

HID

**HOLYOKE
INNOVATION
DISTRICT**



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Innovation = Creativity + Action

In 2011, the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center (MGHPCC) and the Urban Renewal planning process for the city drove the formation of the Holyoke Innovation District. For the past five years, the MGHPCC has become a nucleus of a burgeoning innovation economy in Holyoke. The doors of the MGHPCC have been open to the community since its construction and opportunities for learning at the facility have continued to this day.



the highlights in the year 2015

A BIG YEAR FOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

During the past year, several housing projects have taken shape and secured financing including renovations to Lyman Terrace, new condominiums at Canal Galleries, and new apartments at 216 Appleton Street. Over 450 new market rate and affordable housing units are anticipated to be ready in the next three years. Governor Charlie Baker, local officials, developers, and public housing authority officials held a press conference at Lyman Terrace in September 2015 to announce state funding for renovation of the 167 public housing units.



Following the completion of the strategic plan for the District in 2011, a steering committee referred to as the Kitchen Cabinet was formed and has been meeting monthly to guide the implementation of the strategies. A project manager, supported by funding from the Innovation Institute at MassTech Collaborative, has provided essential leadership and staff support.

Since its inception, the Holyoke Innovation District has pursued its mission of encouraging and facilitating new and innovative economic development in Holyoke and the region. Led by leaders from local, regional and state agencies, the Holyoke Innovation District is serving as a platform for innovation - and the excitement is evident.

MGHPCC A VITAL HUB

In 2015, MGHPCC welcomed 10,450 visitors and has led over a dozen facility tours. By far, the majority of the meetings held at the Center are community related, thus fulfilling the intent to have MGHPCC become a vital hub for community and economic development. The MGHPCC also awarded scholarships totaling \$10,000 and provided five paid internships to Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College students. Further, the MGHPCC spends over \$2 million annually on city services and local contractors.

INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

Holyoke's revitalization efforts continue to draw attention from stakeholders, developers, and policy makers in the Commonwealth and across the country. The city's innovation-based economic development strategies have expanded its audience, drawing the attention of the Chinese cable television station CNTV13's program "World Express," which featured the Holyoke Innovation District in August 2015.

CONNECTING CITIES THROUGH RAIL

Construction of Holyoke's \$4.2 million rail platform was completed. A well-attended event was held on August 27, 2015 to celebrate and cheer as the train approached the new stop at Depot Square for the first time in 50 years.





The "CUBIT" building. Future home of Holyoke Community College's new Culinary and Hospitality Center of Excellence and 18 apartment units (rendering on the right).



milestones & accomplishments reached through collective effort

Entrepreneurship/ Local Economy

- SPARK Launch Program graduated 26 entrepreneurs in 2015 and secured \$56,000 in additional grant funding from the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) to offer more classes, provide one-on-one mentoring for entrepreneurs, and to support a micro-enterprise loan program.
- Valley Venture Mentors, based in Springfield, graduated their first accelerator class.
- SPARK and the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce hosted meetings with other support agencies with the goal of creating a "systems map" of how the entrepreneurial ecosystem is connected in Holyoke.
- SPARK hosted a "Live" event series with speakers including Jorge Silva-Puras, former U.S. Small Business Administration Region II Administrator.

Creative Economy

- The City of Holyoke successfully launched a *Creative Placemaking Toolkit and Pop-up Guide* with essential tools for local entrepreneurs to sell and market their products at local venues and events.
- Over 20,000 visitors attended events and meetings at Gateway City Arts.
- Celebrate Holyoke and Next Stop Holyoke attracted over 18,000 visitors and over 90 vendors including local artisans and food vendors.
- A Creative Cooperative Incubator is established at 207 Elm Street, in collaboration with Old Holyoke Development to create spaces for social enterprise programs. It currently houses Tejo Holyoke and a shared makerspace with the Holyoke Creative Arts Center.
- The Mosher Bridge Public Art Project "Arrivals" was unveiled in August 2015. This is a prime example of injecting art into infrastructure to solve public safety concerns due to poor lighting and blight.

Transportation

- Holyoke's \$4.2 M train platform was completed and opened in August 2015 to accommodate Amtrak rail patrons.
- PVPC released an updated version of the Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan, along with a new, updated transportation project evaluation criteria/ scoring system, both of which are aligned and consistent with the region's needs.
- The Mayors of Holyoke, Springfield, Greenfield, and Northampton created a joint effort to advocate for the expansion of passenger rail service in the *Knowledge Corridor*.
- PVPC assembled and submitted a "Top Ten" list of regionally significant transportation improvements recommended for inclusion in the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's five year Capital Investment Plan.
- Holyoke, Springfield, Amherst, Northampton, and UMass Amherst collaborated in a effort to do a feasibility study for a regional bike share program.

Manufacturing

- Seventy-eight incumbent employees from 18 advanced manufacturing companies completed skills enhancement evening courses at William J. Dean Technical High School.
- Advanced manufacturing companies conducted tours of their facilities for over 90 middle school and high school students from Holyoke and the Pioneer Valley. Tours were organized by the Hampden Regional Employment Board in collaboration with Universal Plastics based out of Holyoke, Mass.
- Member companies of the Western Mass Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association led by Holyoke-based Meridian Industrial Group and Universal Plastics provided technical and curriculum guidance to Machine Tool Technology program at William J. Dean Technical High School.

