

# 9-Apr: Spurring the Innovation Economy in Cambridge and Boston

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Guest Speakers:

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## Readings:

- First, read Bruce Katz and Julie Wagner's 2014 Brookings Institute report on the *Rise Of Innovation Districts* either by
  - [Downloading this PDF \(https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/2399/files/431692/download?verifier=w1YlJB2eF15N4VRIWYaruN7FGfJ8TXapbrre6QyQ&wrap=1\)](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/2399/files/431692/download?verifier=w1YlJB2eF15N4VRIWYaruN7FGfJ8TXapbrre6QyQ&wrap=1)  [\(https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/2399/files/431692/download?verifier=w1YlJB2eF15N4VRIWYaruN7FGfJ8TXapbrre6QyQ&wrap=1\)](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/2399/files/431692/download?verifier=w1YlJB2eF15N4VRIWYaruN7FGfJ8TXapbrre6QyQ&wrap=1) (focus on pages 1-10, skim the rest)
  - Or exploring [their interactive website](http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/innovation-districts) (<http://www.brookings.edu/about/programs/metro/innovation-districts>)
- Then briefly explore the [Cambridge Innovation Center's website](http://cic.us/) (<http://cic.us/>) and watch

<https://www.youtube.com/>

- Third, explore Boston's Innovation District by
  - Taking *quick* looks at the website for Boston's Innovation [starting on the "about" page](http://www.innovationdistrict.org/about-2/) (<http://www.innovationdistrict.org/about-2/>) as well as the Venture Cafe Foundation's website, [starting with the page about District Hall](http://vencaf.org/district-hall-boston/) (<http://vencaf.org/district-hall-boston/>),
  - Watching [Innovation City](https://vimeo.com/41518742) (<https://vimeo.com/41518742>), a short video that Nicole Fichera helped produce in 2012 or [Startup City](https://vimeo.com/68084453) (<https://vimeo.com/68084453>), a short video produced by the City of Boston in 2013.
- Finally, learn about the [Roxbury Innovation Center](http://roxburyinnovationcenter.org/about/) (<http://roxburyinnovationcenter.org/about/>), a forthcoming facility in Dudley Square that will be managed by the Cambridge Innovation Center team that will be speaking in class by reading:

- The [city's announcement](http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/default.aspx?id=17912) (<http://www.cityofboston.gov/news/default.aspx?id=17912>) about the center
- Or "[Roxbury Innovation Center Gives Dudley Much Needed Boost](http://wgbhnews.org/post/roxbury-innovation-center-gives-dudley-much-needed-boost)," (<http://wgbhnews.org/post/roxbury-innovation-center-gives-dudley-much-needed-boost>) an op-ed by Callie Crossley, who hosts WGBH-FM radio's "Under the Radar" show.

### *Recommended*

Localities' interest in "Innovation District" was sparked in part by Richard Florida's research and writings about the importance of "the creative class." For a good and relatively short overview of his work, see "[Comeback City, Divided City](http://urbanland.uli.org/economy-markets-trends/comeback-city-divided-city/)," (<http://urbanland.uli.org/economy-markets-trends/comeback-city-divided-city/>) an essay Florida wrote for *Urban Land* magazine. Many economists, including Harvard's Ed Glaeser, have criticized Florida's work. For a good short summary of these critiques see "[Questioning the Cult of the Creative Class](http://nextcity.org/daily/entry/questioning-the-cult-of-the-creative-class)" (<http://nextcity.org/daily/entry/questioning-the-cult-of-the-creative-class>), a post on the NextCity blog by Sean Andrew Chen.

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