

Norwalk Innovation Places

Vision: Inspired by the City of Norwalk's outstanding physical, economic, social and educational resources, the Norwalk Innovation District will support development of entrepreneurs, business startups, job training programs and creative projects in the food and beverage, digital marketing, media production and making/light manufacturing industries.

Team/Partners: Northeast Community Investment Corp., Norwalk Community College, Norwalk Redevelopment Authority, City of Norwalk, Fairfield County Makers' Guild, Stepping Stones Museum, The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk, Wall Street Theater, Norwalk Public Library and several entrepreneurs.

Major Catalytic Projects:

- **Business Attraction and Support.** Attract businesses through Entrepreneur Grants to 10 firms per year, as well as training programs in the four pillars: Technology, Digital Marketing & Media, Making & Light Manufacturing, and Food.
- **Workspaces.**
 - Southern Norwalk (SoNo) Central, a 5,000-square-foot co-working facility located near the SoNo rail station, managed by NCIC, would offer free or discounted working space, conference rooms and networking opportunities in order to seed companies across all four pillars.
 - Food Lab, a 2,500-square-foot facility operated by NCIC, in partnership with Stepping Stones and the Norwalk Library, would promote food production and delivery of the food shed concept by enabling a broad range of activities including rental kitchens, urban farming and aquaculture research.
 - Fab Lab, a laboratory for the design and manufacture of goods, parts and appliances, located on the Norwalk Community College (NCC) campus, would provide strong linkages to SoNo through the delivery of introductory feeder classes within SoNo itself.
- **Communications and Outreach.** Host events such as CEO roundtables, meetups, business pitches and lectures at SoNo Central, Food Lab, the Maritime Aquarium, Stepping Stones and NCC. Provide marketing services through a combination of print and social media to promote SoNo to prospective businesses, investors, residents and visitors.
- **Placemaking.** Implement a Transit Connectivity Plan to enhance connections between SoNo, the train station, NCC and the Wall Street area, and a Wi-Fi Connectivity Plan that ensures public broadband access throughout key places within the Impact Area.

Impact Area: South Norwalk (SoNo).