The Venture Café Foundation would like to extend our thanks to the City of Boston and the vibrant community of Dudley Square for the opportunity to respond to this exciting Request for Ideas, Interest and Innovation.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas for partnership.
A NEW HOME FOR INNOVATION IN BOSTON

District Hall is the world’s first public innovation center: a dedicated civic space where the innovation community can gather and exchange ideas.

There are many innovation spaces in a city like Boston—incubators, co-working spaces, labs—but this physical network is not always easy to find. These spaces are often on the upper floors of tall buildings, behind security guards and elevator banks.

Boston’s District Hall takes a different approach. It is a ground floor building with an iconic shape, with a restaurant, coffee shop and public, drop-in meeting space. Everything about the building is designed to send a clear message: come in, and connect with us.

District Hall is not your average event space. Its unique character is defined by its civic nature and public purpose. It is a hub for gatherings and events that trigger creativity, inspire innovation, motivate entrepreneurship, catalyze action, expand interdisciplinary collaboration, solve problems, and create the relationships that drive the innovation economy in Greater Boston.

2015 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

‣ Learn Launch Demo Day
‣ World Information Architecture Day
‣ Agile Marketing Meetup
‣ ONEin3 Boston Advisory Council Meetings
‣ Meetings for local innovation companies: Kyruus, Vertex, Crimson Hexagon, Rue La La, Promoboxx
‣ Microsoft Civic Tech Coffees
‣ Hack Trafficking4Good with Thomson Reuters and Demand Abolition
‣ BSA Women in Design
‣ Babson WIN Lab Women’s Entrepreneurship Program
‣ Nanyang Technological University
‣ Veterans in Entrepreneurship with Mass Fallen Heroes and Suburban
‣ Intelligent.ly Exchange Program
STORIES

Civic technology leaders from both the public and private sector meeting regularly in the District Hall lounge for the Microsoft and Venture Cafe Civic Tech Coffee series

A new partnership with the Babson WIN Lab brings female entrepreneurs together at District Hall regularly for presentations and workshops to grow their businesses

Office hours in the lounge with investors, marketing and branding experts, PR consultants, lawyers and more give startup companies access to free advice on a regular basis

New companies in the neighborhood mingle in the District Hall lounge over coffee

Community groups hold bike swaps and meetings to discuss neighborhood development

The new last-minute booking system for the Pod conference rooms allows entrepreneurs to get on-demand meeting space at low rates

The intelligent.ly Exchange program brings rising leaders in local startups together for leadership and skill development on a regular basis

Partnerships with Mass Fallen Heroes and Suburban Integrated Facilities have begun to connect a community around entrepreneurship support for military veterans

The Mayor’s ONEin3 Council and Youth Engagement programs meet at District Hall, bringing future civic innovators together

"U.S. Cities are establishing Innovation Districts to foster entrepreneurship. They should take note of Boston’s new District Hall."

FST COMPANY MAGAZINE
2015 EVENTS

2015 was District Hall’s second full year of operation, and saw increases in activity across many different metrics.

‣ Over 800 events and meetings of all kinds, from civic hackathons and cleantech training sessions to life science startup meetings and brainstorming sessions for BPS teachers

‣ 30,000+ event and meeting attendees

‣ Estimated 35,000+ users of open meeting space

‣ 400+ events were held here at a reduced cost or free to the event organizer, resulting in $1M of sponsored space value given to the innovation community

‣ 73% of all events fell into the ‘Innovation Use’ category, above the required percentage

“Few buildings hit their targets as swiftly—or as satisfactorily—as Boston’s District Hall.

Techies and budding entrepreneurs were sketching flow charts on the space’s writeable walls days after it opened last October.

Venture capitalists and construction workers were swapping battle stories at Gather and Brew, District Hall’s restaurant and café.”

METROPOLIS
2015 Space Rentals

In 2015, District Hall provided event discounts and sponsorships for over 400 mission-driven events, resulting in $1M in in-kind support for the innovation community.

- Total value of events held: $1.6 M
- Fees charged: ($500K)
- Subsidized total value: $1M

2015 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Hacking Pediatrics
- Veteran Entrepreneur Series
- Berklee Future of Music
- Solo City 2015
- Cyber Vision
- International Energy Today: Transition and Transformation
- Launch in US Alliance
- 2015 MITX Design, Tech + Innovation Summit
- SaasFest 2015
- Future Insights Web Development Conference
- Agile Marketing Meetup
- Revolution of Hope youth music conference
- Boston Area Scala Enthusiasts Meetup

District Hall makes determinations for reduced cost space based on the following criteria:

- **Mission of the event**: Events and gatherings that help make connections, grow new ideas, and build an inclusive and supportive innovation community.
- **Not-for-profit**: Events and gatherings being held for a not-for-profit, community-focused purpose
- **Free for attendees**: Events that do not charge attendees for access
- **Public**: Events that are open to the public at large and can be listed on District Hall’s public calendar
**SECTOR + TYPE ANALYSIS**

**NONPROFITS + VOLUNTEERS**
As always, District Hall saw strong engagement with community and civic groups: 27% of all events and meetings held in 2015 were run by nonprofits, volunteers, or government organizations.

**MULTI-SECTOR INTERACTION**
A large percentage (49%) of events and meetings at District Hall in 2015 were multi-sector in nature, meaning that innovators from different industries are connecting here more than ever.

**A RANGE OF TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES**
Connection with the tech community remains strong, at 34% of all events and meetings. This includes mobile (12%)+, digital (27%), robotics (2%)+ and cleantech (7%).

**CONNECTING TO LIFE SCIENCES**
16% of all events at District Hall in 2015 were in the life sciences, showing progress in our goal of increasing engagement in this critical sector.

**CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURS**
Connections with the creative community continue to grow: 19% of all events held at District Hall in 2015 were targeted at the creative economy.

**SOCIAL INNOVATORS**
Boston’s social entrepreneurship community represented 16% of all events in 2015 at District Hall, a strong showing as in previous years.
District Hall is the hub for Boston’s Innovation District, facilitating networking and idea-sharing.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION ‘THE RISE OF INNOVATION DISTRICTS’

SECTOR + TYPE ANALYSIS

UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION
Interaction with local universities is up, with 13% of all events and meetings at District Hall involving research and educational institutions.

CONNECTION AT ALL SCALES
18% of events at District Hall in 2015 involved large companies, many working on internal innovation initiatives or hoping to connect with startups and innovators in their industries.

GROWING GLOBAL NETWORKS
District Hall continues to have a presence on the global stage, with 13% of all events in 2015 focused on building international connections.
THANK YOU
FROM DISTRICT HALL

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