

Toronto
Metropolitan
University



Brampton
Venture Zone
By TMU

BUILDING
BRAMPTON'S
NEXT WAVE
OF INNOVATION



Five-Year Impact Report
(2020–2025)



Powered by
BRAMPTON
innovation
DISTRICT

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MESSAGE FROM BVZ

Since launching in 2020, Brampton Venture Zone by TMU (BVZ) has been guided by a clear mandate: to build a founder-first, inclusive, and industry-connected incubator that reflects Brampton’s ambitions. Over the past five years, BVZ has grown into a trusted pillar of the city’s innovation ecosystem, supporting early-stage founders through periods of uncertainty and growth while remaining grounded in the belief that strong local innovation can drive global impact.

As we enter our next chapter, BVZ is sharpening its strategic focus to align with Brampton’s continued growth, evolving community needs, and long-term innovation ambitions. This evolution reflects the city’s rapid population growth, expanding institutional capacity, and the growing momentum of the Brampton Innovation District as it takes shape as a centre for entrepreneurship and collaboration. In an increasingly complex global environment, the resilience and adaptability of Canadian founders remain a defining strength. Looking ahead, BVZ will continue to support founders and we invite partners, institutions, and the broader ecosystem to help shape what comes next.

This report reflects the collective efforts of the founders, partners, sponsors, and community members who have shaped BVZ over the past five years, with particular appreciation for the ongoing support and collaboration of the City of Brampton—especially the Economic Development team—whose partnership has been instrumental to BVZ’s growth. We are proud of what has been built and energized by what lies ahead.

Fardan Khan

Interim Director, Brampton Venture Zone by TMU



MESSAGE FROM TORONTO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Over the past five years, the Brampton Venture Zone (BVZ) by TMU has proven that intentional collaboration drives transformative innovation.

Brampton is one of Canada's most vibrant and fastest-growing cities. By integrating TMU's world-class Zone Learning ecosystem—backed by 15 years of proven success—into a localized, place-based model, BVZ provides founders with a competitive edge. Our curriculum is not generic; it is purpose-built to leverage Brampton's specific industrial strengths, diverse talent pool, and rapid growth potential.

The success of our founders provides the clearest evidence of our impact. Over this five-year journey, BVZ has moved beyond “ideas” to deliver ventures that strengthen the local economy:

- Scooty: Revolutionizing the micro-mobility space, Scooty has demonstrated how sustainable transit solutions can be scaled within an urban environment.
- Tenomix: At the intersection of healthcare and technology, Tenomix demonstrates how the right support system can accelerate life-saving innovations.

These ventures do more than innovate; they create high-quality jobs, attract significant private investment, and reinforce Brampton's reputation as a destination for global-scale solutions. We look toward the future with confidence and welcome the opportunities created by the establishment of the TMU School of Medicine in Brampton, which will allow us to deepen our focus on health and wellness innovation, creating a seamless pipeline between clinical research, industrial application, and entrepreneurial growth.

By continuing to connect research, industry, and talent, BVZ and TMU are uniquely positioned to deliver lasting socio-economic benefits. We remain committed to ensuring that as Brampton grows, our entrepreneurs have the tools, networks, and city-backed support they need to lead that growth.

John MacRitchie

Associate Vice—President, Zone Learning & Strategic Initiatives,
Toronto Metropolitan University



MESSAGE FROM OUR ADVISORY BOARD

As a family physician and medical educator, I know that technology only matters if it genuinely helps patients get better. I serve on the BVZ Board to ensure we are not just building ‘cool’ gadgets, but real solutions that work in the doctor’s office and in everyday care settings.

Brampton has the perfect ingredients to become a future health-tech capital: a diverse and growing community, a new generation of medical students, and innovative entrepreneurs working side by side. When we combine medical expertise with startup energy, we don’t just grow businesses—we build the future of healthcare right here in Brampton.

Dr. Jobin Varughese

Associate Clinical Professor, Assistant Dean of Primary Care Education,
School of Medicine—Toronto Metropolitan University



MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING SENIOR DIRECTOR OF BVZ

Taking on this role has only reinforced what the data already shows. Brampton is a national leader across sectors that matter, from health and wellness to logistics and advanced manufacturing, and the opportunity ahead is significant.

