

DFW AIRPORT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS – THE EVOLUTION OF THE MAJOR TRAVEL HUB AND ADDITIONAL LUXURIES TO COME

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Transportation has always been the catalyst for growth. That's why there's one thing you won't find in any ghost town — train tracks. Cities located near a rail line prospered while those without it withered. Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (or DFW Airport) has accomplished the same thing for the entire region. So, the foresight and unprecedented cooperation of city leaders and planners from both Dallas and Fort Worth — who joined forces to create what is now the second busiest airport in the world — cannot be understated.

It's impossible to imagine where these two cities would be today, if not for the arrival of DFW Airport — adding jet fuel to our economy, welcoming visitors from all over the globe, and enticing new residents and large companies to the region thanks to this major transportation hub. Simply put: DFW Airport made Dallas and Fort Worth what they have become.

When the airport opened half a century ago the population of Dallas was just under 850,000 — today it is nearing 1.3 million. During that same period, Fort Worth's population has grown from under 400,000 to nearly one million. While the North Texas Commission (NTC) is credited with coining the term "metroplex" back in 1972 — people all over the world simply refer to the vast region (which encompasses 11 Texas counties) by its now famous airport code — DFW.

Local Flavors

Dining options have also improved steadily over the past 50 years. Simple, brown mug, coffee shops have been replaced by fresher and more local concepts — representing a taste of what Dallas and Fort Worth are famous for. There is plenty of great local barbecue of course, from the likes of Fort Worth's Cousin's, Dallas' Dickey's, Sonny Bryan's, The Salt Lick, and Hickory by Kent Rathbun, as well as local burger joints like Twisted Root and Love Shack by chef Tim Love.

Other local flavors are well represented by Brewed, Cantina Laredo, **Eatzi's**, Flying Saucer Draught House, Cake Bar, and Kate Weiser Chocolates.

Two of the newest additions include an airport location of Fort Worth's Ampersand Coffee House, and local sports legends have even gotten into the game like Dallas Maverick's Dirk Nowitzki who opened his namesake restaurant last year.