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Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

February 5th, 2023

Welp, that's some real Jurassic Park stuff going on. **Colossal Biosciences**, with a fresh \$150M in Series B funding, is resurrecting long extinct earth beings. Initially focused on the woolly mammoth, dodo bird, and Tasmanian tiger, the company is the first to apply CRISPR technology for the purposes of species de-extinction. So I'll make sure to never live too close to their offices... need to give myself time to flee in case they resurrect the T-Rex...

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[VW FWD](#) is a [Vela Wood](#) initiative whose mission is to provide financial resources and volunteer hours to organizations and causes that support justice and equal rights for marginalized communities and to educate and provide opportunities for our employees to become agents of social change. After its creation in 2020, VW FWD pledged to donate \$500,000 to social justice causes over ten years and has donated \$152,000 to date. As part of the initiative every month, Vela Wood pays for employees' lunches from minority owned restaurants. If there's a minority owned restaurant in the Austin or Dallas area that you love, please [submit a recommendation](#)! We're always eager to try new food and support local businesses.

Texas Financing Activity

- [Colossal Laboratories & Biosciences](#), a Dallas-based de-extinction company, raised a [\\$150M Series B](#) led by **United States Innovative Technology Fund**, with participation from **Breyer Capital, WestRiver Group, Bob Nelsen, Animal Capital, Victor Vescovo, In-Q-Tel, Animoca Brands, Peak 6, BOLD Capital, and Jazz Ventures**.
- [Guardz](#), a Dallas-based cybersecurity platform, [raised \\$10M of Seed funding](#) led by **Hanaco Venture Capital, GKFF Ventures, iAngels and Cyverse Capital** also participated in the round
- [Genialis](#), a Houston-based data science and drug discovery platform, [raised \\$11.4M](#) of Series A1 venture funding from undisclosed investors.
- [Giga Energy](#), a Beaumont-based manufacturer of vertically integrated bitcoin mining farms, raised \$10M of Series A venture funding from undisclosed investors.
- [Asset Entities](#), a Dallas-based company providing social media marketing and content delivery services, [raised \\$7.5M](#) in its initial public offering on the Nasdaq stock exchange under the ticker symbol of ASST
- [Secretome Therapeutics](#), a Dallas-based company focused on stem cell therapy, [raised \\$6.85M](#) of venture funding from undisclosed investors.
- [DegreeSight](#), a Round Rock-based degree planning platform to attract transfers, retain students, and improve on-time-graduation, [raised \\$3.5M](#) of venture funding from undisclosed investors

- [Frontrow Health](#), an Austin-based digital health platform, [raised \\$3M](#) of Seed funding led by **Next Coast Ventures**, **NextGen Venture Partners**, and **Andy Page**.
- [Wink](#), a Plano-based biometric identification platform, [raised \\$3M](#) of seed funding from **CerraCap Ventures**, and **Flying Point Industries**.
- [Logile](#), a Southlake-based workforce management and execution compliance software, received an [undisclosed amount of Series A](#) led by **Sixth Street Partners**.

Texas M&A Activity

- **Atlas Technical Consultants Inc.**, a publicly traded infrastructure testing company based in Austin [said Jan. 31](#) it has agreed to be bought by **GI Partners** for \$12.25 per share in cash. The deal is valued at roughly \$1.05 billion, including Atlas' outstanding debt.
- [Umbrage](#), a Houston-based digital product studio, [was acquired](#) by **Bain & Company** for an undisclosed amount. The company previously raised \$2M of seed funding in 2021 from **Rice Investment Group**.
- Austin-based in-store advertising and media company **Grocery TV** is acquiring Minneapolis-based **Mediaworks Advertising Solutions**, a digital out-of-home network with sanitizer dispensers located in supermarkets across the U.S. The financial terms of the deal, [announced Jan. 25](#), weren't disclosed.

Austin News

- [These 5 Austin Tech Companies](#) Raised \$106.4M in January
- [Catch up on 20 key personnel moves](#) in Austin tech, startups — including new COO at firm that's raised \$171M
- Layoffs [force thousands](#) in Austin area to seek new jobs
- [More than 30% of Austin Energy customers lost power](#) as a winter storm hits Central Texas
- It looks like **Apple Inc.** will keep construction crews busy in Northwest Austin.
- Recently filed paperwork indicate the iPhone maker [plans a trio of small projects at both its \\$1 billion new campus](#) and its longtime Americas Operations Center nearby.
- B2B software investment firm [Elsewhere Partners](#) [announced the appointment](#) of software industry veterans **Rod Favaron** and **Michele Perry** as its first Operating Partners – expanding its Austin-based investment team to support its growing portfolio and investment activities.

Thank you!

[Mason Rathe](#)

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