CONNECT.
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VENTURE CAFÉ IS A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT

OPENING WORDS BY DIRECTOR, ALEX CHEUNG

Venture Café launched in Boston’s Cambridge Innovation Center in 2010 and helped fuel the growth of one of the world’s most powerful ecosystems. Each year more than 64,000 innovators attend our Thursday Gatherings and participate in over 1,500 hours of networking, 2,700 engaging sessions and hundreds of hours of free mentoring.

Venture Café has a global network – and that means you do too! Through our collaborations in cities from Boston to Tokyo to Warsaw, we’ll connect you with change-makers and resources to help you expand innovation both locally and globally.

I envision Venture Café Cambridge as THE global hub for innovation. Delegations, consulates, and innovators from around the world seek us out to experience and test ideas across all sectors. We constantly experiment with new ideas and push the status quo of what it means to connect, learn, and share with others.

We demonstrate how any city would be able to make positive impacts in their community with the Venture Café platform.

As we continue to face unprecedented challenges in our world, I believe that Venture Café will be pivotal in addressing evolving issues and creating opportunities for new collaborative solutions.

An inflection point for me was hearing from one of our regulars at our Thursday Gatherings: "It’s official--Thursdays are no longer in my control, they’re for Venture Café. I’m trying to arrange my schedule to make sure I can make it to the Thursday Gathering every week!"

Please join us!

Alex Cheung
Director, Venture Café Cambridge
THURSDAY GATHERINGS
**ISOLATION IS THE ENEMY OF INNOVATION**

Venture Café’s Thursday Gatherings create a center of gravity for hundreds of innovators and entrepreneurs every week, where they come together to share ideas, get inspired, and make connections.

Every Thursday between 4:30pm and 7:30pm we host the largest innovation community gathering in the Greater Boston area, with an average of over 200 visitors per week.

By offering a freely-accessible program with a mix of break-out sessions, rapid pitches, demo tables, and more, we engineer serendipitous encounters.

The focus is on making connections, building relationships, and sharing knowledge. The impact is also in the crossover-connections: by attracting visitors from different industries and by providing the setting to meet each other we inspire them to co-create and work together on new ideas.

“What we hosted with Venture Café helped define our industry. There was not a platform to connect the wellness community. When talking about about wellness, I first hear about insurance, then policy, and then maybe entrepreneurship. When we hosted The Wellness Business Summit at a Thursday Gathering, we witnessed AI for wellness and insurance stakeholders coming together to learn from one another. And it didn't stop there--the connections made that evening grew into people building on new life-changing ideas!”

DHANASHRREE RAM
President, Mass Wellness Initiative
Every week is a new adventure—where attendees choose their own paths and experiences.

With 126 sessions taking place during Venture Café’s Thursday Gatherings in 2022, we housed an incredible amount of knowledge, expertise and inspiration on a week-to-week basis. A total of 183 speakers have dedicated their time and effort to host breakout sessions, fireside chats, or info tables as part of our Thursday programs.

In our Thursday program in 2022 we explored topics and formats to fit the needs of our communities. We build out themes as a red thread for our programming, as it allows for like-minded visitors to connect, share knowledge and exchange expertise around the subject at hand. Something we like to call engineered serendipity.

Do you want to be part of Venture Café’s Thursday Gathering programming? Email us!

Hello@VentureCafeCambridge.org

WHAT’S ON?

- Info tables
- Trainings
- Workshops
- Demo tables
- Panel discussions
- On-demand advisory board help
- Live music/art

We foster an inviting environment for general connecting, but visitors also have the opportunity to attend a variety of session formats:
NPS SCORE

On average we have received an NPS score of 83 – on a scale from -100 to +100 – from our visitors.

VENTURE CAFÉS ONLINE REACH

19,000 EMAIL + SOCIAL SUBSCRIBERS
38.2% EMAIL OPEN RATE
28,000 WEBSITE USERS
VISITOR GROWTH SINCE WE REOPENED IN APRIL AFTER COVID SHUT DOWNS

Venture Café was one of the first organizations to safely reopen after being closed during the pandemic. With a great eye for safety for visitors and staff we have brought together large crowds again, for the first time since 2020.
MEET THE COMMUNITY!
"I like to ask people 'How do you fill your time' because people are so much more than just their jobs. I've learned so much from people sharing their passions and hobbies."

MEET CONNOR HARBINSON
Founder, Atlas Urban Farms

"Venture Café is a community of people who lift each other up and cheer on people's ideas. They were my first supporters and now I come back to do the same!"

MEET ERIK MODAHL
Founder, Beantrust

Venture Café is an awesome place to reconnect with the city when I'm back in town. It was a great resource while getting started up."

MEET MOH NOORI
Founder, ScriptChain Health

"Everyone at Venture Café comes with an open mind ready to learn. So many of those people also offer advice and try to answer any questions you have."

MEET GABRIELA CORBERA
Independent researcher and consultant

SEE VIDEO INTERVIEWS AND READ ALL STORIES ON:
HTTPS://VENTURECAFECAMBRIDGE.ORG/STORIES/
INNOVATION VISITORS BUREAU
GET A UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO CAMBRIDGE’S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM!

The Innovation Visitors Bureau (IVB) connects innovators from all over the world to the innovation ecosystem of the Greater Boston area. Our goal is to foster international linkages with the aim of creating concrete, valuable outcomes.

As a local community platform, Venture Café Cambridge has the right insights to connect national & international delegations to the most relevant innovators. By doing so we aim to inspire and be a catalyst for collaborations worldwide. We believe that innovation is one of the most promising paths to making this world better a better place.

The types of delegations that IVB typically services are:
- Government officials (Country, Regional, City)
- Students & University officials
- Industry associations
- Corporate groups

IVB designs tailor-made visit plans that match the needs of every visiting group. Each program includes a high-level overview of the ecosystem, as well as opportunities to tour innovative sites and connect with individual innovators within our community. Our IVB-tours are fully customizable, depending on the delegation’s interests and goals.

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE REACH OUT TO HELLO@VENTURECAFECAMBRIDGE.ORG
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BIG THANKS TO

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN!

CIC
With a goal of helping to solve the world’s problems by creating innovation ecosystems, CIC delivered in their support of our community. With amazing space and infrastructure for networking, CIC helped us act as a magnet for local and international communities to convene.

DuploCloud
DuploCloud hosted two amazing interactive sessions to demonstrate when DevOps can be hired out. These sessions demonstrated the value of an outsourced system for security and compliance.

Enterprise Singapore
Enterprise Singapore brought 10 biotechnology companies to exhibit cutting-edge advancements from Singapore. Singapore Global Network also welcomed local startups looking to expand into Singapore, and brought a taste of Singaporean culture to our community.

JETRO
JETRO collaborated with us to host the Hokkaido Life Science Showcase, alongside Sapporo City and Hokkaido University. In addition, together with the CIC Japan Desk and the Consul-General of Japan in Boston, JETRO collaborated with us to showcase the Japanese innovation ecosystem at Japan Innovation Night.

Kendall Square
MakeTimeFlow
HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY
SAPPORO
HURUN
Startup BOSTON
CIC JAPAN DESK
HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY
Startup Boston
Global Entrepreneurship Week
Broad Institute
CIC Captains of Innovation
ChileMass
SeaAhead
Singapore Global Network

BIG THANKS TO
GLOBAL NETWORK
VENTURE CAFÉ GLOBAL NETWORK

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CONNECTING INNOVATORS TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

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