Clean Energy

- UMass Amherst, in collaboration with the City of Holyoke, drafted guidelines for a Renewable Energy Development grant program focused on driving rooftop solar panel installations throughout the city.
- HG&E completed feasibility study for a new 2.5 MW hydroelectric generator on the first level of the Holyoke Canal System.
- Continued development of a distributed residential energy storage demonstration project, and expanded project to include batteries installed at an experimental data center pod developed by UMass Amherst, MIT, and the MGHPCC. These test projects are conducted in partnership with Sparkplug Power under a \$275K grant provided by Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the American Public Power Association's Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Developments (DEED program).
- The first commercial rooftop solar project in the City of Holyoke began operations in Holyoke at the Expressive Design Group facilities located at 49 Garfield Street. With 3,762 panels occupying more than 4 acres of roof space, the installation has almost 1 Megawatt (MW) of generation capacity.
- The MGHPCC creates a partnership on a small project to test battery technology. The energy to be stored will be captured with solar panels installed across the way on property owned by the MGHPCC.

Infrastructure/ Policy

- Completed construction of the second phase of the canal walk along Race Street.
- Holyoke is the first community in Western Mass to adopt a *Complete Streets* ordinance for improved safety, health, economic, and environmental outcomes.
- The Cities of Holyoke, Springfield, and Chicopee received a \$1.25 million commitment from the Commonwealth, awarded to PVPC, to continue water pollution abatement projects benefiting Holyoke and the Connecticut River.

Digital/ Tech Economy

- A successful Mass Big Data "Tech Trek", organized by MassTech, was held in Amherst on September 28, 2015.
- Tech Foundry, an Information Technology job training program, graduated its first class.
- HID and SPARK co-hosted a "Build Your Business" presentation on October 19th at the MGHPCC. Guest speaker and facilitator was Joshua Drew of Microsoft.
- MGHPCC is going on its third year of running the Computational Cloud for Data-Driven Biology (C3DDB) with a \$4.5M award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This resource is available to startup and small scale life sciences businesses in Massachusetts.
- UMass Amherst was awarded a \$1M grant from the National Science Foundation in order to expand on the existing big data analyses partnership with HG&E.

Education/ Talent Development

- The Holyoke Chamber organized a successful event with the new School Superintendent and the business community to discuss the private sector's role in the transformation of the Holyoke Public Schools.
- Members of the *Kitchen Cabinet*, David Cruise and Bill Ennen, played a key role in the Local Stakeholders Group tasked with preparing strategic findings and recommendations to the new Superintendent of the Holyoke Public Schools and Commissioner Chester of the Massachusetts Department of Secondary Education.
- MGHPCC, Holyoke Codes, and Girls Inc. ran a successful Computer Science Week. Over 150 youth, plus a few dozen parents, teachers and guardians, participated over the course of the week.
- HCC's Culinary and Hospitality Center of Excellence was funded by \$1.75 M state grant and \$1.9 M EDA grant. The Center will be located in downtown Holyoke.

By the Numbers...

\$112M+

CURRENT PIPELINE OF PRIVATE PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT

\$30M+

STATE/FEDERAL COMPETITIVE FUNDS SECURED SINCE 2012

\$14M

INVESTED IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

50K+

VISITORS TO EVENTS/VENUES IN THE DISTRICT IN 2015

2016-2021 Ambitions & Strategic Priorities

INCREASE JOB
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
HOLYOKE AND THE
REGION

TRANSFORM
HOLYOKE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

ATTRACT MORE
PRIVATE INVESTMENT

STRENGTHEN
CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN HOLYOKE AND
THE REGION

PROMOTE THE HOLYOKE
INNOVATION DISTRICT

The mission of the Holyoke Innovation District is to represent the economic development interests of the City of Holyoke and the Pioneer Valley through active dialogue and participation in the ongoing implementation of the vision, design, and development plan crafted for the Holyoke Innovation District

Our purpose is to:

- Articulate the innovation-based economic development opportunities associated with the emergence of an innovation district anchored by the MGHPCC located in Holyoke's Canal District.
- Assist the City of Holyoke in developing and implementing a business strategy that will maximize the economic growth potential created by the presence of the MGHPCC in Holyoke, create the conditions for the emergence of a digital technology industry and innovation district, and drive the innovation economy in the Pioneer Valley.
- To engage with key stakeholders and expert organizations in the development of a strategy that will help attract advanced computing talent, entrepreneurs, investment, and firms to Holyoke and the Pioneer Valley.
- Develop incentives and initiatives that will build relationships, partnerships, and increased engagements with higher education and research institutions in the broader Pioneer Valley center around the development of the Innovation District.
- Serve as interlocutors and liaisons between the region with state government officials, with an interest in maximizing the economic development impact of the state's major investment in the MGHPCC in Holyoke.

The Holyoke Innovation District is a project of the Innovation Institute at MassTech supported by local, regional, and statewide partners.



HOLYOKE INNOVATION DISTRICT KITCHEN CABINET MEMBERS

- Tim Brennan, Co-Chair, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- Marcos Marrero, Co-Chair, City of Holyoke
- Kathy Anderson, Holyoke Chamber of Commerce
- Debra Boronski, Massachusetts Office of Business Development
- David Cruise, Hampden Regional Employment Board
- Bill Ennen, MassTech Collaborative
- John Goodhue, Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center
- Richard Henderson, MassDevelopment
- Samalid Hogan, Consulting Project Manager
- Pat Larkin, MassTech Collaborative
- Jim Lavelle, Holyoke Gas & Electric
- Michael Malone, UMass Amherst
- Bill Messner, Holyoke Community College
- Mayor Alex Morse, City of Holyoke
- Katie Stebbins, Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
- Stephen Zrike, Holyoke Public Schools
- Rick Sullivan, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts



www.InnovateHolyoke.com