



2025 Annual Report

Driving Innovation and Opportunity in the Heart of New Orleans



About the BioDistrict

The BioDistrict New Orleans is a special purpose economic development district adjacent to downtown. It includes major hospitals, medical schools, research institutions, and community partners. Created in 2005 and updated in 2022, the BioDistrict is charged with driving both programmatic and physical growth of the biosciences sector in New Orleans.

The BioDistrict is supported by Cooperative Endeavor Agreements (CEAs) with the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana. These CEAs enable revenue sharing that allows the district to access up to \$70.6M between 2022–2039 from the City and a state match of up to \$25M. This innovative model enables the district to become a key economic engine for the city, region, and state. The BioDistrict’s strategic master plan, completed and approved by City and State partners in 2022, guides the district’s plans and investments.

Wins & Milestones

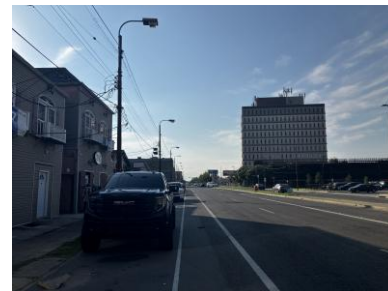
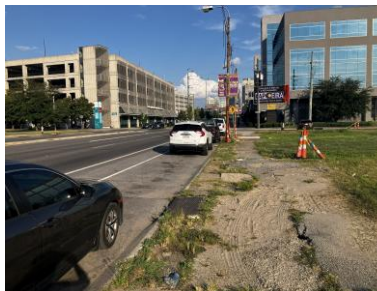
Landscaping Improvements with DDD

The BioDistrict partnered with the Downtown Development District to complete \$300,000 worth of landscaping improvements along key corridors. These efforts enhanced the district's visual appeal, improved walkability, and supported placemaking goals.



Tulane Avenue Tree Planting

The district approved a \$90,000 contract with Groundwork New Orleans to restore the tree canopy along Tulane Avenue. Current condition photos below illustrate the project need. Tree planting will commence in November 2025.





Greater New Orleans Foundation/Kresge/MMDC Collaboration & Richard Florida Visit

In partnership with the Greater New Orleans Foundation, Kresge Foundation, and the Memphis Medical District Collaborative (MMDC), the BioDistrict participated in a learning exchange and hosted urbanist Richard Florida to engage anchor institutions and community leaders in reviewing current plans and to draw inspiration from what other communities are doing to activate their innovation districts.



Supporting Local Startup Growth

Consistent with its commitment to help researchers commercialize their work, the BioDistrict approved a plan to direct \$91,250 to the New Orleans BioInnovation Center (NOBIC) to provide SBIR/STTR grant-writing assistance to biotech startups in the city. This investment is a high-leverage strategy to help startups capture significant, non-dilutive capital to successfully navigate the earliest stages of business development.



Sponsoring the BioChallenge Competition

The BioDistrict also became a leading sponsor of the BioChallenge held by NOBIC for \$25,000, an effort to help catalyze innovation in bio and life sciences and spotlight Louisiana's biotech leadership and business opportunities to a local, national and international audience.

Strategic Priorities for the Year Ahead

- Support Charity Hospital Redevelopment and the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine
- Partner with RTA on Better Bus Stop Implementation
- Facilitate Healthcare Industry Sector Workforce Partnership job training efforts
- Hire a public realm consultant to advance infrastructure activation and quality placemaking
- Submit proposals to capture federal funding from the Economic Development Administration and increase impact by bringing additional resources to the district
- Champion the BioDistrict Housing and Small Business Investment Fund, being created by philanthropic and banking partners

Awards & Honors

Andy Kopplin in his role as Chair for the BioDistrict Board was a finalist for The Global Institute on Innovation District's (GIID) District Champion Award in 2025

Board of Directors

- Andy Kopplin, Chair – Greater New Orleans Foundation
- Blake Stanfill, Vice Chair – Okwata Group & Finance New Orleans
- Kaneisha Akinpelumi – Xavier University of Louisiana
- Emily Arata – Ochsner Health
- Arnel Cosey – Clover
- Lowry Curley – 28bio
- Judith Dangerfield – PolicyLink & Ujamaa EDC
- Josh Fleig – Louisiana Economic Development
- Michael Hecht – Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Nicole Honoree – LSU Health Sciences Center
- Larissa Littleton-Steib – Delgado Community College
- Patrick Norton – Tulane University
- Charlotte Parent – LCMC Health
- Greg Tillery – We Dat's Chicken and Shrimp

Summary of Expenditures

Total City Fund Expenditures in 2025: \$402,490.01

-Administration: \$65,024.30

-Community Engagement: \$27,000

-Program Services: \$310,465.71

Total State Fund Expenditures in 2025: \$0

(Cash Basis through end September 2025)

Investment Activity in and around the BioDistrict

[Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine Announces plans to open in the BioDistrict](#)



[Tulane University Downtown Campus Improvements](#)



[\\$5.1M LSUHSC Real Estate Expansion](#)

[Gayle Benson buys Class A Office Tower Downtown at 1515 Poydras St](#)

[First Trader Joe's Opens in New Orleans](#)

[\\$50M Health & Wellness Complex Planned for 2525 Canal Street](#)

[CrescentCare MidCity Community Health Center Opens at 2515 Canal Street](#)



VOASELA Canal Pointe Residential Recovery Facility Opens at 1801 Canal Street

VOASELA Acquires and plans to renovate Oak Plaza Integrated Healthcare Facility at 2475 Canal Street