



Innovate Stamford – Vibrancy & Place-making Request for Interest

vi·bran·cy /¹vɪbrənsē

- the state of being full of energy and life. "the vibrancy of the city center"
- striking brightness of color. "the color is luxurious in its richness and vibrancy"
- strength and resonance of sound. "the vibrancy of her voice fills up the room"

About the Funder

Innovate Stamford is a program formed and catalyzed by the Innovation Places grant from CTNext. It is one of four places in Connecticut with this designation. Innovate Stamford has supported many placemaking projects already, such as the revitalization of Veteran's Park, a Wayfinding Study, a Pop-Up Beer Garden, and programming such as TEDx Ferguson Library, The Entrepreneurs Symposium, Global Game Jam, Startup Weekend, 1 Million Cups, an Innovation Forum, and Stamford Innovation Week.

Over the course of the past several months, Innovate Stamford has been investigating the city's innovation economy, its talent requirements and evaluating options to enhance Stamford's innovation culture and activity. One of the key findings during this process is the perception of the need for more "cool", more energy, and a wider range of activity that appeals to a range of age groups and demographic profiles.

Purpose of this RFI

The purpose of this RFI is to identify projects that will build on the work that has already occurred to improve Stamford as a place. The idea of this program is support some initial prototyping and beta testing of ideas that will enhance Stamford's quality of place experience with a particular emphasis on vibrancy.

Taking cues from the definition of vibrancy, Innovate Stamford is interested in projects that:

- increase people activity within the ["Innovation District"](#)
- contribute to building the brand of Stamford as an interesting and inviting place
- support local artists, businesses, cultural institutions
- have demonstrated funding and programmatic support

For purposes of illustration only, project areas could include:

- pop up retail
- live music / busker program
- public art
- interactive landscapes
- cultural and heritage activities
- pop up performance art

- parklets
- seasonal activities / temporary venues
- “fun” networking / ecosystem “collision” activities

The target size for grants is \$50k but there is no minimum or maximum request. There will be a two-step process. The first step is this RFI. The RFI will be reviewed by members of the Innovate Stamford board and outside advisors as appropriate. Innovate Stamford will notify responses to enter into discussions to finalize concepts, budgets and sorting through legal issues as required.

Content of the RFI

The response to the RFI should be built around answers to the following questions;

- How does your project contribute to enhancing the vibrancy of Stamford? Do you have illustrations / images / concept drawings that can help explain the concept?
- Is this a concept that has been in development for several months or years or is this a new concept? If it's pre existing idea why hasn't it been implemented?
- Do you have a formal legal structure (LLC, 501 (c)3, etc)?
- Where within the Innovation District will this occur?
- Have you identified and, or secured permission to use the venue / location?
- Are there any licensing or regulatory issues that need to be addressed? Please identify.
- What is the estimated budget within a range? E.g., \$10-20K is an acceptable range rather than \$10-\$50k.
- Do you have funding in hand or identified funders? Will you use crowdfunding to help support the project? For Step 1 matching funds do not need to be demonstrated but it is required to present a plan on attracting those resources as part of its initial submission. It is important to note that matching funding is an absolute requirement during the Step 2 process.

Timeline

- February 26, 2019 : RFI released
- March 18, 2019: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but first consideration will be given to submissions received by March 18. *Candidates may be contacted by IS for questions, clarifications, and proposal enhancement requests.*
- March 21, 2019 :Proposals will be reviewed by a Project Review Panel and then monthly as needed. *Candidates may be contacted by IS for questions, clarifications, and proposal enhancement requests.*
- April, 2019: Project Review Panel will make recommendations to the Innovate Stamford Board at their April meeting, date to be determined. The Innovate Stamford board will vote on projects to be included in Year 3 funding request to CTNext
- June 15, 2019: CTNext approvals communicated to applicants
- July 1, 2019: Initially funded projects execute MOU for FY20 funding.

Questions may be directed to Innovate Stamford's Director, Sam Gordon:

Sam@InnovateStamfordNow.com. Funding Application can be accessed here:

www.innovatestamfordnow.com/Funding Please indicate you are applying in response to ID#RFI201