Microsoft

Microsoft in Atlanta

Our vision

Microsoft has been in Atlanta since 2007, working with civic, nonprofit, and academic organizations and institutions. With top-ranked universities, global industry partners, and robust technical talent, we are excited to play a larger role in empowering and growing with Atlanta.

We're taking a listen-first, community-driven approach to our growth in Atlanta to ensure we generate a sustainable, positive impact while we continue supporting regional innovation.

Customers

Many of our customers and market sectors are headquartered on the East Coast. By expanding Microsoft's presence here, we aim to:

- Strengthen collaboration to build and improve our technology based on their evolving needs.
- Make new investments in local infrastructure in response to regional demand and support their digital transformation with data residency benefits.

Culture

Atlanta is a magnet for opportunity, offering a diverse blend of perspectives and experience. Our growth in the area reflects:

- A commitment to our local workforce and customers.
- An investment in new opportunities to engage with the city's vibrant academic and entrepreneurial spirit.
- A readiness to bring new ideas to the table to help us build on our most innovative products.

Community

Our priority is to generate positive, local impact. We are working closely with leaders from government and civic communities in Atlanta to:

- Ensure we understand and respond to local needs as we plan for jobs, programs, infrastructure, and community spaces.
- Achieve the first goal from our listen-first, community-driven process: to set aside 25% of the land at Quarry Yards/Quarry Hills for key residential construction needs (e.g., infrastructure, affordable housing).
- Enable people with digital skills through Microsoft's own skilling programs and our partnership with the Georgia University System.

Our progress to date

Through education and skilling programs, philanthropy, talent acquisition and development initiatives, and community outreach, Microsoft is committed to creating a positive impact in the region. Our current programs and commitments include:

Closing the skills gap and employability

- **Accelerate Atlanta:** In July 2021, we launched a program that brings together civic, learning, and corporate partners to provide skills across the spectrum of digital proficiency to underserved communities, as well as re-skilling to the many Americans impacted by the pandemic. So far, we've established a coalition of more than 20 public and private partners to enable workforce development, resulting in more than 5,000 people skilled.
- **TEALS:** Microsoft's Atlanta Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) program has been serving schools in the region since 2016, originally with five schools. Since then, TEALS Atlanta has reached approximately 1,450 students and supported over 50 teachers in 101 classrooms and 36 schools. At the start of the 2021-2022 school year, TEALS was present in nine Atlanta schools and 29 schools in Georgia.
- **Community skills grantees:** As part of the company's commitment to racial equity and access to digital skills, Microsoft launched the community skills grant program, a $15 million investment over three years (from 2020) for Black- and African American-led nonprofits working to increase skills development and economic opportunities. Atlanta-based organizations Gaming Cxmmunity Co and TechBridge were among the 50 grantees.
- **Cybersecurity skills initiative:** In October 2021, we launched a national campaign with U.S. community colleges—which include schools in Atlanta—to help skill and recruit into the cybersecurity workforce 250,000 people by 2025, representing half of the country's workforce shortage.
- **Leap Apprenticeship Program:** Microsoft is expanding its Leap Apprenticeship Program in Atlanta, aimed to recruit, develop, and upskill unconventional talent for employability in the technology industry worldwide. The program offers an immersive 16-week apprenticeship for those with a base foundation of technical training, combining in-classroom learning with hands-on engineering projects, working on real teams and real products such as Azure, Xbox, Bing, and Office 365.
- **Community-First Digital Skills Program:** Microsoft provided $225,000 in grants to Westside Works, the Grove Park Foundation, TechBridge, and the City of Refuge to deliver digital skills and entrepreneurship training to residents in Grove Park and the greater Westside neighborhoods. The community-first approach aims to offer skilling programs in underserved communities to lessen the barriers to career pathways.

Education and STEM opportunities

- **Partnerships with local universities:** By supporting faculty research, curriculum development, and scholarships at Atlanta universities – including Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Tech, Morehouse College, and Spelman College – Microsoft is helping drive technical opportunity, digital fluency, and economic development in the region.
- **Reinvesting incentives:** Through a partnership with the University System of Georgia, we're giving back $6 million in grants to develop technology courses and other educational offerings that nurture the region's talent pipeline.
- **Hackathon:** Microsoft was a sponsor of the Kennesaw State University Hackathon event, where students raced against the clock and worked with major companies to develop solutions to real-world problems.
- **STEM opportunities:** As the title sponsor of the Peachtree Junior, Atlanta Track Club's marquee youth event, Microsoft will integrate STEM activities where kids will learn how to code a running-themed video game and use a micro:bit device to create personal step counters. Additionally, Microsoft partnered with the Atlanta Science Festival to expand access to science learning to curious children and adults. The festival curates 100 events throughout the region culminating with the Exploration Expo, which typically attracts thousands of festivalgoers.

Creating sustained societal impact

- **Broadband access:** Atlanta is included in the Airband Initiative's expansion to eight cities in the United States that face some of the largest broadband gaps among Black, African American, Latinx, and Hispanic communities. The expansion is part of Microsoft's Racial Equity Initiative, which aims to address racial inequity, injustice, and digital inclusion for Black and African American communities in the U.S.
- **ChangeX Community Challenge:** Microsoft supported the launch of the ChangeX Atlanta Community Challenge, where community members can apply to and receive $50,000 of funding to develop community projects such as community gardens, river cleanup initiatives, Open Orchards, and more.
- **Clark Atlanta University (CAU) Makerspace and Advanced Manufacturing Lab:** Microsoft partnered with Georgia Power to provide funding to CAU's Makerspace and Advanced Manufacturing Lab, developed to expand their knowledge and skills in the renewable energy space. Through the program, students will build an advanced solar- powered generator that will serve as a backup energy source for their campus, while supporting predominantly African American communities in the Atlanta area.
- **Nonprofit support:** Microsoft supports several organizations empowering the community broadly to achieve more, including many minority-led nonprofits. Organizations we partner with include Better Block, The Conservation Fund, Atlanta Community Food Bank, HYPE, UMI Feeds, M.E.N.S. Wear, Swem Kids, Atlanta Women's Foundation, Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation, Council for Quality Growth, and others. Additionally, local nonprofits benefit from the generosity of our growing population of employees, each of whom can donate up to $15,000 a year to nonprofits of their choice and gain a one-for-one match from Microsoft.
- **Local and diverse suppliers:** In Atlanta, we are intentionally supporting diverse local suppliers through all phases of our occupancy, including our initial construction and ongoing facilities management. In order to further empower the local supplier ecosystem in the region, we launched Crafting Futures Together – a six-month course for minority-owned suppliers intended to help them learn everything involved in working with large corporations, equipping participants with skills from navigating the corporate bidding processes to business acumen and management skills.

Our physical presence

- **Atlantic Yards:** Our Atlantic Yards facility in West Midtown opened to employees in spring 2022. It was designed to create a new Microsoft workplace experience that celebrates the synergy between Microsoft and Atlanta.
- **Microsoft Atlanta campus:** We recently purchased a 90-acre parcel of land to house a future Microsoft campus on the west side of Atlanta. We are still in the planning stages of the design, and though specifics haven't been determined, it is our intent that this project creates wide opportunities and lasting benefits for the community.
- **Datacenters:** We are also investing in a new datacenter region with a presence in Douglas and Fulton counties. Datacenters are a critical part of today's infrastructure, providing reliable and scalable computer power for online transactions, conference calls, virtual classrooms, internet searches, and more.
- We also maintain our sales locations in Alpharetta and Midtown.