As we move into 2026, BVZ is focused on building on that foundation by leveraging Toronto Metropolitan University’s institutional strength and five years of founder development experience to deepen the city’s innovation ecosystem, moving ventures from early stage through to scale while exploring emerging opportunities across priority sectors.

Together with our founders, partners, and community, we are committed to building high-impact companies, future-ready jobs, and long-term economic growth rooted right here in Brampton.

Zied Etleb

Senior Director BVZ

ABOUT THE INCUBATOR

Who We Are

Brampton Venture Zone by TMU (BVZ) is an **early-stage technology startup incubator** powered by **Toronto Metropolitan University's Zone Learning**, one of the world's largest university-based innovation ecosystems.

Developed in close partnership with the City of Brampton's Economic Development Team, BVZ is a non-profit that plays a central role in advancing the city's innovation and economic growth agenda

Our Purpose

Operating within the Brampton Innovation District, BVZ empowers early-stage, technology-driven founders with the tools, mentorship, and market access needed to validate ideas, launch products, and scale businesses. Through strong city and industry connections, BVZ helps startups build and grow in Brampton—strengthening the local economy through inclusive, founder-first innovation grounded in real market needs.



Our Focus in Brampton

BVZ was established alongside the launch of the **Brampton Innovation District** to cater to an opportunity: supporting innovation right from the foundational stages. As the City of Brampton invested in creating a dedicated hub for innovation and technology, BVZ was designed to bring TMU's Zone Learning expertise into a **place-based incubator model**—ensuring founders had the right support to move from idea to viable venture within the city.

From 2020–2024, **BVZ Launch, our flagship program**—supported startups across sectors aligned with Brampton's economic strengths, including health, logistics, and food sustainability.

Beginning in 2025, BVZ sharpened its focus on **health and wellness innovation**, reflecting Brampton's evolving priorities, the launch of TMU's School of Medicine, and the opportunity to build solutions that improve lives while driving long-term economic growth.

Through the **Brampton Innovator Program**, BVZ also supports early-stage, industry-agnostic idea development which helps aspiring founders progress from concept to MVP and strengthens Brampton's entrepreneurial pipeline.

Why Brampton?

A high-growth launchpad for startups

800,000+ residents

3rd

Largest city in Ontario

7th

Largest city in Canada

One of Canada's fastest growing cities

\$3.7M CAD

in grants and investments distributed to early-stage startups through the Brampton Innovation District & Brampton Angels (2025)

OUR APPROACH

BVZ operates as a non-equity incubator with a founder-first philosophy. Our model combines structured venture development with real-world industry exposure, emphasizing:

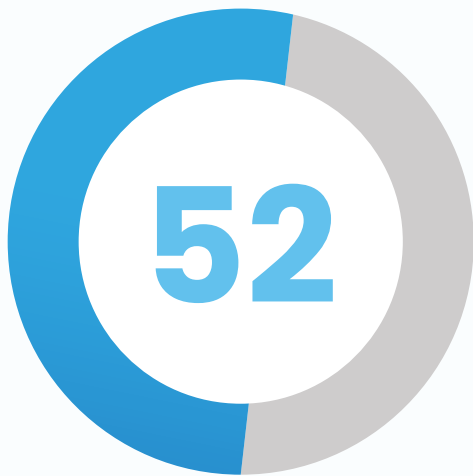
- Industry-led problem identification and validation
- Early market access through pilots and partnerships
- Integrated mentorship and venture development support
- Community engagement that strengthens the local innovation ecosystem

FIVE YEARS IN NUMBERS

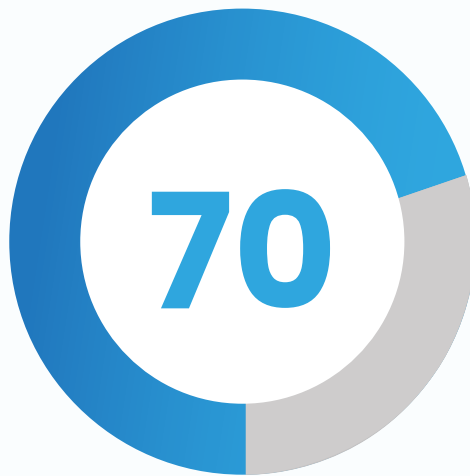
2020 - 2025

In just five years, BVZ has grown into a founder-first engine for innovation in Brampton supporting early-stage ventures from validation to market entry, unlocking pilot opportunities, job creation, and meaningful capital outcomes across the ecosystem.

