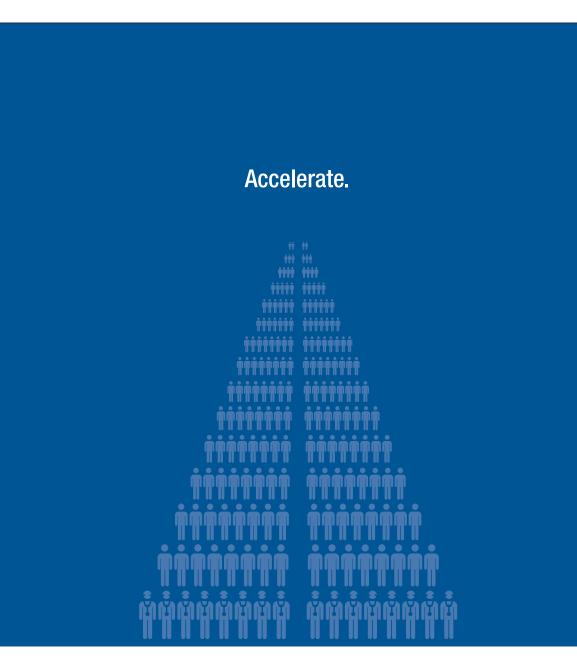
## IMAGINE DALLAS

As the ninth largest city in the United States and the third largest in Texas, Dallas is the largest economic center of the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metropolitan area. As of 2012, the population of Dallas sat at more than 1.2 million while the larger Metroplex was home to more than 6.6 million. Its special features include the following:

- Dallas rose to prominence from its historical importance as a center for the oil and cotton industries as well as its position along numerous railroad lines. Subsequently, it became a nationally centralized hub when the interstate highway system developed in the 1950s and '60s, bringing five major interstates to converge in and around the city.
- Located in North Texas, Dallas has developed a strong industrial and financial sector and stands as a major inland port because of the presence of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, one of the largest and busiest airports in the world.
- With an economy based primarily on banking, commerce, telecommunications, computer technology, energy, health care and medical research, transportation and logistics, Dallas is home to the third largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the nation.
- A center of education for much of the south central United States, Dallas has several topnotch institutions at all levels from private preschools to world-class accredited universities, such as Texas Woman's University and Dallas Baptist University.
- Dallas has a number of hospitals and medical research facilities, including the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center complex, which includes the nationally ranked Parkland Memorial Hospital, the Children's Medical Center and St. Paul University Hospital.
- A nationally recognized destination for high-profile sporting events, Dallas has professional teams in all four major sports. The Metroplex is home to the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, MLB's Texas Rangers and the NHL's Dallas Stars.
- A metropolitan city, Downtown Dallas offers the jazz center of Deep Ellum and The Arts District, which is home to several prestigious venues, including the Dal-las Museum of Art, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, the Nasher Sculpture Center and The Dallas Children's Theater.
- Particularly known for its outstanding barbecue and Tex-Mex cuisine, Dallas also has a number of nationally ranked streak houses because of the region's cattleranching history. The cuisine and culture of Dallas is showcased annually at the State Fair of Texas, the most notable event held in the city.
- Dallas maintains and operates 406 parks, which contain 17 separate lakes, including White Rock Lake and Bachman Lake. In addition, Dallas features 61.6 miles of biking and jogging trails and is home to three forest preserves and the 6,000-acre Great Trinity Forest, the largest urban hardwood forest in the United States.



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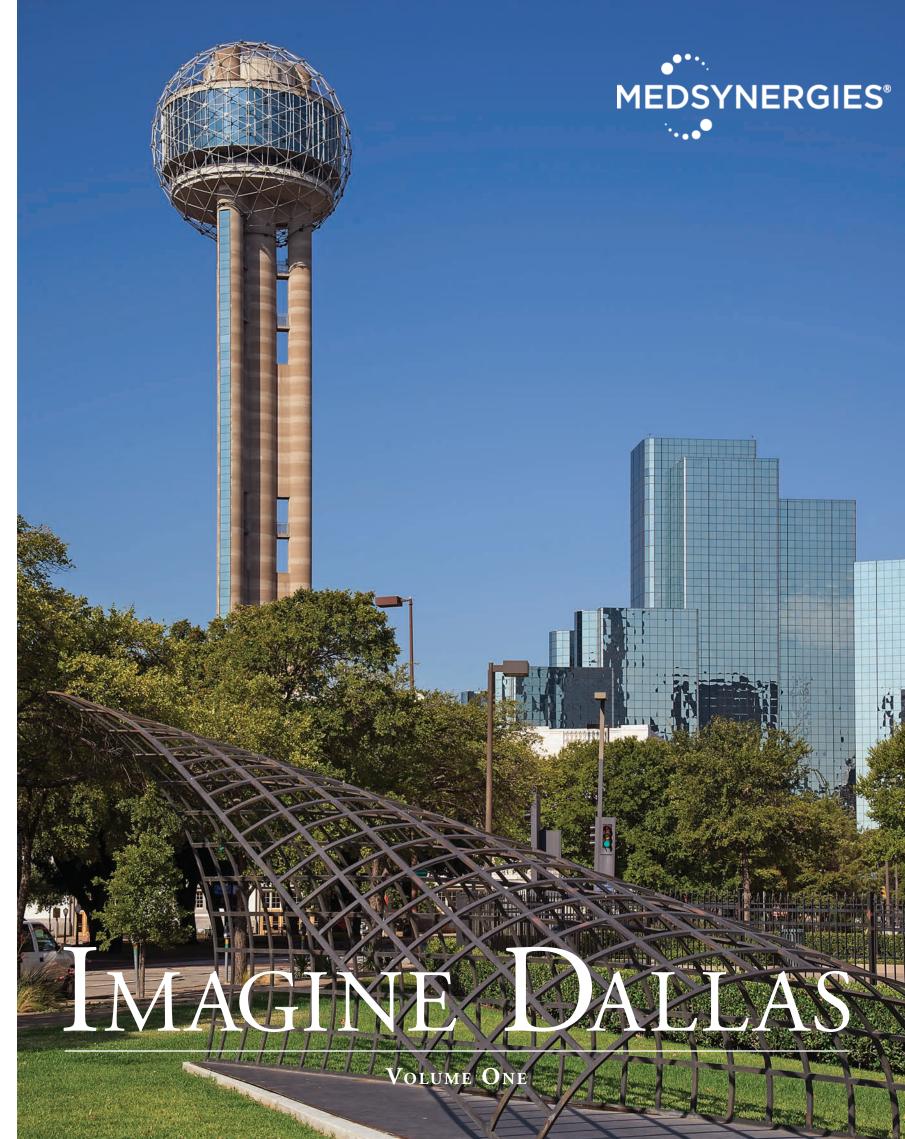
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