

SUPERIOR, ARIZONA

Superior Soundtrack



A PLAYLIST FOR
PROGRESS
2025

STATE

OF

THE TOWN

16

33

45

78



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STATE OF THE TOWN

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WELCOME FROM MAYOR MILA BESICH

2025 STATE OF THE TOWN SUPERIOR SOUNDTRACK : A PLAYLIST FOR PROGRESS

Welcome friends, neighbors, and partners, It is my great honor to welcome you to the 2025 State of the Town for Superior, Arizona a community that is not only rich in history but bold in vision. This year's theme, "*Superior Soundtrack: A Playlist for Progress*," reflects the rhythm, harmony, and energy that drives our town forward. One might say, Superior marches to its own distinct drumbeat - a drumbeat that honors our past, but it is pushing us towards a future of innovation.

Just like a great playlist, our progress has been composed with care, creativity, and collaboration. Each project, initiative, and partnership represents a distinct track, from infrastructure investments and small business growth to environmental restoration and cultural preservation. Together, these efforts create a dynamic soundtrack that captures the heart and soul of Superior.

In the past year, we've hit high notes that deserve celebration. We opened the Panther Drive Bridge, the first completed project under the renewed Greater Arizona Development Authority thanks to strong advocacy and bipartisan support. Our downtown continues to thrive with new businesses and events that bring locals and visitors together in joyful celebration of who we are. This year we also entered a new phase of the Resolution Copper permitting process, a long time coming; this time in our history

deserves its own playlist, and we celebrated with the announcement that we were named one of the Best Managed Towns under 10,000 in population by Business View Magazine.

Our "playlist" also includes tracks that remind us where we came from, the resilience of a historic mining town reinventing itself, and melodies that look to the future with optimism, innovation, and excitement. Whether it's working with regional partners, preparing for the opportunities around critical minerals, or reimagining Superior in 2036, we are always composing the next great harmony for our collective success.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make Superior's soundtrack, foot tapping, exhilarating, meaningful, and inspiring. To our residents, business owners, council members, volunteers, and regional allies, your voices, talents, and efforts create the harmony that makes Superior not just a place to live but a community to love.

Let's keep building this playlist together — louder, prouder, and bolder than ever.

Together, we are Superior!

With gratitude,

Mayor Mila Besich





A great place to call home.

You call Arizona home and so do we. For nearly 135 years,
we've worked with our families, friends and neighbors
to help make the state shine.



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REBUILD SUPERIOR



Welcome to the 5th Annual State of the Town Event where we are celebrating Superior's Soundtrack – A Playlist for Progress. Rebuild Superior, Inc. is proud to host this event alongside our partners at the Town of Superior.

The Mission of Rebuild Superior is “to be the champion for economic and community needs of residents and to enhance the quality of life for generations to come.” We carry out this mission through our Programs of Service which include the 1) Superior Enterprise Center, 2) Superior Food Bank, 3) Home Repairs Program & Blight Remediation, 4) Superior's Economic Development Toolkit, 5) Investments in Art & Culture, 6) Superior's Marketing Co-Op Membership and 7) Capacity Building for other local organizations and events.

Most of our economic development work happens behind the scenes and has a ground-up approach. Over the past year, Rebuild has invested over \$60,000 in home repairs for low-income residents with a focus on Safety & Accessibility. We saw record

numbers of clients at the Superior Food Bank and have kept this critical service operating smoothly and fiscally responsible. We also continue to be stewards of the Superior Community and Veterans Cemetery where we host cleanups biannually.

Partnerships are the lifeblood of non-profits, and we are grateful for our relationship with Resolution Copper which provides investments to the Superior Food Bank, Superior Dance Company, and funds our standalone multi-year agreement to administrate these critically-important programs. We look forward to expanding our list of underwriters and funding sources so we can continue building a brighter future for Superior and the Copper Corridor.

Paz,
Manuel Guzman V
Executive Director





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BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY, TOGETHER.

