

# Chattanooga Forward // Tech, Gig & Entrepreneurship

Recommendation	Staff	Status
It is recommended that a public private partnership be quickly created anew or by refocusing an existing compatible partnership, to lead the Gig City Initiative. This will require active and regular participation by Chattanooga's most highly placed executives and civic leaders across for profit, non-profit, institutional, entrepreneurial, and philanthropic leaders.	Stacy Richardson	COMPLETE
Once an organizing structure, staffing, and a board of directors and executive committee are in place, a series of implementation committees should be created to move efforts ahead as quickly as possible in each strategic goal area.	Stacy Richardson	COMPLETE
Innovation Districts: Name an implementation committee to assess the necessary components and partners of a Chattanooga innovation district, its most advantageous locational beginning, and specific steps for creating the first innovation district in a mid-sized city.	Stacy Richardson	COMPLETE
Digital Inclusion: Engage local stakeholders on an implementation committee to create a game-plan for increasing digital inclusion among all citizens and to offer everyone the benefits of an increasingly computer and web based world.	Stacy Richardson	COMPLETE. The City, along with various community partners, has identified, funded, and implemented "Tech Goes Home" -- a program that pairs technology and curriculum with students and seniors living on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. After an initial pilot year, the Tech Goes Home program is expanding.
Applications Development and Testing: Create an implementation committee to rapidly pursue both internal and external opportunities for establishing Chattanooga as the nation's most advantageous place to develop and test the full range of high bandwidth application for 21st century urban solutions.	The Enterprise Center	IN PROGRESS.
Entrepreneurship: Having all parts of a healthy entrepreneurship ecosystem in place is crucial to be able to develop, attract, and keep talent necessary to the new economy. An implementation committee should be named quickly to ensure this ecosystem is strong, flexible and growing in Chattanooga.	The Enterprise Center	The Enterprise Center board is comprised of the heads of all the major stakeholders within Chattanooga's innovation economy.
a) Working with local schools to add computer science to middle and high school curricula.	The Enterprise Center	IN PROGRESS. The Superintendent of public schools and Hamilton County Mayor both serve on the board of The Enterprise Center. The County is a funder of Tech Goes Home and the Schools are implementing a variety of technology initiatives throughout middle and high schools.

b) Easily accessible public transportation within the city, connecting green spaces, the university, housing and centers of innovation.	The Enterprise Center	The Enterprise Center is leading the charge on the creation of an Innovation District that links green spaces, talent, capital, housing, and centers of innovation.
c) Adequate and reasonably priced housing in the City Center	Stacy Richardson	The downtown housing PILOT has aided in the creation of hundreds of new units of housing within the downtown. Due to the affordability requirement of the PILOT, 20% of the units must be affordable to people who make less than 80% of the Area Median Income.
d) Incentives for developers to build at least 150,000 sq. ft. of entrepreneur friendly space	Stacy Richardson	This recommendation is still under review. Currently, there is a surplus of office space in the downtown area. Any incentives must take into account the amount of spaces being converted to residential, and the potential to redevelop existing vacant spaces.
e) Improving connections with higher education research centers and outside sources of capital	Stacy Richardson/ The Enterprise Center	The Chancellor of the UTC serves on the board of The Enterprise Center and regularly participates in joint projects to spur economic growth and provide students with greater opportunities off campus.
f) Making meeting space available at low or no cost to entrepreneur groups looking to form new meet-ups.	The Enterprise Center	Currently, The Enterprise Center is partnering with a private developer to turn the Edney Building into a hub for creativity and innovation. The building will be open to the community and offer office and collaboration space at varying price points.
g) Developing a public lab space that all entrepreneurs can access for a reasonable price	The Enterprise Center	Currently, The Enterprise Center is partnering with a private developer to turn the Edney Building into a hub for creativity and innovation. The building will be open to the community and offer office and collaboration space at varying price points.
Partnerships: The issues and opportunities at the core of technology, gig bandwidth, and entrepreneurship today are as much national and global as they are local. While Chattanooga has begun to play in larger arenas, urgent attention must be given to ramping up our potential to attract, solidify, and keep new partners in all sectors. An implementation committee should be named swiftly to continue working with existing partners and create new strategic partnerships to further our goals.	The Enterprise Center	The Enterprise Center has stakeholders from several large organizations and entities within the entrepreneurial eco-system. This increases the level of partnership on a local and regional level. The organization is also pursuing partnerships on a national level.

<p>a) Major Corporations: Partnerships with Alcatel-Lucent, Cisco, Warner Brothers, and IBM have been fruitful but can be leveraged to grow the number of corporate partners exponentially. It will take a focused and aggressive strategy to do this.</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center</p>	<p>This is an ongoing effort, as several projects with the stated national partners are currently in progress.</p>
<p>b) Gig Cities: The few U.S. cities and towns with some gig bandwidth service could benefit greatly from a coordinated way to share knowledge and experiences, and from the creation of working partnerships, especially as some type of intercity high bandwidth connection may become possible. Current partnerships exist with Kansas City, Cleveland, OH, and Burlington, VT among others.</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center</p>	<p>This is an ongoing effort. Several projects are underway with other gig cities.</p>
<p>c) National Foundations: National Foundations such as the Ford Foundation are increasingly taking interest in how technology is changing and can be made to change the world. These foundations base their work in advanced initiatives and talent at the local level and we should work to be part of this level of conversations.</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center has strong partnerships with national stakeholders and national foundations who are funding projects around the country.</p>
<p>d) Colleges and Higher Education: Our initial higher education partners and many more around the country are rapidly building their own abilities in technology, gig bandwidth, and entrepreneurship and are more aware of the value of local partnerships to help do this. Our local assets make us competitive in attracting higher education partners in a new way and we will do well to take more advantage of these types of partnerships.</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center</p>	<p>This is an ongoing effort. The Enterprise Center has had conversations with multiple national and regional higher education institutions. Hopefully these relationships will lead to meaningful projects in the future.</p>
<p>Marketing and Communications: Creating and spreading effective information and messaging about what is going on in Chattanooga are important ongoing functions. An implementation committee of key local stakeholders should be convened to create a proactive branding, social media, and coordination campaign targeting the local public as well as regional, national and international news outlets.</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center</p>	<p>The Enterprise Center has engaged a team of communication specialists from anchor institutions to contribute to the branding of the Innovation District, as well as the overall branding for Chattanooga's innovation economy.</p>