



Full Stack Saint Paul Update
Saint Paul Housing & Redevelopment Authority
May 27, 2026

*Leveraging the power of tech and innovation to drive sustainable, equitable economic development
in Saint Paul.*

fullstacksaintpaul.com



About Full Stack Saint Paul

Founded in **2017** as the *Innovation Jobs Cabinet*, Full Stack Saint Paul was launched by the City of Saint Paul in partnership with the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce to expand tech and innovation jobs and business growth across the city.

Original three-year goals (2017–2020)

- Increase innovation-related commercial space in Saint Paul by 200,000 sq ft
- Host 50 innovation-focused events annually in Saint Paul
- Grow awareness of Saint Paul innovation year over year through 2020
- Add 2,000 tech-related jobs by 2020

All four goals achieved by 2020—including advocacy for Osborn 370 as an innovation space, while shifting the narrative of Saint Paul and helping residents gain the skills to fill high-wage technology jobs.

PED staff continue to lead this initiative. Bylaws were adopted in **June 2024** and amended **December 2025** to clarify roles and responsibilities.

Adapting Through Crisis

In the wake of the **George Floyd murder** and the **COVID-19 pandemic**, PED staff and Steering Committee leaders pivoted to dual crisis response. With re-tooling, Full Stack led several innovative efforts that we continue to learn from:

- Restaurant Resiliency Project to **deliver technology tools for local restaurants** navigation shutdowns
- Bridgemakers Tech Fellowship to **build wealth for historically under-resourced entrepreneurs**
- MSP Tech Hire **advanced skills and wages for low-income residents**

The Full Stack community continues to **adapt in crisis** — whether in response to **Operation Metro Surge** — or the shifting **AI landscape**.

While tactics and budgets may shift, **Saint Paul** is leveraging technology and innovation to drive economic development, workforce opportunity, entrepreneurship, and business growth across a diverse range of industry sectors.

Recent Impact

- **Bridgemakers' Tech Entrepreneur Fellowship** — pioneered funding and development to elevate **youth-led tech entrepreneurship** with business and living stipends
- **Restaurant Resiliency Project** — delivered tech consulting and digital audits to **hundreds of small restaurants** with NCXT, Right Track, and Land O'Lakes
- **MSP Tech Hire scholarships** — deployed **best-in-class tech training** and wraparound services to low income and unemployed residents in coordination with Ramsey County
- **Community events** — sponsored dozens of **convenings connecting hundreds of innovators** annually to resources, investors, education, and showcase opportunities
- **Storytelling** — amplified local **success stories**, resources, innovators across sectors
- **Capital connections** — linked growing companies to local, regional, and statewide funding options to help them **land and expand in Saint Paul**

Current Leadership

The Full Stack Steering Committee is an **advisory body of 22 private and public sector leaders** that meets quarterly.

Co-Chairs

- Mayor Kaohly Her, City of Saint Paul
- Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson, City of Saint Paul
- Srini Somayajula, VP, Global Technology Partnerships, Ecolab
- B Kyle, President, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

Sub-Committee Chairs

- **Startup & Enterprise** — Dr. Paul Campbell, Brown Venture Group
- **Tech Workforce** — Jaime Wascalus, City of Saint Paul
- **Promotion, Culture & Outreach** — Chris Robinson, MyTribe

Staff — Mary Rick, PED, City of Saint Paul • Kim Chung, Saint Paul Area Chamber

Mission & Strategic Focus Areas

Mission: Leverage the power of tech and innovation to drive sustainable, equitable economic development in Saint Paul.

