



Innovation Studio
INNOVATION *is for* EVERYONE

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VENTURE CAFE CAMBRIDGE OPERATION TO TRANSFER TO THE VENTURE CAFE GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Cambridge, MA, Sept. 17, 2021- Innovation Studio (a.k.a Venture Café Foundation), will shift responsibility for operations of the Venture Café Cambridge program to the Venture Café Global Institute (VCGI), in order to focus more on its inclusionary innovation programs throughout Greater Boston and New England. IS and VCGI will continue to collaborate on programming that grows the innovation ecosystem.

Since 2009, the Venture Café Cambridge community has grown to over 160,000 members. Throughout the pandemic, it acted as a beacon for purpose driven individuals and organisations wanting to; collaborate on world leading research, experience the latest technology and to build new ventures together.

President of VCGI, Zara Crichton says “We thank Innovation Studio for growing Venture Cafe Cambridge over the last eleven years as well as helping our Global organization with the launch of Venture Cafes around the world. We support the Innovation Studio team as they move to the next phase of their mission. CIC and VCGI are always exploring new concepts and enhancements to existing initiatives, in this spirit we look forward to writing the next exciting chapter in Venture Cafe

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Cambridge's story. We and our Innovation Studio partners share the goal of maintaining deep, sustained impact in the New England area for years to come, and expect to continue to work together on a variety of programming initiatives."

Venture Cafe and CIC founder, Tim Rowe, reflected on the success of the partnership over the years, "Innovation Studio has a long history of revolutionizing the process of innovation practice and is well respected for creating powerful civic innovation spaces for learning in the New England area. These spaces have proven their impact by gathering over half a million people and most importantly, bringing access to innovation to a wider audience, particularly audiences of color. We look forward to continuing our relationship into the next chapter of this journey".

Long term collaborator and Chair of Innovation Studio, Mitch Tyson, added, "We are grateful to CIC and VCGI for their long term support as we have worked together to strengthen the innovation ecosystem in the greater Boston area. This change will enable Innovation Studio to focus on the mission of making our world class innovation ecosystem more diverse and inclusive."

"Innovation Studio will increase its focus on its principal mission: inclusionary innovation," agreed Innovation Studio President, Daniel Vidaña. "We began working on expanding accessibility to the innovation and startup community in the early days of Venture Cafe Cambridge and then at District Hall Boston. In 2015, we launched the Roxbury Innovation Center, a first-of-its-kind program in the United States and a landmark project for the City of Boston with a mission to foster local economic development in the heart of Nubian Square." Vidaña added, "More recently in 2019, we began operation of Venture Café Providence and District Hall Providence, a result of a collaborative public-private partnership to increase Rhode Island's innovation output. To aid in Greater Boston and New England's economic recovery and increase opportunities, Innovation Studio will continue building on its

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programs where new and aspiring entrepreneurs can obtain the resources and skills necessary to successfully build businesses, strengthen existing small businesses to support their retention and growth and last but not least to democratize and diversify entrepreneurship by developing open and inclusive resources that promote our vision of making innovation a possibility for everyone.

“We look forward to collaborating with Daniel Vidaña and his team at Innovation Studio for years to come,” added Crichton, “as all our organizations are guided by the central tenet - that innovation is for everyone. We can’t wait to host the upcoming Thursday Gatherings with you all... in the world's most exciting innovation community.”

About Venture Café Global Institute

Founded in 2009 by Tim Rowe, CEO and Founder of the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC), and co-founders Aubree Lawrence and later Carrie Stalder, Venture Café started with the simple idea - to connect innovators in the Boston area.

Today, Venture Café’s flagship Thursday Gathering program has attracted 500,000+ innovators worldwide; entrepreneurs, scientists and creatives convening weekly, working together to make things happen. The VCGI network currently includes nine Venture Cafés sites, which work in partnership with CIC to strengthen innovation ecosystems.

Venture Café Global Institute's mission is to enhance, accelerate and introduce the innovation process to communities throughout the world - developing inclusive and

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resilient innovation ecosystems. Our vision is that one day, across the world, everyone will participate equally in the process of innovation.

> find out more www.venturecafeglobal.org

About Innovation Studio

Innovation Studio (Formerly Venture Café Foundation) is an economic development focused 501 (c)(3) non-profit envisioning a world in which anyone can be an innovator. Innovation Studio's mission is to democratize innovation by cultivating relationships and providing resources for anyone to successfully launch and grow a business.

Innovation Studio has run 5,000+ program sessions, held more than 2800 office hour sessions, welcomed 250,000+ public lounge users and 265,000+ program attendees.

> find out more www.innovationstudio.org

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