Overall Impact



**Launch Startups
Recruited**



**Innovator & Inspire
Startups Recruited**



**Total Startups
Graduated***

*Few startups recruited withdrew, or exited due to low engagement

165 Jobs Created

108 Industry Pilots Facilitated

\$2.2M

Founder
Revenue
Generated

\$7.4M

Total Non-
Dilutive Funding
Secured

\$10M

Total Dilutive
Funding Secured

THE VENTURE ZONE'S IMPACT MANDATE

Spark Early-Stage Innovation

BRAMPTON INNOVATOR PROGRAM

A program delivered to support idea-stage founders to validate problems, build confidence, and move from concept to MVP.

Through experiential hands-on workshops, dedicated mentorship, and ecosystem exposure, founders get the opportunity to validate customer pain points, refine ideas, test critical business assumptions, and build strong foundations for future growth. The program is industry-agnostic and focused on advancing early-stage innovation across Brampton and the Peel Region.

Key Workshop Topics



**Customer
Discovery
& Validation**



**Market
Research &
Competitive
Analysis**



**Design
Thinking
Fundamentals**



**Business
Model
Development**



**MVP
Development
& Testing**

Innovator in Numbers

Startups Recruited

40

Startups Graduated

28

Sector:
Industry-agnostic

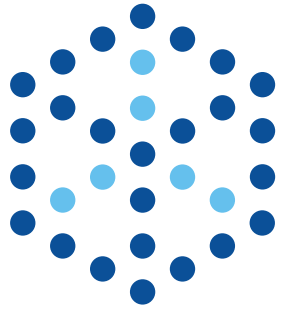
Total Grants Distributed in 2025

\$5,000 CAD

Startups

56% Brampton-Based





ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



Natalie Williams
Founder & Fractional Client
Retention Strategist
The Esteem Agency



“The Brampton Innovator Program played a significant role in clarifying my path as an entrepreneur and fractional client retention strategist. It sharpened my focus and reaffirmed that I am building The Esteem Agency with the right strategies and intention.

Through the workshops, mentorship, and community, I gained clarity on key areas—embracing fractional consulting as my lane, applying design thinking by asking better questions, and understanding the importance of thought leadership in retention conversations.

For founders just getting started or preparing to scale, this program provides structure, market validation tools, and mentorship that build confidence in your roadmap—prioritizing sustainable growth over quick wins.”



Alain Maisonneuve
Founder & CEO
GoGedit

“One of my main goals in joining the BVZ Innovator Program was to grow my network within Toronto Metropolitan University and the City of Brampton—and that happened from day one. I met founders at every stage of the journey, and it was inspiring to see the level of innovation happening across the city.

The speakers shared real-world stories and insights in a way that was accessible and easy to apply. Working in small groups on hands-on projects helped strengthen relationships and build meaningful connections.

As a founder, learning never stops. Having open, honest conversations early on is critical—because you don’t know what you don’t know. Sharing your idea, even at the ideation stage, creates opportunities for validation, feedback, and growth.”



Amandipp Singh
Co-Founder
Enabled Talent

“The BVZ Brampton Innovator Program has been an essential part of my startup journey. The sessions, weekend format, and insights from experienced experts made the learning practical—something I could apply to Enabled Talent immediately.

What truly stood out was the BVZ team. They were always available, genuinely supportive, and deeply committed to helping founders grow.

Being part of the Brampton Innovation District gave me the clarity, direction, and sense of community I needed at a critical stage of my journey.”