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SUCCEED IN SUPERIOR

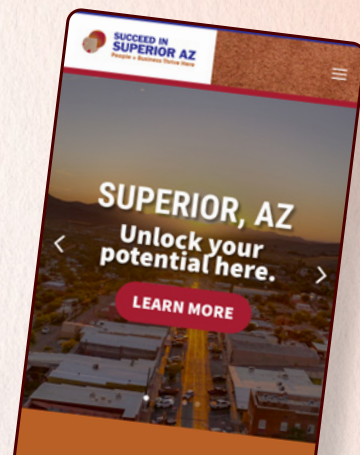


In a groundbreaking move, this year in partnership with Rebuild Superior, Inc., the Town of Superior launched its inaugural Economic Development Toolkit—an integrated suite of communication assets designed to elevate the town’s visibility and generate private sector interest and investment in the community.

The vision for the Succeed in Superior Economic Development Toolkit is to elevate Superior’s ability to compete for quality new businesses & industries, identifying desirable business locations and investments.

The first phase of the Succeed in Superior economic development toolkit is comprised of a dedicated website succeedinsuperioraz.com; a professionally curated LinkedIn presence linkedin.com/company/succeed-in-superior-az and a custom brochure succeedinsuperioraz.com/unlock-success. For Superior, this toolkit marks a bold leap forward in how small communities position themselves in today’s competitive landscape.

At its core, the toolkit is a data driven platform with carefully crafted narratives that work in concert to tell a compelling story of the Town of Superior, AZ’s assets, opportunities, and values. The website provides a dynamic hub of current socio-economic and other critical location data for companies considering new facilities or expansions. The LinkedIn profile connects the town to a broader network of business and industry decision makers as well as local, regional and state stakeholders. Complementing these, the brochure offers visually engaging, print-ready materials for events, outreach, and investor pitches.



TOP 20 billboard

1

BEST MANAGED TOWN BY BUSINESS VIEW MAGAZINE 2025

The Town of Superior was ranked the best managed town in Arizona for communities less than 10,000 population.

2

VOLUNTEERISM AS COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Neighbors helping neighbors through service and dedication for an even brighter future.

3

SUPERIOR YOUTH COUNCIL

Investing in our Youth is important to our future. Our Youth Leaders represented Superior at the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C & the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Conference

4

SUCCEED IN SUPERIOR TOOLKIT

Launching a data-driven website, brochure, fact sheets and other tools to attract quality business, showcase Superior's strengths, and successfully compete for new jobs and private capital investment.

5

PUBLIC SAFETY/HELIPAD

Public Safety is a key priority. New Helipads improve medical response times for critical situations. Thanks to Senator Kelly and Senator Gallego an appropriations request for a new fire truck is in process.

6

SUPERIOR ENTERPRISE CENTER

Create. Incubate. Succeed. From Entrepreneur support to skilled job training, the Enterprise Center can help you succeed!

7

THE HIVE

A hub of connectivity for all ages, where innovation and creativity thrive.

8

QUEEN CREEK RESTORATION

Reviving riparian habitat, reducing wildfire risk, and restoring millions of gallons of water to Superior's aquifer.

9

MOONSHOT

Lifting creators to new heights so they can bring their ideas to reality.

10

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Building a \$3.8M bridge, repaving Main Street, revamped Wastewater Treatment Plant and improvements at all of the community parks.

SUPERIOR HITS

11

MULTI-GEN CENTER

Historic high school remixed into a modern hub for learning, innovation, and community life.

12

SUPERIOR MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Positioning Superior as a hub for general aviation, emergency services, and high-quality jobs to fuel economic growth.

13

VISIT SUPERIOR

Putting Superior on the map—and keeping visitors coming back. Visit superiorarizona.com

14

PANTHER BRIDGE

Spanning Queen Creek with a \$3.8M gateway built for safety, connection, and Superior's future.

15

SUPERIOR FOOD BANK

Providing the most basic of needs through nutritious offerings with a smile.

16

BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM

Our crown jewel, we continue to grow and maintain partnerships to help this historic attraction flourish.

