

KINGSTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Empowering growth. Building together.

The Organization

The Kingston Economic Development Corporation is a not-for-profit agency established in 1998 to serve as the sales and marketing arm for the City of Kingston, focusing on attracting new foreign and domestic investment, supporting existing businesses and fostering start-ups and entrepreneurs.

The Need

Smaller cities often face unique social and economic challenges including retaining young talent and relying on brick-and-mortar establishments as a key contributors to support the local economy and especially vibrant downtowns.

The Solution

Participating in initiatives supported by different levels of government and private donors/sector to provide support, resources, and place-based funding as a way to retain talent, as well as help local brick and mortar businesses achieve their goals of attracting customers, growing their audience, and contributing to the overall health of the community.

Key lesson(s) or best practice(s) shared

- Embrace innovation and avoid saying “no” to unconventional ideas, and instead brainstorm with partners and collaborators to overcome challenges and obstacles.
- Recognize the value of initiatives that have social or environmental benefits and consider the potential long-term impact, even if they may not align perfectly with immediate economic goals. Find creative ways to integrate them into overall strategies.

In Their Own Words

“Access to funding and support programs designed to be directly impactful for small and medium enterprises and allow for flexibility to recognize varying business challenges helps empower sustainability and growth. Being able to adapt programs and services that respond to business and community needs supports response to the evolution of the economy.”

AT A GLANCE

Type of organization

Nonprofit organization

Social finance approach

Non-repayable capital and technical assistance

Sustainable development goal(s)



Investment readiness stage