ACCELERATING STARTUPS TO SCALE

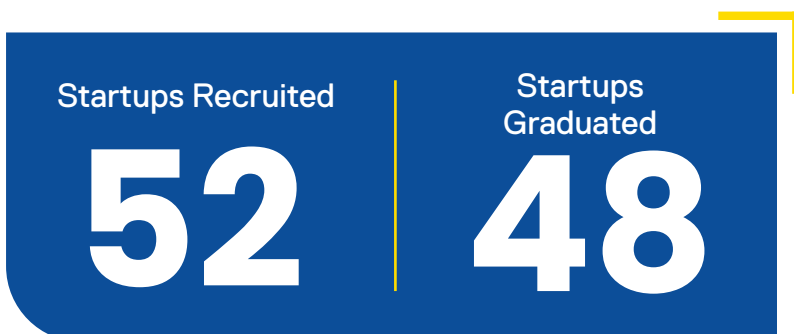
LAUNCH PROGRAM

Helping MVP-ready startups validate, pilot, and scale through mentorship, market access, and industry partnerships.

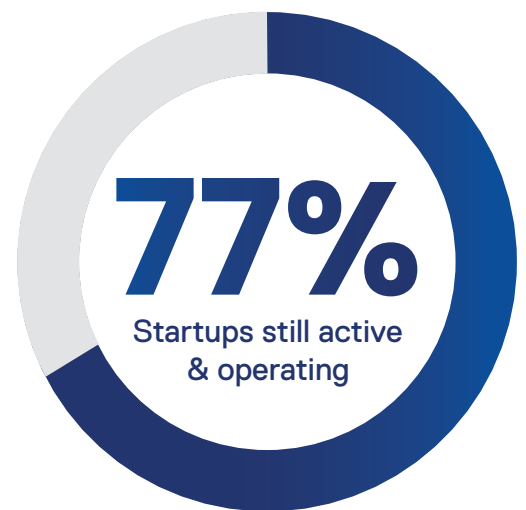
Launch is a structured, non-equity incubator program designed to secure pilot opportunities, and accelerate their go-to-market journey. It also accelerates a founder's path to market by connecting them with Brampton and Peel-based industry partners for early market validation and opportunities to secure potential pilot projects.

Founders gain access to TMU's Zone Learning ecosystem, venture-development workshops, and integrated mentorship tailored to their goals. Participants are also eligible for a non-dilutive funding, strengthening their ability to refine their solutions and build traction. BVZ Launch is built to help startups validate their technology, form meaningful industry collaborations, and confidently advance their go-to-market journey.

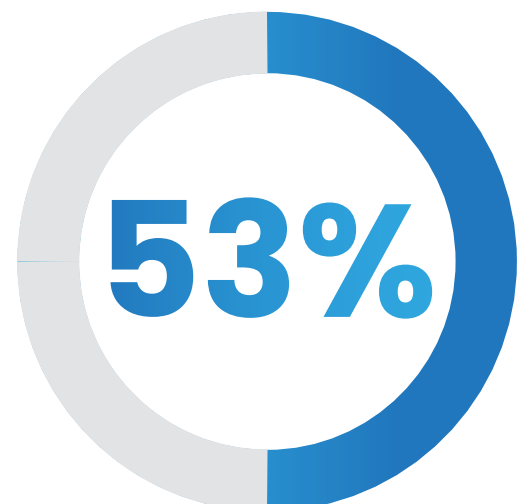
Launch in Numbers



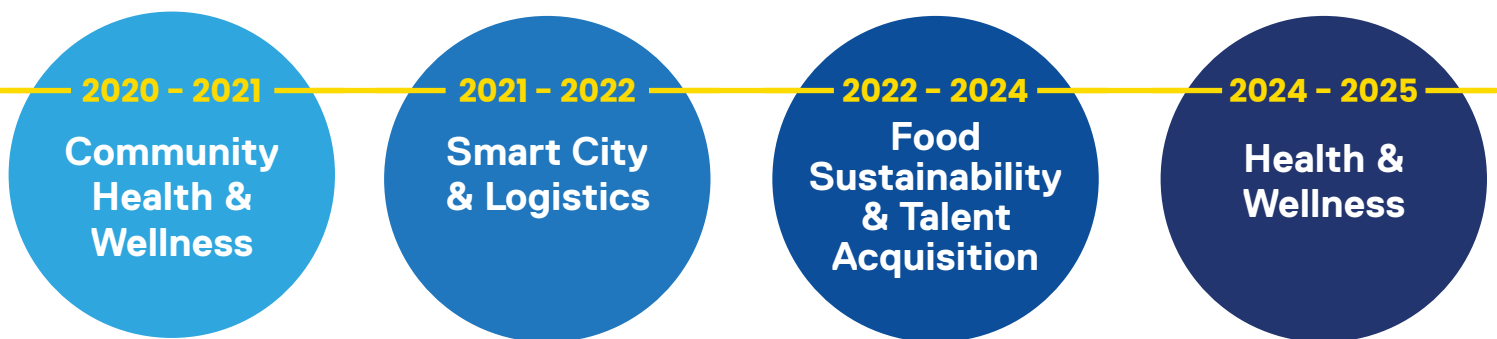
Alumni Continuation Rate



Female Founder Representation



Tech Sector Evolution (2020 - 2025)



