



Rhode Island's Knowledge Economy

Downtown Providence: The City's Center of Knowledge and Creativity

Grow your knowledge-based company in downtown Providence.



The heart of the Creative Capital, downtown Providence has earned its reputation as a great place to develop ideas and do business, with close to 1300 companies already calling the area home. We have a mix of innovative businesses focused on creative sectors such as design, software, and digital media, along with firms working in more traditional areas of law and finance. Employees appreciate the transportation and residential options, access to universities, highly educated talent pool, and collaborative spirit.

Downtown is centrally located between the medical centers in the Knowledge District, College Hill on the East Side, and the hip West Side neighborhood. Several colleges, including Brown University, Johnson & Wales University, Rhode Island School of Design, Roger Williams University, and University of Rhode Island have a downtown presence, fostering close connections between the business and academic communities.

URBAN AMENITIES ON A WALKABLE SCALE

photos: Marianne Lee



Businesses and employees take advantage of everything that the area has to offer including concerts, plays, sports and special events—all in close proximity. Creative workers thrive in this high energy environment, where they can easily meet other people and get involved in grassroots cultural organizations like AS220.

Downtown's unique shops and eateries are around the corner from a major regional shopping center, Providence Place, with over 160 stores and restaurants; 8 hotels containing more than 2,000 rooms; and the Rhode Island Convention Center, which has 23 meeting rooms and more than 100,000 SF of exhibition space. RISD and Brown also have fantastic libraries, museums and galleries within walking distance.

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GETTING TO WORK

Downtown employees enjoy a variety of housing and commuting choices. For people who want to live close to work, downtown has everything from luxury high-rise condominiums to more affordable studios.

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) offers statewide bus and citywide trolley service into downtown Providence. The Providence train station is within walking distance of most downtown office buildings. Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) commuter rail service from Boston offers daily round trips between Boston and Providence, as well as new service to T.F. Green Airport. Several peak-period Amtrak trains also run every day, with the ride on the Acela line taking 35 minutes to Boston and less than 3 hours to New York.

FINDING THE RIGHT SPACE

More than half of the office space in Rhode Island is concentrated in the city's downtown core, widely recognized for its architectural beauty. The district has affordable options ranging from open lofts in historic buildings to flexible shared spaces and elegant class A towers. Investments in telecommunications in the area have created network infrastructure that is among the best in the nation.

Consider space downtown. It's a smart move.

To find the right location for your creative company in downtown Providence, visit www.providencedowntown.com

"There's a vibe downtown right now. It certainly helps with recruiting and retention."

Charlie Kroll, Andera (software for financial services)

"Providence has a much more relaxed pace of life and lower overhead costs than many larger cities. But you can also hop on a train and be in Boston in 45 minutes; you can hop on a train and can be in New York in 2 and a half hours, and it allows us to then have that face to face contact with our clients."

John Kletzien, Studio AMD (digital architectural rendering)

"Providence has been incredibly rich for us for a couple of reasons. Mainly, there's a strong arts community here. We're very creatively focused, and we're always looking for interesting creative people. I've traveled all over the world, and I've never been anywhere with this same sense of community and awareness. Also, a comparable office space would probably not be an option for us in New York or Boston, and that would mean a very different work environment."

Alec Beckett, NAIL Communications (marketing/design)

"DCI started with a lot of passion to create. In 2005, I moved my company from New York to Providence, although my clients are literally all over the world. In the past few years, this has really become a wonderful place."

Roni Kabessa, Decor Craft Inc. (home accessory design)