

Thames River Innovation Place

Vision: New London and Groton are relatively small, meaning that it is relatively easy to get to know all the players and make things move compared with other places that are orders of magnitude bigger. Coupling these dynamics with our demonstrated history of doing big things means that we are embracing an identity that positions our place as an ideal site to try things out. Being a testing ground for new ideas and social arrangements is part of the character of our place.

Team/Partners: CURE Innovation Commons, Spark Makerspace, City of New London, New London Public Schools, Interdistrict Magnet School for Arts and Communication, Town of Groton, City of Groton, Connecticut College, Southeastern CT Enterprise Region, Ledge Light Health District, Eastern CT Area Health Education Center, Writers Block Ink, Eastern CT Chamber and several entrepreneurs.

Major Catalytic Projects:

- **CT Naval Undersea Supply Chain Consortium.** Establish an industrial consortium focused on enhancing the global competitiveness of Connecticut's naval undersea supply chain. Build a network of companies that collectively address challenges, share solutions, collaborate on opportunities and capitalize on the growing national undersea business base.
- **Redevelopment Placemaking Initiative.** Develop a Redevelopment Plan specific to Thames St./Bridge St. and Hodges Square areas that integrates assessment and review of the functionality of the Gold Star Bridge Multi-Use Path linking both areas.
- **Cultivator Kitchen.** Establish a large-scale commissary kitchen to serve as an employee/entrepreneur education and business development vehicle to create new restaurants to fill up vacant spaces in the Impact Areas.
- **Ignite.** Promote education, events and business development to connect people to spark new ideas and embrace innovation.
- **Community Concierge.** Provide a comprehensive program to assist employers, with special consideration for Electric Boat, in the recruitment, relocation and retention of employees by making meaningful connections to local arts, culture, history, shopping, restaurants, schools, services and community involvement opportunities.
- **Lean Economic Development Assessment.** UConn Extension Community & Economic Development staff will build a dashboard for all TRIP projects for shared reporting and visibility as well as an evaluation communications strategy.

Impact Areas: Both sides of the mouth of the Thames River, encompassing Fort Trumbull, Downtown New London and Hodges Square in New London, and Groton Center, the Groton Waterfront and Avery Point in Groton.