



Annual Report — 2023

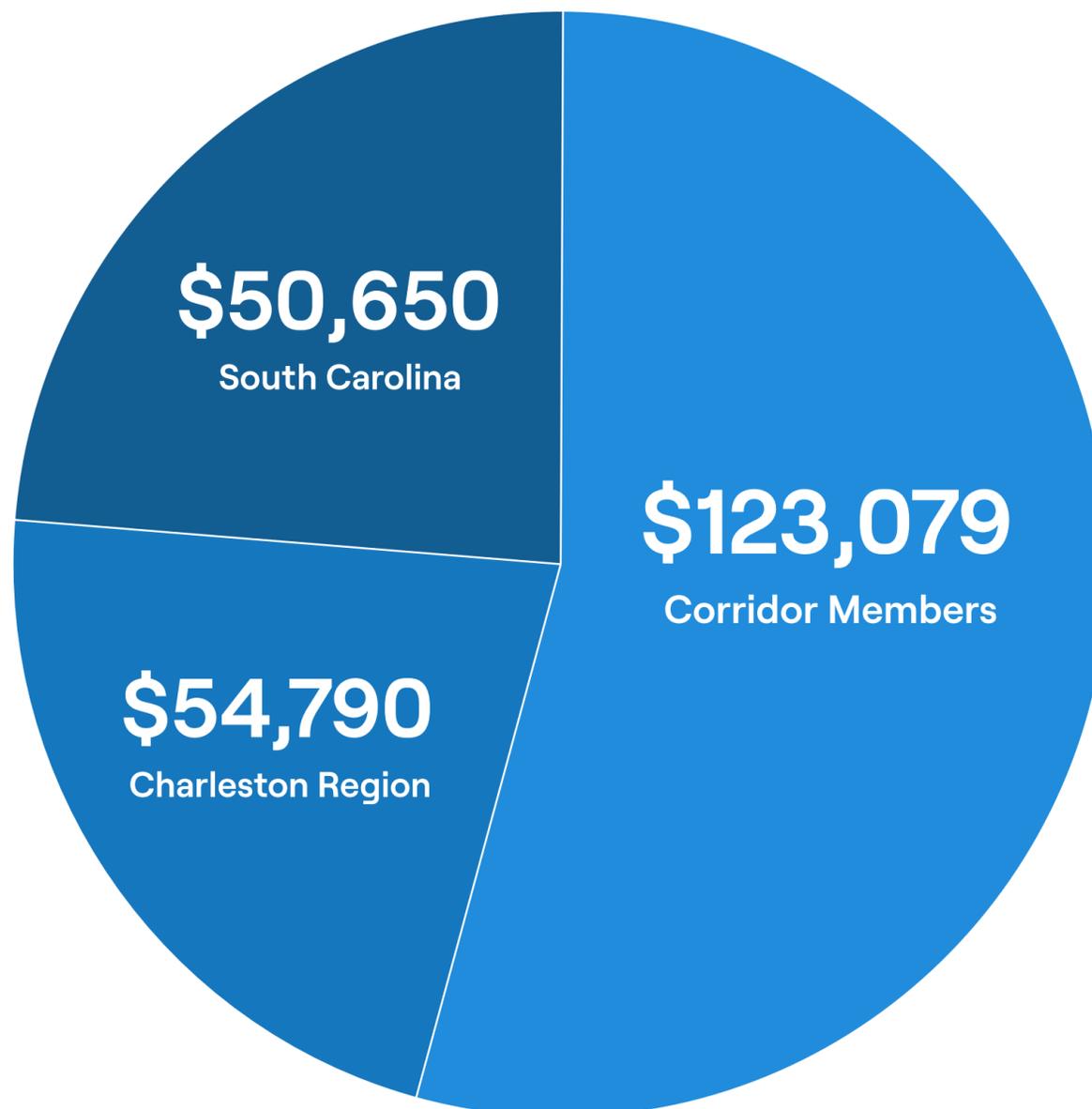


UPWARD MOMENTUM CONTINUES

Annual Wage Survey

In its Annual Wage & Job Growth Survey, the Charleston Digital Corridor is pleased to announce that the average per-capita wage at companies participating in the 2023 survey is \$123,079 – the highest average wage since we began surveying members in 2003. This number once again represents more than twice the state of South Carolina's average wage of \$50,650 and Charleston region average of \$54,790.

RESULTS





COMMUNITY GROWTH

Charleston Tech Center & CDC Membership

Activity and residence at the Flagship @ Charleston Tech Center continued apace and then some in 2023. Occupancy was at or above 90% every month of the year and membership expanded by a record 21 new companies in 2023. We are gratified by the number of new and expanding tech companies and entrepreneurs who choose to become members, make the Flagship home and share their remarkable talents and innovative businesses.

BY THE NUMBERS

224

residents

166

meetings

86

companies

13

graduates

CDC MEMBERSHIP

61

renewing members

21

new members





15 YEARS RUNNING

Annual iFiveK Race

In its 15th year, iFiveK is the Charleston tech community's favorite weekday charity run and networking event. In 2023, the race raised over \$75,000 to support educational initiatives for the newly launched CDC Learning Center. Of course, the community relished the event, consuming thousands of post-run wings, tacos, and more.

