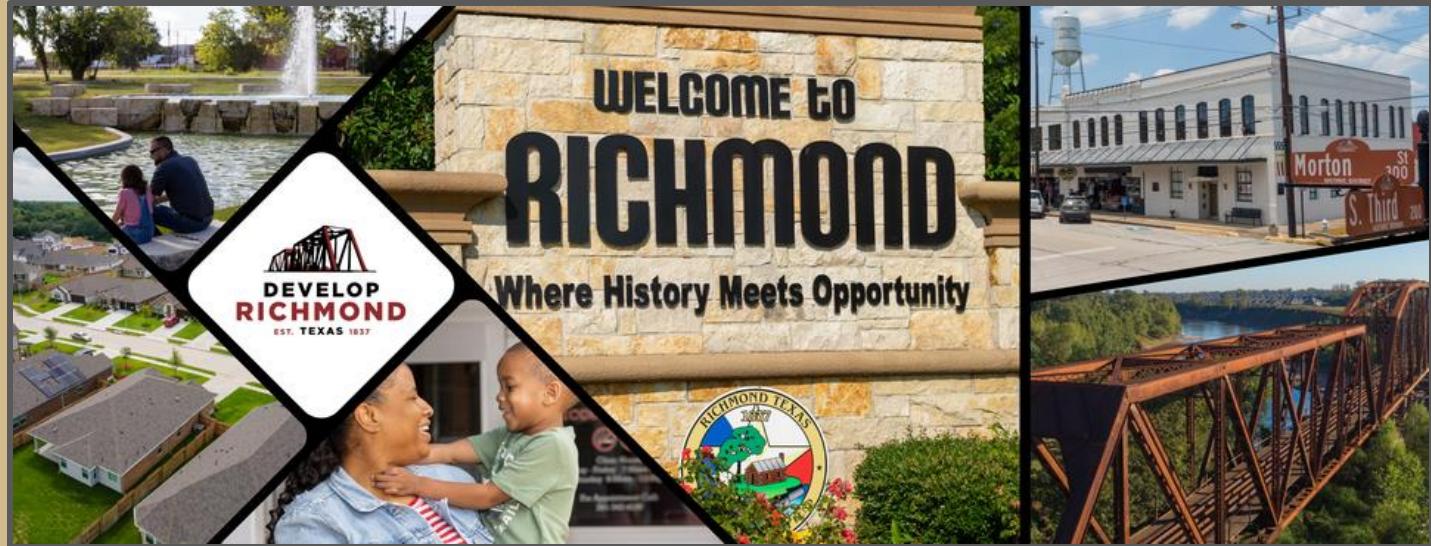




Houston-Galveston
Area Council



Richmond, Texas Roundtable

January 28, 2026

Downtown Revitalization Update



Richmond: Where History Still Walks the Streets

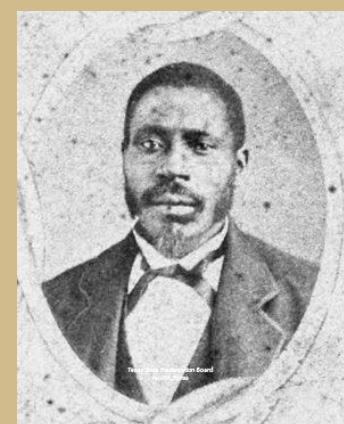
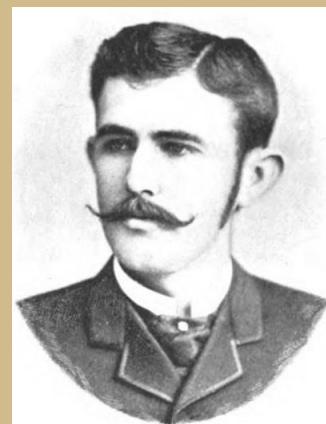
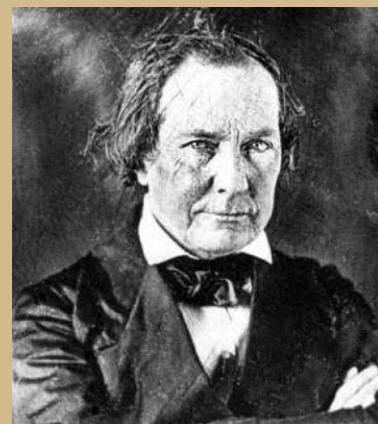
Richmond, Texas began its story in 1822 when a band of Stephen F. Austin's colonists – the Old 300, built a fort on a bend of the Brazos River. They first called the site “**Fort Settlement**,” but when land promoters Robert E. Handy and William Lusk officially laid out the town in 1837, they gave it the name of Richmond, after the city in Virginia. Within a year, the young town became the county seat of Fort Bend County, setting the stage for a remarkable journey through Texas history.*



