

# Joe Douglas, Brazilian Founder of DX Business Center, Drives \$2B Impact with Immigrant Business Hub in Orlando

*DX Business Center provides a blueprint for inclusive growth, fueling startups, jobs, and community wealth in Florida's fastest-growing immigrant economy.*

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Amid growing interest in equitable economic development, a business hub in Central Florida is offering a model rooted in local infrastructure. Founded by Brazilian-American entrepreneur Joe Douglas in July 2024, [DX Business Center](#) in Orlando was launched to support multicultural founders and has grown into a hub for immigrant entrepreneurship. In its first year, its network of businesses and programs generated an estimated \$2 billion in economic activity, illustrating the role grassroots enterprise can play in regional growth.

Located in a high-capacity facility, DX Business Center blends coworking space with access to mentorship, networking, educational programming, and collaborative events. Its design reflects the needs of early-stage entrepreneurs and community-driven business leaders, offering podcast studios, mastermind rooms, an auditorium for events, and support for startup acceleration.

## Locally Designed Response to Structural Gaps

In contrast to venture-backed tech incubators, DX Business Center focuses on founders who build from the ground up, often without access to institutional funding. Its mission is to lower the barriers immigrant and first-generation entrepreneurs face when entering the U.S. market. The center works to create infrastructure that fosters both small business growth and long-term community wealth.

According to internal metrics and independent estimates, the broader DX ecosystem, including tenants and alumni, has contributed to over \$2 billion in collective business transactions and activity. Sectors represented include construction, transportation logistics, food service, real estate, professional consulting, and media.





We're not just creating businesses, we're building systems that help families and communities participate in long-term economic growth."

*Joe Douglas*

#### A Platform More Than a Place

The DX model combines physical resources with a social and educational framework. Members have access to:

- Podcast production studios for storytelling and digital presence
- Weekly business events with curated topics ranging from marketing to legal support

-Roundtables and mastermind groups to promote peer learning

-Programming for immigrant entrepreneurs navigating cultural, legal, or financial systems

With its flexible layout and structured programming, the center functions as a work club that encourages both informal collaboration and structured engagement.

#### Building More Than One Business

DX Business Center is part of a larger ecosystem founded by Joe Douglas, including:

-DX Building: A construction and development company focused on real estate and custom commercial projects, launched after Douglas arrived in the U.S. in 2019 and began his career in construction. The firm now supports emerging construction leaders in navigating regulatory frameworks and building capacity.

-Partiu EUA: A community-driven education platform that offers business guidance, documentation support, and cultural onboarding to new immigrants entering the U.S. small business landscape. Originally focused on the Brazilian-American community, the platform is expanding to serve other immigrant populations across Central Florida.

These affiliated efforts operate from the [DX Business Center headquarters](#), offering services that reflect a holistic vision of economic empowerment.

#### Meeting Orlando's Moment

Orlando continues to be one of the fastest-growing immigrant metro areas in the southeastern United States. Yet while cultural diversity is increasing, access to economic opportunity remains unequal. DX Business Center aims to bridge this divide by offering infrastructure and mentorship for aspiring entrepreneurs who may not have traditional business education or access to capital.

The center has drawn interest from local stakeholders, including financial institutions, workforce development boards, and civic organizations that have hosted educational events or sought

consultation from the DX team on community needs.

### Positioned for Long-Term Impact

Though only one year into operations, DX Business Center is being reviewed for recognition by award programs in the economic development and small business space. While those distinctions remain pending, the impact among tenants and the surrounding community continues to grow.

Founders supported by the center have cited key differentiators including language access, peer mentorship, and real-world experience. Unlike franchise coworking brands, DX Business Center focuses on operational accessibility and local empowerment.

### Next Steps and Strategic Expansion

DX Business Center is now entering a second phase with several strategic initiatives in development:

- New Facility Expansion: To accommodate demand, the center is exploring a second location within Orlando.

- Virtual Mentorship Portal: A digital tool to connect small business mentors with entrepreneurs across the state.

- Bilingual Business Academy: Courses in English, Portuguese, and Spanish designed for founders navigating U.S. compliance, procurement, and accounting systems.

- Public-Private Initiatives: Collaboration with local agencies to expand resource access and small business visibility.

- Trade Apprenticeships: Structured training pathways for immigrant youth interested in entrepreneurship or skilled trades.

These steps reflect the center's commitment to inclusive systems and long-term sustainability.

### Redefining Economic Participation

The mission behind DX Business Center, according to its [founder Joe Douglas](#), is to build pathways where entrepreneurship is accessible, not aspirational. Rather than adapting to traditional startup culture, the model centers on immigrant experience, economic dignity, and community resilience.

Douglas describes his approach as "building infrastructure for others to build futures", a philosophy he developed during his own journey, which began in construction and has evolved into a multi-platform economic development initiative.

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