



# ARPA DOWNTOWN KILLEEN START-UP GRANTS UPDATE

DS-25-008

April 1, 2025

# Background

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- July 12, 2022, City Council authorized the negotiation of contracts with seven (7) applicants for the Downtown Killeen Start-Up Grant Program.

# Background

	<b>Business:</b>	<b>Award Amount:</b>
1.	Braids and Brows By Chris	\$ 19,781
2.	Rincon de Panama	\$ 87,500
3.	Let's Eat Texas	\$ 89,000
4.	Khaniesiology (Khanetic Images)	\$ 95,000
5.	Space Create	\$ 128,578
6.	Aromas Cigar Lounge	\$ 239,953
7.	Twice As Funny	\$ 306,000
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$965,812</b>

# Braids and Brows by Chris

- ❑ Contract was signed on August 29, 2022 for \$19,781
  - A change order was issued for \$617.81.
- ❑ Private investment from this business was \$4,900 .



# Braids and Brows by Chris

- Braids and Brows by Chris hosted its grand opening in October 2022.
- The company rebranded in 2023 as Headquarters Upscale Barber and Beauty.
- The term of the contract ended on December 31, 2024. All contractual obligations between the City of Killeen and Braids and Brows by Chris have been fulfilled.

# Rincon de Panama

- ▣ Contract was signed on January 27, 2023 for \$87,500.
  - A change order was issued for \$13,500.
- ▣ Ms. Munoz closed on the property in February 2023.



# Rincon de Panama

Rincon de Panama  
held its grand  
reopening on  
December 7, 2024.



# Let's Eat Texas

- ▣ Contract was signed on September 9, 2022 for \$89,000.
- ▣ Private investment from Let's Eat Texas was \$325,000.





# Let's Eat Texas

Let's Eat Texas hosted its grand reopening in December 2022, adding 6 jobs to downtown.



# Khaniesiology (Khanetic Images)

- ▣ Contract was signed on December 5, 2022 for \$95,000.
- ▣ Private investment from Khaniesiology was \$210,000.



# Khaniesiology (Khanetic Images)

Khanetic Images hosted  
its grand opening on  
June 30, 2023.



# Space Create

- Contract was signed on August 29, 2022 for \$128,578.
- Private investment from Space Create was \$465,430.



# Space Create

Space Create  
hosted its  
grand opening  
in November  
2022.



# Aromas Cigar Lounge

- Contract was signed on November 9, 2022 for \$239,953.
- Renovations of the building were completed in December 2024.



# Aromas Cigar Lounge

- Aromas had their soft opening in March 2025.
- Ribbon cutting is scheduled for March 31, 2025.



# Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge

- Contract was signed on August 29, 2022 for \$306,000.
- Private investment from Twice as Funny was \$1,408,000.
- Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge hosted their grand opening on May 13, 2023.





# Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge

- In February 2024, the Killeen Fire Marshal's Office found that there was a kitchen in operation without proper fire suppression systems. The property was instructed to stop all cooking activity.
- In October 2024, the Killeen Fire Marshal inspected and found that kitchen activity had resumed, and once again had the equipment removed from the property.

# Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge

- In February 2025, the Killeen Fire Marshal inspected again, and found that kitchen activity had resumed. A Cease and Desist was issued for the building.
- On March 5, 2025, the City of Killeen issued a Demand for Recoupment for the ARPA grant awarded to Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge in the amount of \$306,000.

# Twice as Funny Comedy Lounge

- There are currently five (5) open code enforcement violations for the property:
  - ▣ Work without a building permit for the kitchen;
  - ▣ Occupying the building without a Certificate of Occupancy;
  - ▣ Two (2) International Property Maintenance Code violations; and
  - ▣ One signage violation.