Richmond: Where History Still Walks the Streets

Along with William Morton, Richmond has always attracted larger-than-life personalities: **Erastus “Deaf” Smith**, the legendary scout of the Texas Revolution, and **Jane Long**, known as the “Mother of Texas.” and **Mirabeau B. Lamar** are some of the best known and influential Texans buried here in Morton Cemetery. Then fiery prohibitionist **Carry Nation** briefly operated the National Hotel before departing for Kansas. **John M. Moore**, a local rancher and politician, raised the quality of Texas cattle and served both in the state legislature and in the U.S. Congress. Another towering figure was **Walter Moses Burton**, the first Black elected sheriff in the United States, who is also buried in Morton Cemetery.

**DiscoverTexas*



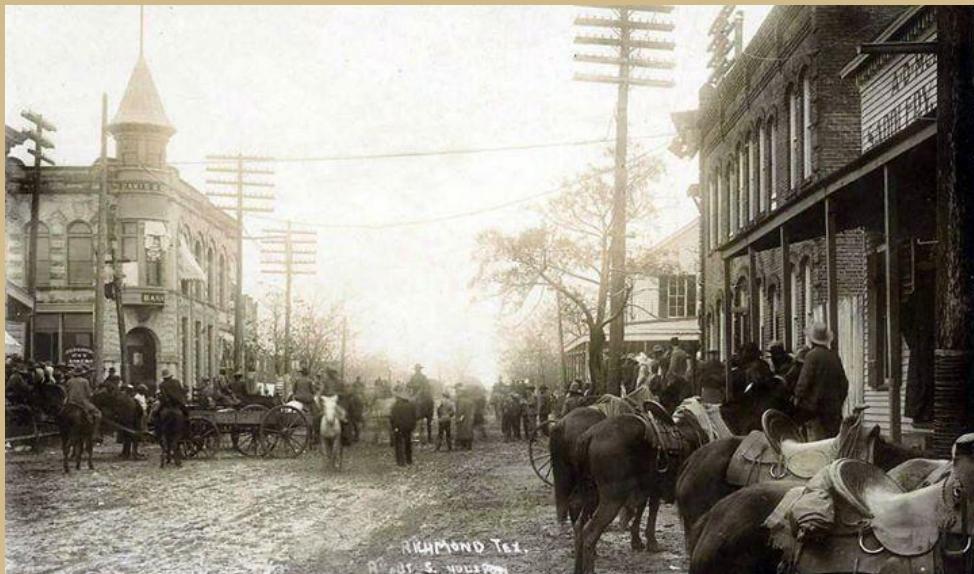
A Downtown with Deep Roots



By 1851, Richmond included a brick courthouse, two stores, a Masonic Hall, the Methodist Church and the Richmond Male & Female Academy.



In 1855, Railroad tracks extended into town and by 1859, Richmond was a prosperous shipping and market center for the area's cotton crop and soon to be cattle empire. Now boasting two hotels, a brick building and other stores.



