A NEW HOME FOR INNOVATION IN BOSTON

District Hall is the first building of its kind in the world: 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.
STORIES

‣ Local company Aldebaran Robotics brought in their humanoid robots for demos with kids

‣ Teenagers in the Artists For Humanity program live-drawing murals on Ideapaint

‣ Office hours in the lounge with investors and economic development officials

‣ Startup companies and construction workers coming in for their morning coffee

‣ Aerial performances by acrobats to raise money for cancer research

‣ Local startup founders playing jazz on a writeable piano covered in black Ideapaint

‣ Demos by DataGarden, showing how electrical signals from plants can be made into music

‣ Visits from many delegations: Singapore, Rotterdam, Denmark, Mexico

‣ Welcome Wednesday pop-up retail featuring local retailers and entrepreneurs

‣ Mayor Walsh dropped the first beat of the Together Boston music + technology festival, and worked with the Mayor’s Youth Council, MIT and Nas on a workshop for young Boston women to learn how to build apps with visual programming
2014 EVENTS

2014 was District Hall’s first year of operation—and what a year it was! Hundreds of events and meetings of every scale, in every sector held here throughout the year. Here are some key statistics from our first year:

- Over 550 events and meetings of all kinds, from civic hackathons and cleantech training sessions to life science startup meetings and brainstorming sessions for local teachers
- 30,000+ event and meeting attendees
- Estimated 25,000+ users of public meeting space
- 300+ 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
- 85% of all events were focused specifically on growth, impact, and access in the innovation economy

“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
2014 Space Rentals

In 2014, District Hall gave away 71% of all space rental value, resulting in a total of $1M in in-kind support for the innovation community.

District Hall makes space available at no cost to free, nonprofit, public, innovation and community focused events like the City Awake Social Impact Festival, EcoMotion’s Sustainability Unconference, MassChallenge’s Entrepalooza resource fair, meetups like Mobile Monday, and demo nights like Mass Innovation Nights.

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.

2014 Event Highlights

- Understanding and Improving Cities: Policy + Research Partnerships in a Digital Age
- Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Peer Reviewer Night
- The Power of Ideas Symposium
- Mobile Monday
- Mass Innovation Nights
- Boston Content Party
- Sea Change Symposium and Gallery Exhibition
- Comcast + A&E Project Startup
- SBA Regulatory Barriers to Innovation Hearing
- Meetings for local innovation companies like Enernoc, Zipcar, Keryx and Apperian
- Greater Boston STEM Network
- South Boston Waterfront Sustainable Transportation Plan
SECTOR + TYPE ANALYSIS

▶ MULTI-SECTOR INTERACTION
A large percentage (36%) of events at District Hall in 2014 were multi-sector in nature, specifically designed to help innovators in multiple sectors and fields connect with each other.

▶ A RANGE OF TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES
The technology sector hosts many events, and 38% of 2014 events at District Hall focused on technology in some way. This included events in mobile technology (8%), digital technology (19%), robotics (3%) and cleantech (10%).

▶ CONNECTING TO LIFE SCIENCES
14% of all events at District Hall in 2014 were related to Boston’s robust life sciences and healthcare industries.

▶ CREATIVE ENTREPRENEURS
Boston’s design community has responded well to the space: 23% of all events held at District Hall in 2014 were targeted at the creative economy.

▶ SOCIAL INNOVATORS
Boston’s growing social entrepreneurship community represented 16% of all events in 2014 at District Hall.

▶ NONPROFITS + VOLUNTEERS
District Hall saw significant usage by nonprofits: 49% of all events and meetings held in 2014 were run by nonprofit organizations, community groups, volunteers, or government organizations.
SECTOR + TYPE ANALYSIS

► UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION
Groups from Boston’s extensive higher education network held many types of events and meetings at District Hall, representing 12% of the total events at the building in 2013.

► CONNECTION AT ALL SCALES
Partnerships between startups and larger companies can lead to significant growth opportunities on both sides. 19% of events at District Hall in 2014 were focused on this critical intersection of companies at different scales.

► GROWING GLOBAL NETWORKS
District Hall also worked closely with consulates and delegations that expand Boston’s global networks: 10% of all events in 2014 were focused on building international connections + sharing Boston’s innovation story on the global stage.
DISTRICT HALL WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS.

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- BGI Global Investors
- Boston Redevelopment Authority
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- cic
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- Bruar Group

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### GRANT FUNDING

- Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
THANK YOU
FROM DISTRICT HALL

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