Report: Austin Ranks No. 5 in the Nation and No. 12 in the World for Women Entrepreneurs

Austin is the fifth-best place in the nation and the 12th-best in the world for women entrepreneurs to scale their businesses, according to an in-depth study commissioned by Dell.

The Dell Women Entrepreneur Cities Index included 50 major innovation hubs worldwide and analyzed them based on 70 indicators. Those are broadly categorized by the flow of capital, local market factors, talent and skill levels, cultural support and mentorship networks, and women's access and usage of smartphones, social media and the internet. The index and research were part of a collaboration between Dell, data research company IHS Inc. and several researchers.

Austin ranked No. 4 overall in the technology category, indicating women entrepreneurs here have strong ties to other influencers on social media, lower cost connectivity and access to data and technology. Part of the high ranking was based on Austin's No. 1 rank for technology-related policy.
"We’ve seen improvement for #womenentrepreneurs but we have a long way to go, esp. on access to capital" Jim Lussier, Dell Ventures #GES2016

At a glance, that may sound surprising, given the Austin City Council’s recent regulations on ride-hailing companies and short-term rental businesses. The ranking is based on a variety of public policies that help level the playing field for women through hiring and maternity leave policies, as well as the number of groups that advocate for women.

Globally, New York and San Francisco ranked No. 1 and No. 2. Washington DC and Seattle also ranked higher than Austin.

When NerdWallet conducted research on the best cities for women entrepreneurs in 2015, Austin ranked 22nd. Austin ranked 13th in an analysis of the 25 largest U.S. cities for the number of women-owned businesses in 2012.
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