A Downtown with Deep Roots

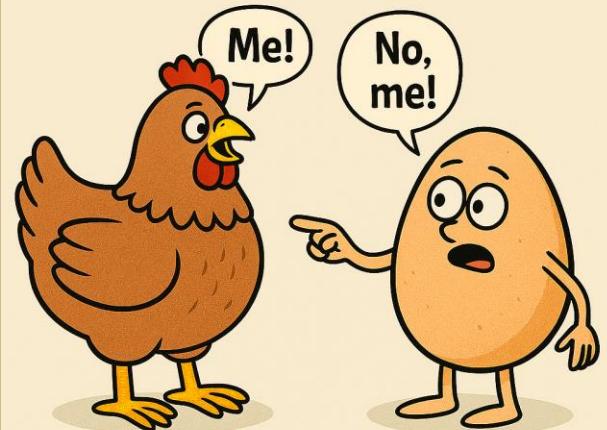
Richmond's downtown tells the story of Texas itself — historic buildings, a courthouse square, tree-lined streets, and the Brazos River shaping its edge. The goal is not to reinvent downtown, but to reimagine it, honoring its past while positioning it for the next generation of growth.



Like most downtowns
Bringing Back Mainstreet
– there is a Chicken & Egg
situation.



WHICH CAME FIRST,
THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?



→ *Foot traffic*

- How to create it?
- How to capture it? and
- How to capitalize on it?

We have a plan...

Strategic Foundation

Goal: Preserve our heritage while driving economic growth.

Richmond took the time to listen and act, creating a roadmap for the future...

2024 – UPDATED its Comprehensive Master Plan and its Central Revitalization Plan.

- Plan your Work and Work your Plan
- Hit your milestones and Celebrate your wins

2025 – Richmond invested in a Strategic Plan

- Focus: Business Support, Catalyst Projects & Placemaking
- SWOT Analysis: Embracing our Strengths; Capitalizing on Opportunities; Improving our Weaknesses and Eliminating our Threats

Momentum Is Building

Strategic investments and community leadership have created momentum. From public infrastructure to private reinvestment, downtown Richmond is moving from potential to progress.



2015



2026

Momentum Is Building

Richmond is getting noticed!

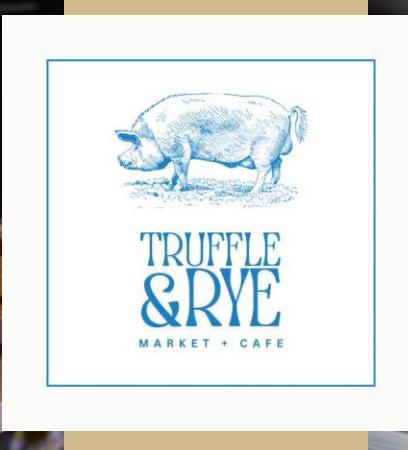


Catalysts Change the Story

Projects like the elevated dining of Truffle & Rye, the Fire House redevelopment and streetscape improvements aren't isolated investments — they are signals. Signals to residents, visitors, and investors that downtown Richmond is open for business and built for experience.

Creating the foot traffic.

Truffle & Rye



“This started as a dream. A chef’s dream to build something more than a restaurant a space where culture, community, and culinary craft collide.

Truffle & Rye is a tribute to everywhere I’ve been and everything I’ve learned. From fine-dining kitchens across the country to intimate pop-ups and late-night R&D sessions, it’s all led to this.

This café isn’t just about breakfast and lunch.

It’s about experience.

It’s about giving Richmond a taste of the world one plate at a time.” – Chef Joey Chavez

Opening February 2026

Firehouse Project

A sneak peek into Richmond's first public-private partnership in revitalizing Downtown Richmond. --- *Coming Fall 2026*

OOPS! Looks like you missed it.

Now, you have to wait to see the renderings when the project is publicly announced.

Stay tuned!

Firehouse Project

A destination development and the launch of a new beginning for
Historic Downtown Richmond.

*OOPS! Looks like you missed it.
Now, you have to wait to see the renderings when the
project is publicly announced.
Stay tuned!*

Firehouse Project

Introducing vibrant outdoor spaces designed to create a dynamic gathering place, infused with a distinctive culinary experience that celebrates local flavor and creativity.

OOPS! Looks like you missed it.

Now, you have to wait to see the renderings when the project is publicly announced.

Stay tuned!

Designing for People First

Sidewalks, lighting, public spaces, and storefronts create more than infrastructure — they create moments. A walkable downtown invites people to linger, explore, and return.

