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# Site Picked for New \$7.8m Innovation Hub in Lowell



An artist's rendering of the exterior of 110 Canal St. and some of the surrounding Hamilton Canal District. The building's developer is Trinity Financial. *Credit: (Trinity Financial)*

**By Matt Rocheleau**

Boston.com Staff

APRIL 24, 2014 3:17 PM

**S**tart-ups will soon have a new space in Lowell to test products, form partnerships and access research, development, mentoring and financial resources.

Governor Deval Patrick and other state officials announced today that the University of Massachusetts Lowell's new Innovation Hub will occupy two floors and about 22,000 square feet of space inside the five-story, 55,000 square-foot Freudenberg Building at 110 Canal St. in Lowell.

He also announced \$1 million in additional capital funding will go to help complete the project, which will include an expansion of Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center, or M2D2.

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Officials said the Innovation Hub will be a “co-working space” allowing early-stage entrepreneurs to test their products and concepts. It will also be a place where innovators can find resources to help get their ideas off the ground. And, it will help support the development, launch and commercialization of other tech-based innovations and companies with high-growth potential, officials said.

“We invest in innovation because we believe in enabling and encouraging industries that are using their brainpower to help shape our future,” Patrick said in a statement. “Our proven growth strategy of investing in education,

innovation and infrastructure has positioned the Commonwealth as a global leader in key innovation economy sectors, and we look forward to seeing the great work that will come out of the Innovation Hub.”

One of the floors in the Innovation Hub that will contain general space and resources for startups is scheduled to open in the fall, said UMass Lowell spokeswoman Christine Gillette. The other floor, which will be reserved for M2D2 and will allow it to double its existing size, will open next spring, she said.

The project will cost \$7.8 million altogether, including the \$1 million allocation announced today, a \$4 million Massachusetts Life Sciences Center grant to cover the M2D2 expansion and \$2.8 million from UMass Lowell to cover five years of operational costs.

The site in Lowell’s developing Hamilton Canal District was chosen for its proximity to UMass Lowell, a floor layout “that will foster entrepreneurial activity,” and because it is in a highly-visible location and surrounded by a mix of housing, dining, and transportation options.

Other projects are underway in the district include the Counting House, an

old mill that is being renovated into 52 apartments, half of which will be designated as affordable housing, and the Mill No. 5 project, another mill overhaul that will create retail shops, artist studios and space for start-ups.

“The UMass Lowell Innovation Hub, which will be the first commercial component of the city of Lowell’s sweeping Hamilton Canal District redevelopment project, will provide space for as many as 40 entrepreneurs and startups in the medical device and tech sectors,” said a statement from UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan.

“Within this business incubator, they will be able access the resources of the university, including the Massachusetts Medical Device Development Center and the expertise of faculty researchers, as well as the guidance of mentors from the venture community and larger, established companies,” he added.

In the fall of 2012, the university [opened](#) a new \$80 million Emerging Technologies and Innovation Center — the first new building constructed on the Lowell campus in more than three decades. The facility aims to prepare students for jobs in emerging sectors and houses space for corporate- and

government-sponsored research.

While Boston's innovation and start-up scene has flourished, some other municipalities in Massachusetts have struggled somewhat in their attempts to attract entrepreneurs.

However, officials say they are moving forward on projects in Lowell such as the Innovation Hub because they've seen success and growing demand around startup space there.

Lowell Mayor Rodney M. Elliot said he and the city welcome the project, calling it "the next logical step in the City of Lowell's quest to continually reinvent itself."

"The Freudenburg building is one of the premier pieces of commercial space in the City of Lowell," he said in a statement. "The recognition of Lowell's remarkable journey from factory city to research and development hub is gratifying."

"We welcome the opportunity to showcase what the City of Lowell has to offer to business people around the state and the country," he added.

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## Harvard Prof. Henry Louis Gates Gets Unreal Housing Perks From NYU

Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s side gig as a consultant to New York University has apparently won him some enviable New York City housing benefits.

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## Three Injured in Fitchburg Shooting



Three people were shot at KC's Pub on River Street in Fitchburg after midnight Saturday, NECN reports.

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## Boston Celtics Owners Invest in Skateboard League



There might not be many obvious similarities between high-tech electric car racing and some dude in a hoodie riding a skateboard.

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## BDC Now - Weekend Event Picks



Looking for something to do this weekend? Check out some events that include plenty of wine, a chance to meet some Red Sox players, a burger bash, and more. Watch BDC Weekend with Jenny Johnson.

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## US Ordered Not to Force Feed Guantanamo Prisoner


A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

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## Genetically Modified Foods Confuse Consumers

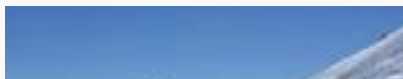
Genetically modified foods have been around for years, but most people in the United States have no idea if they are eating them.

Food and dining  2 hours ago  Share

## Vt. Sex Offender Faces Sentencing in Niece's Killing

A convicted sex offender who killed his 12-year-old niece after luring her to his house with a ruse about a pool party is due to be formally sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.



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## Hike with Caution at White Mountains





Campgrounds in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest are open, but the Forest Service is warning people that some areas still have snow, and spring melt-off can lead to some slippery footing.

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## Will Connecticut Schools Ban Chocolate Milk?



Connecticut lawmakers moved forward this week on a new nutrition bill that could remove chocolate milk from public schools.

Health  3 hours ago  Share



## Lacrosse Team Honors Fallen Officer and Coach



The girls lacrosse team at Exeter High School is honoring their late coach Stephen Arkell, a New Hampshire police officer who was killed in the line of duty.

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## Celebrating 10 Years of Gay Marriage

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts offered the first marriage licenses to same-sex couples. We asked five couples to talk about what they've learned about themselves and their relationships over the past decade.

