 people at their San Antonio headquarters location. In Fiscal Year 2008, Valero received City Council nomination and State designation as an Enterprise Zone project. As a result of this designation, Valero Services, Inc. is anticipating additional capital investment of \$6.5 million at its San Antonio headquarters over the next five years.

- The Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), assisted more than 540 small and large businesses with counseling information on contracting with the local, state and federal government. PTAC assisted clients in securing over 52 contracts totaling over \$28,204,037 (\$28.2 million) in federal, state and local contracting dollars. Additionally, the PTAC sponsored and participated in more than 56 conferences, workshops and seminars, which educated 4,500 small businesses on public and private sector contracting opportunities.

- The US Department of Transportation granted the San Antonio International Airport "First Landing" rights allowing general aviation aircraft to land and process through Customs at San Antonio International rather than at border airports, such as Laredo or Brownsville.

- In Fiscal Year 2008, the Office of Cultural Affairs provided \$5.98 million in funding to local arts and cultural agencies.

- San Antonio is proud of its creative economy. The recently completed economic impact study through the Cultural Collaborative reported the creative industry generated \$3.4 billion for the city.

- More than 200 youth, ages 17-25, with barriers to employment and education, were enrolled into the Bridges to Work program. This workforce development training program is designed to equip young adults with the necessary skills to enter the workforce or pursue higher education.

