

Brookings ranked on 2017 "Best Cities for Entrepreneurs" list



What would make a city a great home for an entrepreneur? Livability and Entrepreneur Magazine have partnered to rank the Top 50 Best Cities for Entrepreneurs and Brookings, coming in at #25, is the smallest community in the top 25 and the only S.D. town to make the list.

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Brookings ranked Best Place to Live in S.D.

Niche just released their 2017 Best Places to Live rankings and Brookings topped the list for South Dakota.

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Brookings sales tax revenue up

Some South Dakota cities' sales tax revenue is down, and municipalities are reporting troubles balancing budgets. That's not the case in Brookings.

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Ground broken for \$50M Performing Arts Center expansion

The 96,000 square foot expansion includes an 850-seat proscenium theater that will replace Doner Auditorium; a recital hall with 225 seats; a dance studio; and a spacious lobby.

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World renowned artist to create exhibit at Children's Museum

Artist Patrick Dougherty, known worldwide as the creator of "Stickwork," has selected the Children's Museum of South Dakota as the location for his next masterpiece. The exhibit will be created at the museum May 1-18, and the public can get in on the action, too.

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BROOKINGS ECONOMIC HEALTH UPDATE Year To Date Comparison

| | Mar 2016 | Mar 2017 | Change |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| County Employment | | | |
| # of Employed Workers | 18,453 | 18,921 | +2.5% |
| Unemployment Rate | 2.7% | 2.8% | |
| Construction | | | |
| | Jan-Mar 2016 | Jan-Mar 2017 | Change |
| Building Permits | 63 | 63 | 0% |
| Permit Value | \$8,591,532 | \$8,823,545 | +2.7% |
| Sales Tax | | | |
| Retail Taxable Sales | \$ 84,956,072 | \$ 85,571,278 | +0.1% |
| Total Taxable Sales | \$162,351,428 | \$162,948,638 | 0% |
| Gross Receipts (3rd B) | \$ 22,212,965 | \$ 23,356,456 | +5.1% |

Building Brookings Blog

4/4/17 - "Building a Vibrant Downtown" by Kristi Larsen

Final pop-up market to be held May 13

Support local entrepreneurs and shop local! The market will be held at the Brookings Recreation Center and is open from 9am-12pm. [More](#)

New coffee shop opens on Main Avenue

Upstream Coffee is open from 6am-4:30pm seven days a week. [More](#)

Grant helping Farmer's Market, Brookings County

The Farmers Market received a nearly \$10,000 grant from the Wellmark Foundation to cover the costs of benches, bike racks and an electrical post. [More](#)

Research Spotlight

SDSU research headed to high school classrooms

Science and agriculture teachers can learn to integrate current research and new teaching techniques into their curriculums through a new U.S. Dept of Ag program, according to SDSU biology professor Madhav Nepal. SDSU is one of 14 institutions nationwide to receive funding for the new Professional Development Opportunities for Secondary School Teachers Program. [More](#)

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Links

- [BEDC 2016 Annual Report](#)
- [Brookings Area MAKERSPACE](#)
- [LiveinBrookings.com](#)
- [Brookings - Bring Your Dreams](#)

VISION BROOKINGS III UPDATE

Goal: \$2.5 Million Raised To Date: \$2,579,288 Cash Value: \$2,428,588
Investors: 118 - THANK YOU!

Vision Brookings - leading 10 years of remarkable change and community progress and putting Brookings on the map!

- #1 Best Place to Live in S.D. (Niche, 2017 & 2016)
- #25 Best Cities for Entrepreneurs in America (Livability/Entrepreneur, 2017)
- Beautiful Small Towns in Every State (USA Today, 2017)
- America's Main Streets Contest Finalist (Independent We Stand, 2016)
- #1 Safest College Town in America (Safewise, 2015)
- #5 Safest City in America (ADTSecurity, 2015)
- Identified as economic success story (one of 11 communities chosen nationwide and only non-metro area) (State of Indiana Study, 2014)
- #1 Best and Safest Place to Live in S.D. (Movoto, 2014)
- #5 Top 10 Best Small Towns in America (Livability, 2013)

Join us in creating a bright and prosperous future for Brookings!
Contact BEDC at (605) 697-8103 to participate in Vision Brookings III.