Life  3 hours ago  Share




## 10 Parting Shots at SNL Heading Into The Season Finale

Here are "10 Parting Shots at SNL" as the show's 39th season comes to a close Saturday night with Andy Samberg as host.

Obnoxious Boston Fan  3 hours ago  Share

## Environmentalists in Portland Oppose Tar Sands Oil

Environmentalists will rally at the Deering Oaks Park bandshell in Portland to oppose the Keystone XL oil pipeline and the shipping of tar sands oil through Maine.

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## Broke Beats: F.Stokes – ‘Liquor Sto’ Diaries’



Broke Beats is BDCwire’s open-source hip-hop column. Every Saturday, we showcase the best new albums, EPs, and mixtapes available for free stream or download. The Midwest has long been a stronghold for spirited rappers and producers who haven’t quite pierced the East Coast market. F.Stokes is among the most fearless of of these artists, and the... [Read more »](#)

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## Oprah’s Network Postpones Sam Documentary



The planned documentary by the Oprah Winfrey Network on Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay player, has been postponed.

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## Woman Falls Down Elevator Shaft at Fenway Park

A 22-year-old woman is hospitalized after falling down an elevator shaft at Fenway Park Friday during a Red Sox game, according to the Boston Fire Department.

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## Obama, Congress Move to Address Veterans Affairs Firestorm



The Obama administration and Congress are moving quickly to respond to a growing political firestorm over allegations of treatment delays and falsified records at veterans hospitals nationwide.

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## Conn. Exhibit Looks at Benedict Arnold as Hero



A new exhibit on display at the Slater Memorial Museum is the latest effort to bring heightened visibility to a subject Norwich has deliberately ignored for centuries.

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## Testing Inconclusive, Suspected Bobcat Returned

A judge has returned a 38-pound feline to a New Jersey woman after DNA testing couldn't conclusively say whether it was a purebred bobcat.

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## Clearing This Afternoon with Sunshine for Sunday



Weather Wisdom  6 hours ago  Share





## Nissan's Taxi of Tomorrow Hoping for a Fare Future



Members of the New England Motor Press Association had the dual experiences of driving and riding in this Taxi of Tomorrow when Nissan brought a pair of the hackney versions of its NV200 van to town.

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## Teen's Arm Reattached After Pasta Accident

Four surgeries later, 17-year-old Brett Bouchard can move his arm after it was severed below the elbow.



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## Red Sox Fall to Tigers, 1-0, Back Under .500





The loss drops the Sox back below .500, at 20-21, and 10-12 at home.

Extra Bases  13 hours ago  Share

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## North Reading Man Busted Allegedly Selling Drugs Out of Restaurant

Richard "Ricky" Ward faces a number of drug charges following a six-month investigation by police.

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## Feds Deny Tsarnaev Lawyers' Complaint About Leaks

Federal prosecutors say there's no need for a hearing on what defense attorneys have called leaks and improper comments in the case of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

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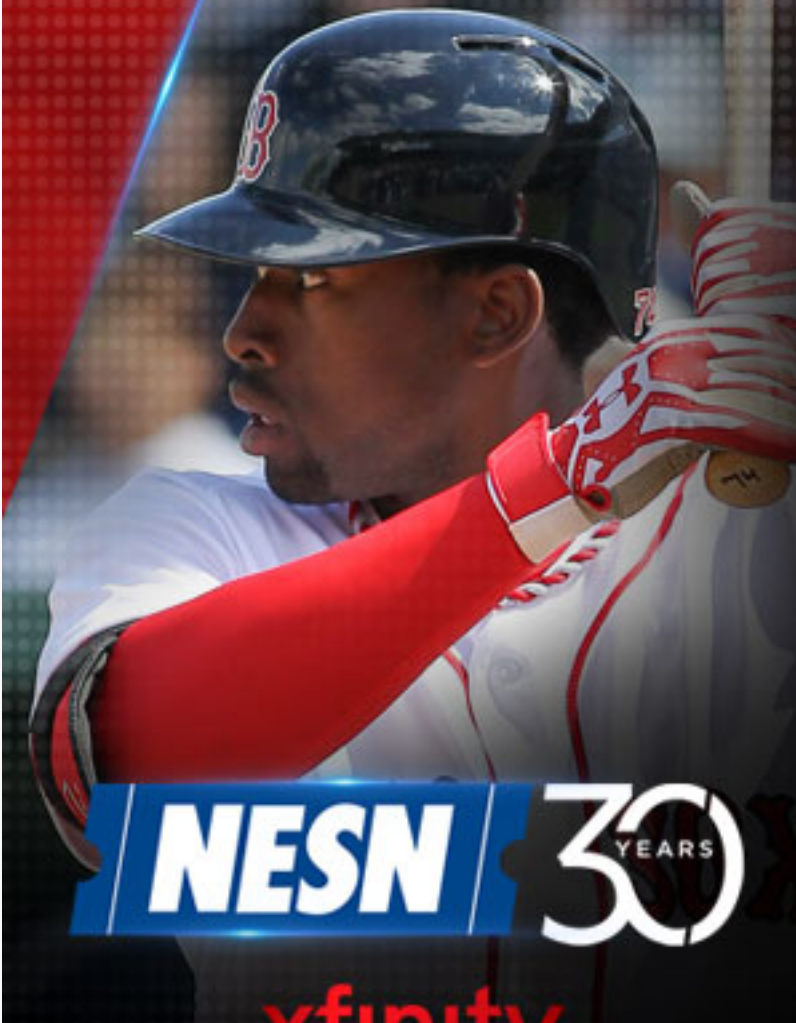


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# TIGERS AT RED SOX

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