BY THE NUMBERS

533

registrants

\$75K

funds raised

1,000+

wings & tacos

2,000+

chicken nuggets

WINNING TIMES

17:01.6

Ryan Niemic, fastest male

18:37.6

Deidre Dwyer, fastest female





2023 HIGHLIGHT

CDC Learning Center Dedication

The newly established CDC Learning Center is dedicated to fostering economic growth and community development by empowering individuals with technology, business and entrepreneurial skills that align with workforce needs. The center, which opened September 19th, 2023, is off to a running start in 2024 with terrific community engagement and a fast-expanding lineup of classes.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$300K

funds raised

176

attendees

34

classes & meetups

50+

upcoming events in 2024

PARTNERS





NEW INAUGURAL EVENT

State of the Tech Dinner

Our inaugural "State of the Tech" dinner featured an overview of Charleston's tech industry, an economic outlook, two terrific speakers and special recognition of several companies. Proudly sponsored by Charleston County Economic Development and Google, the Charleston tech community gathered over 100 strong.

Opening speaker: Steve Slifer, Owner & Chief Economist @ Numbernomics

Keynote speaker: Theodore Tanner Jr, CTO @ BigBear.ai



Keynote speaker Ted Tanner



Hall's Chophouse place setting



Omatic company group

FALL TRADITION

Community Oyster Roast

Our Annual Oyster Roast was a hit! Attendees came out and enjoyed a fun night of networking and oyster shucking with fellow members of the Charleston tech community. As always, CDC Members received 1-2 free tickets (based on membership level) and a sweet discount on any extra tickets.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,800+

oysters shucked

125

attendees

192

local beers

0

speeches



Oyster shucking



Local beers from Revelry Brewing



Oyster aficionados



COMMUNITY STORIES

Tech Life Podcast

Now in it's second year, the CDC Tech Life Podcast series features monthly episodes with some of Charleston's most respected tech innovators and leaders. Each of the 15 new episodes of 2023 has a unique story and shares lessons learned, mistakes, successes and even the occasional light-hearted quip. Listen wherever you get your podcasts!



Jonathan Yantis, CEO @ QuicksortRX



Drew Wagner, CEO @ SatQuote



Marc Murphy, CEO @ Ignite Digital Services

ALL 2023 INTERVIEWEES

- Andy Seavers, Case Status
- Jordan Berry, Interloop
- Lane Cauley, WebLab
- Dr. Jacobo Mintzer, VA Medical Center
- Marc Murphy, Ignite Digital
- Ben Davis, Moondog Animation
- Amanda Sheridan, Bag Valet
- Jonathan Yantis, QuicksortRX
- Don Taylor, Amplified Ag
- Matt Gough, Rubicon
- Baird Hall, Churnkey & Zubyte
- Ted Tanner Jr., BigBear.ai
- Tom Wilson, Hyper.io
- Drew Wagner, SatQuote
- Zach McNamara, Portside Tech



THE EAST COAST'S ONLY

Charleston Apple Museum

The Digital Corridor supports the cultural growth of Charleston's tech community through the exhibition of the only Apple Museum in the southeast USA. The museum represents devices and related exhibits from over 40 years of Apple's amazing product history. In 2023, the museum grew with 24 new items donated and hosted over 100 visitors.

BY THE NUMBERS

104

visitors

24

items donated

40+

years of products

70+

museum exhibits



Charleston Apple Museum at Flagship



An Apple IIe model from 1983



Letter from the Director

Looking back on the accomplishments and growth in the past year of 2023, I am truly awed and greatly gratified by the amazing leadership and resilience of Charleston’s tech community. We certainly don’t live on an island here in Charleston (still a peninsula last time I checked), but our tech community here continues merrily expanding and thriving with a seeming disregard for the the swings and lurches, both real and imagined, in global economic news. We just keep our heads down and steadily move forward!

The launch of the CDC Learning Center this year was certainly a major highlight and I would be remiss not to once again recognize and thank Google for their extremely generous support. But betwixt and between the macro accomplishments of the year, several other things stand out as particularly noteworthy to me:

- CDC member companies collectively garnered over \$100M in net new capital investments in the year
- Flagship @ Charleston Tech Center was never below 90% occupancy in 2023 – January kicks 2024 off at 97%
- 63% of companies polled in our wage survey reported adding jobs in 2023 – 88% expect to continue hiring in 2024
- Local, regional, state and federal lawmakers are reaching out increasingly to express appreciation and interest in further supporting the CDC with a mix of programs, incentives & funding

In closing, I’ll skip proposing any new year’s resolutions, but I do have one sincere appeal for those who I haven’t caught up with in the past year or more: CALL ME (or email, of course). We don’t make promises or guarantees, but we are genuinely and eagerly here to assist in any way we can. If there is anything we could be doing or more importantly, doing better, tell me. My door is always open.

I hope you have a truly amazing year to come in 2024!

Sincerely,



Ernest Andrade
Executive Director