17

ANNEXATION

Adding 546 acres for jobs, housing, and airport expansion to fuel Superior's future growth.

18

HOME REPAIRS PROGRAM

Providing Safety and Accessibility in the homes of our residents most in need.

19

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP AND GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT

Putting ideas onto paper so that our relationships can be the bedrock for successful mining through Resolution Copper.

20

UNIQUE COMMUNITY EVENTS

From donkeys to prickly pears to ore carts, our festivals bring thousands of visitors to our community each year.



Congratulations to Superior
Mayor Mila Besich,
Town Council and Town Staff
on your 5th State of the Town.

IO.INC is proud to be on the Superior Team!



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**“Congratulations to
MAYOR BESICH and
TOWN COUNCIL on your
2025 STATE OF THE TOWN”**

BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM ADVANCES CONSERVATION THROUGH DUAL-TRACK INITIATIVE



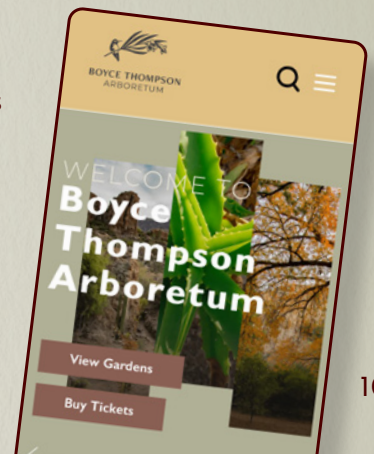
Boyce Thompson Arboretum implemented two major campaigns this past year that highlight its commitment to desert plant conservation and community education. These complementary initiatives demonstrate how the century-old institution continues to evolve its mission of inspiring stewardship of arid ecosystems.

Having successfully completed the first year of its three-year partnership with Resolution Copper, BTA is now entering the second phase of this transformative educational initiative. Year one achievements included launching the design phase of the Children's Garden, hiring an Education Director, conducting teacher workshops with Copper Corridor schools, and acquiring an outreach vehicle. Year two expands the program with continued Children's Garden development, addition of an Outreach Coordinator, and implementation of Title I student fee offsets for field trips.

Simultaneously, the Propagating the Future Campaign seeks to upgrade critical infrastructure supporting plant conservation efforts. With 30% of BTA's 4,000+ plant species facing extinction threats,

this initiative focuses on expanding propagation capabilities for endangered species like the critically rare *Aloe brunneostriata* from Somalia. The campaign will modernize greenhouse heating and cooling systems, replace deteriorating retail structures, and purchase essential equipment and vehicles, while supporting ecological restoration projects like post-Telegraph Fire recovery efforts.

Together, these initiatives will support both conservation and educational programs that will cultivate the next generation of desert conservation advocates. This dual approach ensures BTA can fulfill both its research mission and its responsibility to share knowledge with surrounding communities, maintaining its founder, William Boyce Thompson's vision of making drought-resistant plants accessible for practical use.



SUPERIOR ENTERPRISE CENTER



The Superior Enterprise Center is driving innovation, growth, and opportunity in our community! Serving as a transformative catalyst, the Center fuels Superior's economic diversification through dynamic business services, cutting-edge workforce training, and vibrant community engagement. It's our one-stop hub for resources, training, and inspiration—connecting people, sparking ideas, and creating pathways to success.

From small business owners to aspiring entrepreneurs, the Center offers programs designed to meet real needs. Through hands-on outreach, direct support, and our monthly Enterprise Center newsletter, we stay in tune with our community's vision for the future.

Workforce development is at the heart of what we do. With state-of-the-art welding equipment and strategic partnerships with Resolution Copper and Central Arizona College, the Center is building the skilled trades workforce of tomorrow. After successfully serving more than 45 students through

our welding program in just three semesters, we're already preparing to launch more trade programs in the years ahead.

We're also inspiring the next generation. In partnership with Superior Soaring, our Fledgling Youth Program introduced local youth to the thrill of glider flight—planting the seeds for future aviators and bringing a unique aviation presence to our town.

