Immediate & Ongoing Priorities 2018-2019

• Outreach & Engagement:
  – Community groups & nonprofits
  – Members of the community
  – Business community
  – Learning by example from other centers and organizations

• Design considerations shaped by community needs/wants:
  1. Flexible Performance Space
  2. Makerspace
  3. Art space
  4. Classrooms & Community space
  5. Office space

• Validation of the fiscal model

• Formation of the non-profit entity by November 1, 2019

• Fundraising for pre-operations

• Development of criteria for prioritizing use of the space and the curation of programming in accordance with the needs of Cambridge residents
Outreach and Engagement

- Three makerspace meetings
- Several performance/visual arts meetings to discuss physical design and programming
- March 2019: Foundry Coffee Chat to provide neighborhood residents with an update and to solicit feedback on programming
- Since April, 2018, a total of 213 individual meetings and 63 group meetings!
- Online survey fielded over four-months (February 21, 2019 – June 30, 2019) yielded responses from 89 participants.

Zip codes reported:
- 02138
- 02139
- 02140
- 02141
- 02142
- 02143
- 02145
- 02155
- 02771
Top Ranked Pre-Set Choices for Foundry Experiences (in rank order)

- Cook or take a yoga class
- Meet a friend at the café
- Watch a play
- Rent space for an event
- Experience an exhibition
- Tinker in the maker space
- Learn or share a new job skill
- Other STEAM related programs
- Create and display your own artwork
- Read a book

- Teach an art or maker class
- Dance or sing in a performance
- Enroll your child in an afterschool program
- Team up on a theater production
- Explore set design
- Invent a new product
- Rehearse a performance
- Sew a costume
Desired Experiences: Categories of Open-Ended Responses from Residents

- Cooking and food
- Health & well-being
- Enjoying theater
- Enjoying or displaying art
- Tinkering in the maker Space
- Pursuing hobbies
- Gaining job skills and employment
- Engaging with technology
- Other educational pursuits
- Reading books
- Enjoying dance
- Enjoying music
- Enjoying films
- Children, families & leisure space
- Ensuring accessibility
- Civic, community and cultural engagement (highly cited category)
- General operations
- General space
Factors That Would Impact Use of Foundry

- Culture and climate
- No parking
- Mix of space uses
- Time, a job and busy schedule
- Financial issues
- Operations
- Hours of operation
- Public transportation
- Parent responsibilities
- Distance from home
- Safety

- Health issues
- Accessibility
- Bad weather
- Nothing
- Maintenance
- Traffic
- Sustainability
- Demographics
- Lack of information
- Beverages
Alignment Between Goal in the Foundry Consortium Proposal & Residents’ Desires

Forge new and sustained connections between individuals, families, community organizations and business leaders through shared use of space (accessible to all) and programming that fosters creativity, invention, innovation and the acquisition of workplace competencies

A New Form of Civic Engagement – Fostered by a Space Like No Other That We Know Of As of This Date
Ongoing Community Engagement

• Continue building a coalition of the willing

• Many ways to help:
  - Sharing what is learned through conversations
    Ex: Artists’ needs for space, e-commerce and market expansion
  - Fundraising events for pre-operations
  - Partnering on grant proposals to seed co-located programming (at home site and at the Foundry)
  - Helping us locate people to rent space (starting in 2020)
Candy Chang
participatory public artist
exploring processes of civic engagement

Strauch-Mosse Visiting Artist Lecturer
Community Breakfast
Friday, October 25
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.
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