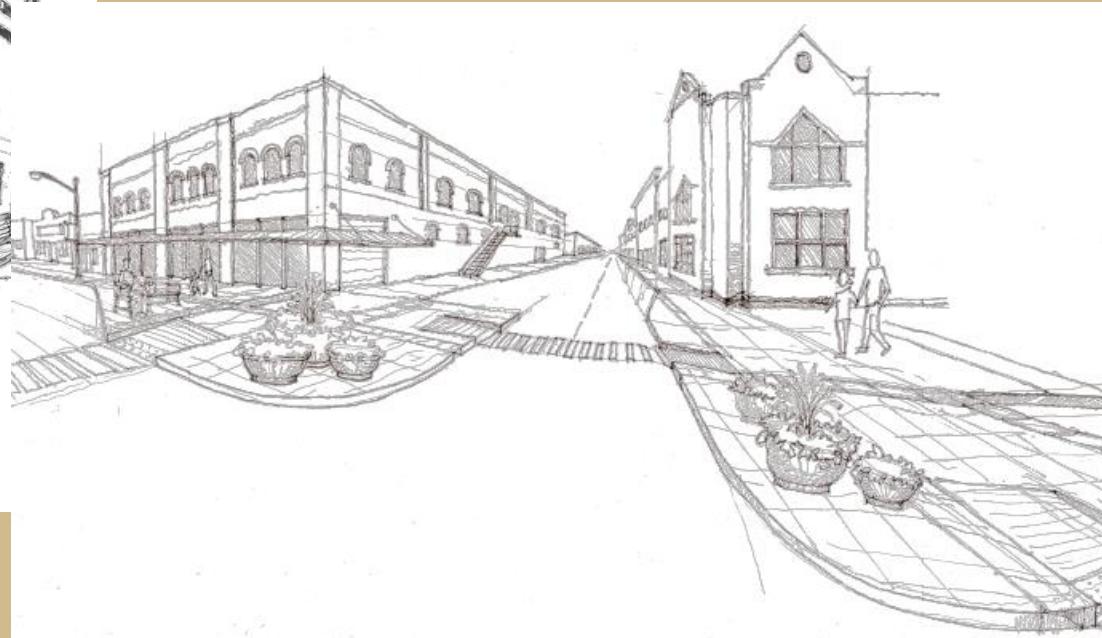
Designing for People First

Upcoming Sidewalk Project for downtown Richmond
June 2026 anticipated Start



Designing for People First

Upcoming Sidewalk Project for downtown Richmond
June 2026 anticipated Start



Designing for People First

Connecting the downtown district through safe, walkable streetscapes.



Curated, Not Generic

Downtown Richmond's retail future is intentional. The focus is on curated, locally-driven, experience-based businesses that reflect Richmond's character and complement regional offerings — not replicate them. We believe in quality & thoughtful growth.

Capturing the foot traffic.

Curated, Not Generic

- Boutique & Specialty Retail
- Local Entrepreneurship
- Unique Brand Identity
- Destination Shopping Experience



Curated, Not Generic

Securing distinctive retail experiences that go beyond the ordinary – drawing visitors back again and again for something they can't find anywhere else.



An 18-Hour Downtown

A thriving downtown needs people who live there. By adding 300+ downtown residents, Richmond creates daily activity, supports local businesses, and builds a safer, more vibrant district.

An 18-Hour Downtown

A place where you can live, work and play... Come home to stay.



An 18-Hour Downtown

Richmond is Alive After Five... Come and experience the bustling and fun nightlife found in and around downtown.



Reconnecting to the Brazos

The Brazos River is Richmond's natural edge and greatest untapped asset. By creating visual, physical, and programmatic connections to the river, downtown gains a unique sense of place no other community can replicate.



Reconnecting to the Brazos

Riverfront views, Trail connectivity, Overlooks & gathering spaces with natural amenity activation.



From Destination to District

Connectivity ties everything together — streets, sidewalks, trails, gateways, and wayfinding. When downtown works as a connected district, it becomes more than a place to visit; it becomes a place to belong.

Capitalizing on the Foot traffic.