For entrepreneurs, the Center delivers results. From intensive Launch Camps to our Youth Entrepreneurial Academy, we help turn bright ideas into thriving businesses. Our coworking and meeting space—complete with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology—offers a professional, flexible venue for collaboration, workshops, and virtual connections.

The Superior Enterprise Center is more than a building—it's a launchpad for dreams, a bridge to opportunity, and a driving force in shaping Superior's bright future!

MOONSHOT

The Superior Enterprise Center recently teamed up with Moonshot—a 24-year-old Arizona-based nonprofit with a mission to help bold thinkers bring products and services to market and to build thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems in rural communities.

Together, we hosted Superior's very first entrepreneurial pitch competition!

Ten talented participants from across the Copper Corridor stepped up to pitch their business ideas, ranging from artisanal baking to innovative hiking programs to artists ready to expand their creative ventures. The competition was fierce, with cash prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second, and \$250 for third. Every participant also gained access to Moonshot's Constellation Program—a unique roadmap of resources and guidance to help founders turn dreams into reality.

The excitement doesn't stop here—the winner of Superior's Pitch Event will advance to compete for the statewide title and a \$10,000 grand prize. This milestone event not only celebrated local talent but also showcased Superior's growing role as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship!

THE HIVE

Rebuild Superior and the Superior Enterprise Center have joined forces with the Institute for Digital Inclusion Acceleration (IDIA), a nonprofit committed to closing the digital divide, to bring a state-of-the-art community resource to life: The Hive.

The Hive is more than just a coworking space—it's a vibrant hub for digital access, creativity, and lifelong learning. The Hive offers a wide range of free resources, including access to high-speed internet, virtual reality goggles, 3D printers, Apple devices, and even a private telehealth room and a professional-grade podcasting studio.

What truly sets The Hive apart is its mission to serve the community with no cost tech support and workshops for all ages. Whether you're a senior needing help with a smartphone or a student eager to learn robotics, The Hive has you covered.

Since opening in March, The Hive has become a buzzing hub of creativity and innovation, welcoming an average of 20 visitors each day. From "Exploring Robotics with Spheros" to "Creating with AI" and "Podcasting," our workshops offer something for everyone. Community members—young and old alike—come to discover new technologies, sharpen their skills, and connect in a warm, inclusive space where curiosity thrives and ideas take flight.

This summer, The Hive hosted its first youth tech camp for students ages 10–17. Campers participated in hands-on learning experiences and created powerful public service announcements about the dangers of vaping. As a highlight, each student received a brand-new Apple iPad and presented their final projects at the Apple Store in Scottsdale.

The Hive is open to everyone, and all services are free of charge. Whether you're looking to gain digital skills, start a creative project, or just get connected, The Hive invites you to stop by—and get buzzing.



SUPERIOR MULTI-GENERATIONAL CENTER: PRESERVING HISTORY, BUILDING THE FUTURE

Superior has long been a small town with big ideas, built and rebuilt through resourcefulness, reuse, and innovation.

That spirit guided the Town's bold decision to purchase and repurpose the original Superior High School into the Superior Multi-Generational Center (MGC)—a one-stop facility to improve services and enhance quality of life.

A phased build-out is underway. The Welding Shop is already open, with The HIVE co-working space launched in 2025. Future additions include the Recreation Center and Town Hall in 2026, followed by the Library and Senior Center in late 2026–early 2027, pending approvals.

By reimagining and upgrading a historic landmark, Superior is preserving its past while investing in its future. The MGC stands as a testament to the community's resilience and forward-thinking vision—providing resources, opportunities, and gathering spaces that will benefit residents for generations to come.

And there's more to celebrate! Superior High School will soon mark its 100-year milestone. Plans are underway for a Centennial celebration and all-town reunion to welcome alumni, families, and friends back home.

Save the date and join us in honoring a century of Panther pride—details to come!



Superior Leads the Way!

Named *Best Managed Town in Arizona* (*Business View Magazine*, 2025) for communities under 10,000.