From 2020–2024, BVZ Launch supported startups across multiple technology sectors. In 2025, the program evolved to prioritize health and wellness startups, supporting founders working at the intersection of digital health, clinical workflows, diagnostics, patient-centered care and digital wellness.



Entrepreneurship
Fund



Executive/
Entrepreneurs in
Residence



Industry
Deep Dives



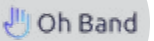
Founder
& Venture
Development
Workshops



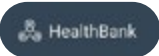
Founder Friday
& Founder
Roundtables

OUR FOUNDERS

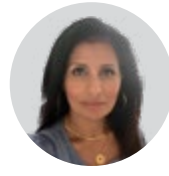
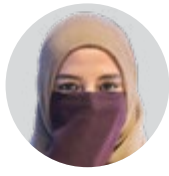
Health & Wellness



Oh Band

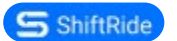
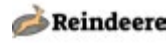


Loupe





Smart City, Mobility & Logistics



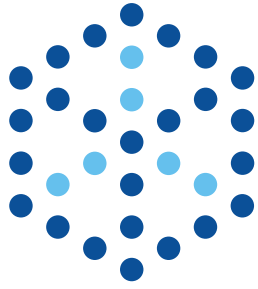
Food Sustainability



McKay
Foods



URBAN
STALK



LAUNCH ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



TENOMIX

Tenomix Inc.
2022 Cohort

Founders: Saumik Biswas (CEO) · Eveline Pasma (COO) · Mike Lavdas (CTO) · Sherif Abdou (CBO)
Sector: Healthcare / Precision Oncology / MedTech

What they're building:

Tenomix is developing an intelligent tissue-analysis platform that combines AI, robotics, and ultrasound imaging to automate pathology workflows. Their flagship application focuses on lymph node identification - an essential but error-prone step in cancer staging - helping pathology labs improve accuracy, efficiency, and consistency in clinical decision-making.

Impact & Milestones

- Raised an oversubscribed \$2.14M CAD pre-seed; currently raising a \$5M USD Seed round
- Secured \$2M+ CAD in competitive grant funding
- 11 patents filed across 10 regions; U.S. patent granted on core technology
- Active clinical validation with leading hospitals in Canada and the U.S.
- Co-published research with the Mayo Clinic (Frontiers in Medicine)
- Completed first FDA pre-submission meeting (2025)
- Scaled from 1 to ~10 FTE; achieved TRL-7 and electrical safety certification

Built with BVZ in Brampton:

Through BVZ mentorship, EIR guidance, and ecosystem access, Tenomix refined its commercialization strategy, accelerated prototype validation, and built early hospital partnerships—contributing directly to its pre-seed raise, clinical studies, and regulatory progress.



Scooty

2022 Cohort

Founders: Shoaib Ahmed (Founder & CEO) · Moaz Ahmad (Co-Founder & CCO)

Sector: Mobility / Smart City / Transportation Technology

What they're building:

Scooty is a Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) technology platform powering modern urban transit. Through the Scooty Transit API™, the company provides transit agencies with a secure, scalable backend operating system using AI-powered tools and integrations with on-demand mobility services to deliver more connected and seamless commuting experiences.