From Destination to District

Every event is an opportunity to strengthen ties, turning strangers to friends and making Main Street the center of community life.



From Destination to District

Main Street Magic: Where Community Celebrates the Season



CELEBRATE

Christmas in the Bend

WEEKEND!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH:

RICHMOND FARMERS MARKET:

4-8 PM at City Hall Plaza.

TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY:

6:00 PM at City Hall Plaza.

"GLISTEN & THE MERRY MISSION" MOVIE:

6:30 PM at Wessendorff Park.

Community Christmas Walk (CCW):

6-9 PM in Downtown Richmond and the historic district, featuring local shopping, dining, music, gingerbread house competition & various activities.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH:

Miracle on Morton Street Festival:

10AM-4PM in Downtown Richmond!

Gifts - Shopping - Santa - Performances - Cake Walk

Live Music - Letters to Santa - Snow Globe - Food Trucks

People's Choice Award for Gingerbread House

Competition: Winner announced during the festival.

Don't miss this magical weekend filled with holiday cheer!
Visit www.RichmondTx.gov for details!



From Destination to District

Placemaking in Richmond transforms public spaces into destinations – where murals tell our story, local art adds color, and historic streets become stages for music and culture.



From Destination to District

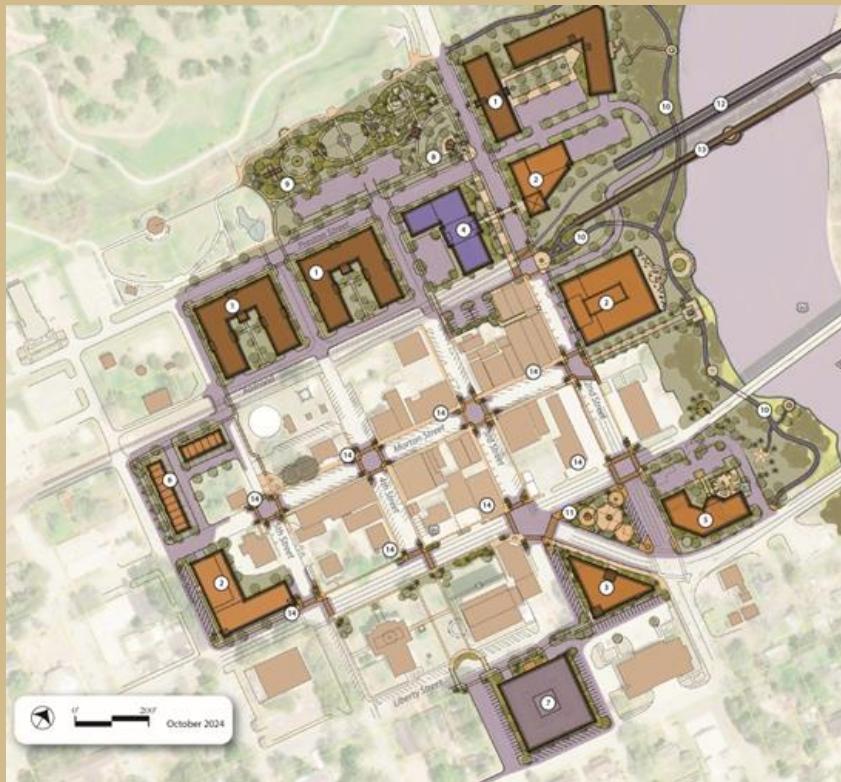
Business retention and expansion are as critical as attracting new ventures. Strengthening partnerships and promoting local businesses is key to sustaining a vibrant, resilient downtown.

- Promotion
- Incentives
- Solving problems



The Next Chapter

Richmond's downtown revitalization is not a single project or moment. It is a coordinated, community-driven effort guided by strategy, investment, and vision — ensuring the heart of Fort Bend continues to thrive.



GET READY FOR A NEW CHAPTER

The Heart of Fort Bend

Richmond stands at the intersection of history and opportunity — where the past is preserved, and the future is soaring.

Come and join us as we write Richmond's next chapter. It is going to be a good one.



Lacie Chambers, Economic Development Director
Ichambers@RichmondTX.gov