Impact & Milestones

- Filed non-provisional patents and trademarks for Scooty Transit API™ across Canada, the U.S., and Europe (PCT)
- Secured a multi-year exclusive micromobility contract with the City of Burlington
- Expanded micromobility rideshare operations across multiple municipalities
- Shoaib Ahmed was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal
- Recognized with Business Excellence Awards from the Brampton and Markham Boards of Trade
- Leadership recognized across the ecosystem, including Top 40 Under 40 and regional board appointments

Built with BVZ in Brampton:

Scooty was conceptualized at the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre (BEC) and incubated through BVZ in 2022-23, where early validation and city collaboration played a key role in scaling the business. The company secured a four-year permit to operate shared micromobility with the City of Brampton, established its headquarters in Brampton, and has created 48 local jobs. Today, Scooty remains deeply embedded in the city's innovation and business ecosystem through leadership roles, partnerships, and ongoing collaboration.



Lyrata

2023 Cohort

Founder: Adnan Sharif
Sector: Food Sustainability / Climate Innovation

What they're building:
SmartSoil, a patent-pending 3D-printed grow-media alternative for indoor farming designed to outperform traditional solutions while significantly reducing environmental impact.

- Impact & Milestones**
- Named Top-100 Upcoming Scientific Breakthroughs (Falling Walls 2024)
 - Featured on Dragon's Den (Season 20)
 - Expanding into Japan with support from the Canadian Embassy of Japan
 - Credibility and growth supported through mentorship and ecosystem introductions in Brampton



Waive

The Intelligent Clinic Company

2023 Cohort

Founders: Shreyansh Anand & Tabassum Pasha
Sector: Healthcare / Digital Health

What they're building:
AI-powered automation for medical clinics reducing administrative work so teams can focus on higher-value patient support (document processing, patient communications, and data retrieval).

- Impact & Milestones**
- Generated \$1M+ CAD in revenue with 5.5x growth in 2025
 - Working with clinics across 6 provinces in Canada
 - Completed seed raise, securing \$1.7M CAD total funding
 - Deep roots in Brampton: early clinic partnerships and strong local clinical leadership connections



Transify

2023 Cohort

Founder: Eddy Ionescu

Sector: Mobility / Smart City / Data

What they're building:

Transify is a data visualization platform that helps transit agencies improve service and decision-making using the data they already have.

Impact & Milestones

- Awarded an RFP with the City of Brampton for Transit Data Visualization Software
- Supporting improved reliability and service planning for Brampton Transit
- Expanded into the U.S. market (Denver and Massachusetts)
- Working with transit agencies in Milton and Burlington

Built with BVZ in Brampton:

Through BVZ support, Transify refined its product offering, validated its solution with municipal partners, and secured early public-sector traction. The City of Brampton became a launch partner providing real-world validation that helped Transify scale its solution locally and expand into new markets across Canada and the United States.



Maman Biomedical Inc.

2025 Cohort

Founder: Latchmi Raghunanan

Sector: Healthcare / Medical Devices

What they're building:

A needle-free fertility drug-delivery platform designed to reduce injection burden and improve the patient experience.

Impact & Milestones

- Secured \$500K+ CAD in non-dilutive funding
- Built clinic partnerships to support validation and growth
- Supported by the Mayo Clinic Berg Innovation Exchange
- Currently raising a \$500K CAD Pre-Seed round to initiate clinical trials



COMMUNITY CATALYST

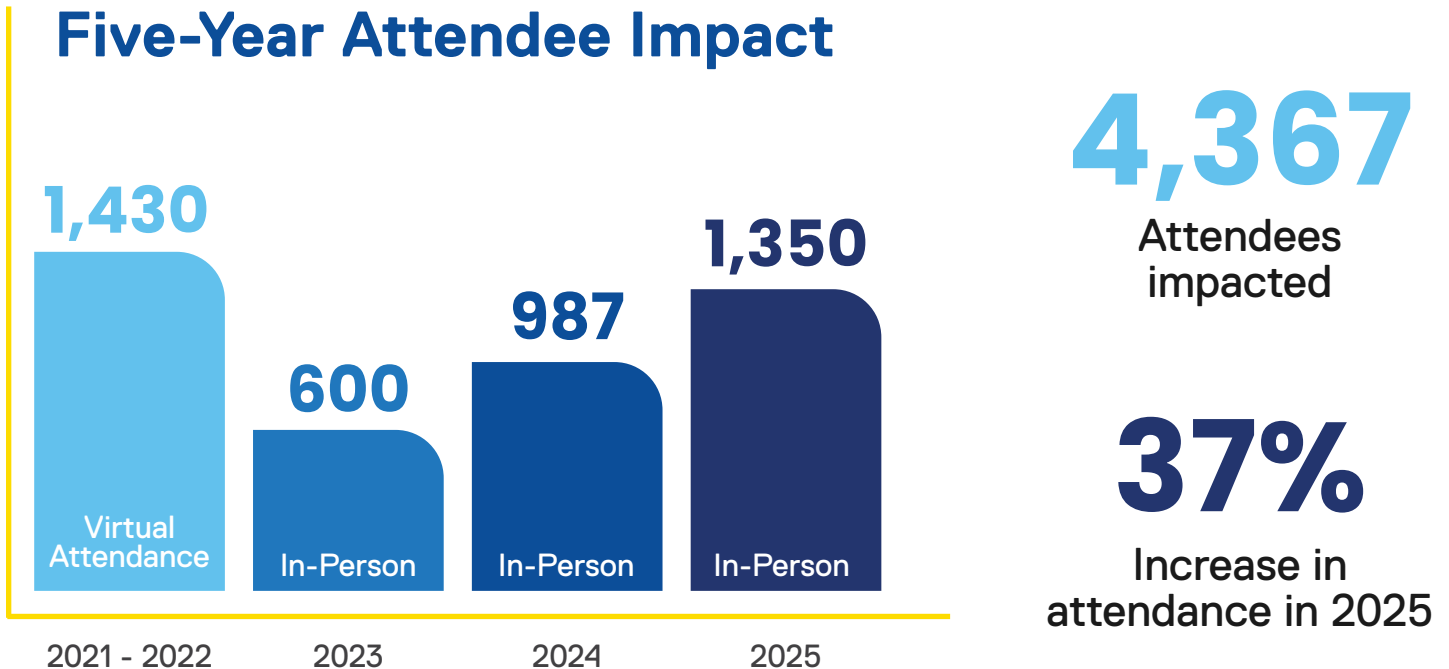
Ecosystem & Community Events

BVZ activates the Brampton Innovation District through BVX and year-round programming, connecting founders, partners, talent, and the community while building a strong culture of innovation across the city.

Brampton Venture Expo (BVX)

BVX is Brampton's flagship technology and innovation event which brings together founders, investors, corporates, ecosystem partners, and local talent to spotlight what's being built in the city. Designed to activate the Innovation District, BVX creates meaningful connections, showcases emerging startups, and strengthens Brampton's innovation economy through founder visibility and community learning.

Five-Year Attendee Impact





In 2025, BVX focused on Brampton's most future-facing sectors—health tech, cybersecurity, XR, logistics, and AI—reflecting the city's momentum in building next-generation innovation capacity.





BUILDING COMMUNITY YEAR-ROUND

Beyond BVX, BVZ delivers consistent, accessible programming that supports founders, talent, and aspiring innovators.

7,000 Community Members Impacted



BrampUp Series



Practical upskilling sessions helping founders and professionals build technical and business capabilities in high-growth tech areas.

Brampton Tech Talks



Expert-led panels designed to inspire youth and early talent by spotlighting emerging sectors such as XR, space tech, and advanced innovation fields.

Women Who Build



A dedicated platform creating space for women builders in tech to connect, network, and receive mentorship, strengthening representation and leadership within Brampton's innovation ecosystem.

OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

BVZ’s impact is made possible through strong collaboration with our partners and sponsors, whose continued support helps advance Brampton’s innovation and economic development goals. Together, we are strengthening the city’s startup ecosystem, enabling early-stage innovation, and creating pathways for long-term growth and opportunity in Brampton.

Our Sponsors



Industry & Community Partners



LOOKING AHEAD

→ 2026 - 2030

As BVZ enters its next phase, our focus on healthcare and wellness innovation will continue to deepen and be supported by strong alignment with TMU's School of Medicine, the City of Brampton, and regional healthcare partners.

With a renewed five-year partnership with the City of Brampton, BVZ remains committed to building an inclusive, high-impact innovation ecosystem **rooted in Brampton and connected to the world.**



Connect With Us



Zied Etleb
Senior Director



Dione Almeida
Marketing & Partnerships Lead



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Marketing & Community Engagement Coordinator



Arleana Rajkumar
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**Brampton
Venture Zone**
By TMU