- Building an Inclusive Tech Culture
- Training & Connecting an agile Tech Workforce
- Launching Tech-Powered Startups & Entrepreneurs

Building an Inclusive Tech Culture

In Saint Paul, innovation is for everyone

- Amplify the voices, places, and stories that make Saint Paul's tech scene distinctive
- Reach underrepresented founders, talent, and youth through partnerships with community organizations
- Sponsor and engage community members at events that bring diverse communities into the innovation economy
- Produce second annual Innovation @ the Park event
- Further plans for larger signature innovation event(s)



INNOVATION @ THE PARK

📍 Rice Park
Downtown Saint Paul

🕒 October 9 | 2025
3:30-6:30 PM

Presented
by



Training & Connecting an Agile Tech Workforce

Equipping Saint Paul residents with skills and opportunity

- Partner with workforce and training providers to understand new landscape for tech career pathways, review partner surveys, and tech job data
- Engage Saint Paul tech employers around hiring, internships, and on-the-job training
- Coordinate with OTC, Right Track, and Ramsey County around youth-to-career pipelines



Saint Paul Tech Employer Engagement

Deepen relationships with Saint Paul's leading tech employers and connect them to city and county talent and growth resources

Three-phase approach

- **Listen** — conduct structured interviews with a curated set of Saint Paul tech employer
- **Synthesize** — identify shared talent, growth, and policy needs across employers
- **Act** — coordinate Full Stack, City, and Chamber response to those needs

See appendix for more on the three-phase plan and employer interview mix.

Launching Tech-Powered Startups & Entrepreneurs

Help early-stage entrepreneurs and small business founders start and scale in Saint Paul

- Connect founders to capital, accelerators, and service providers (gBETA, MacNest, Federal Mashup Lab)
- Recommend sites and spaces where founders work and convene — Osborn370, The 428, UEL, and others
- Champion Saint Paul founders through events like Innovation @ the Park and our sponsorship partners
- Advocate for innovation funding and startup grants



Spotlight: University Enterprise Laboratories (UEL)

Minnesota's leading life-science incubator — right here in Saint Paul

Launched in 2005 in partnership with the City and U of M. Today, UEL is home to **60 early-stage life-science, biotech, medtech, and food/ag companies** in 144,000 sq ft of lab and office space. 170 companies in 20 yrs. \$1.4 Billion in capital raised. 2,000 jobs created.

How Full Stack supports:

- **Event sponsorship** — back UEL convenings (e.g., the UEL Showcase) that bring investors, founders, and partners to Saint Paul
- **Leadership presence** — send Mayor, Council, and Steering Committee members to demo days and tours so UEL founders meet the city's top decision-makers and learn alongside
- **Storytelling** — feature UEL and their companies (Miromatrix, Astrin Biosciences, Syntiron, Claros Technologies, plus) in the Full Stack newsletter, blog, and social channels
- **Connections** — link UEL current and prospective companies to state and local capital tools (eg Strategic Investment Fund, MIF, SBIR, Launch MN) and to large local employers for pilots and partnerships

Sources: uelmn.org; GAN / Medical Alley; Star Tribune (North Star Insider, 2025); UEL LinkedIn

Appendix

2026 Budget

Sources - \$350,000

\$300,000 annual investment from Saint Paul's Housing and Redevelopment Authority

\$50,000 estimated rollover balance from 2025 budget (tech workforce funding not rolled over)

\$350,000

Uses - \$350,000

\$ 180,000 for tech training scholarships, placement support, and paid tech internships

\$ 55,000 for communications and marketing staffing on social media, newsletter, website, public relations

\$ 65,000 for community event sponsorships (estimate 40 events)

\$ 50,000 for signature Saint Paul innovation event competition and festival

\$350,000

Notes: PED staff and Chamber pro bono staff time not included in budget; tech workforce funding not spent in 2025

Saint Paul Tech Employer Project Overview

A City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County collaboration

Context

- AI and automation are transforming every sector — creating both disruption and opportunity.
- Saint Paul and Ramsey County have a strong foundation through **the Workforce Innovation Board, Full Stack Saint Paul** and **Workforce Solutions**.
- To get AI and future tech training right, we must connect more deeply with employers to understand how tech is changing jobs, skills, and talent pipelines.

Engagement Purpose

- Strengthen relationships with local tech employers.
- Align City/County resources with real employer needs and anticipated needs.
- Ensure our tech workforce benefits from **high-wage, future-ready opportunities**.
- Build shared ownership of a resilient, inclusive, and innovative local tech economy.

Three-Phase Approach



Phase 1: Employer Insights Sprint (March–June 2026)

- Engage 10 tech employers for short interviews/small roundtables.
- Understand how AI and automation are shaping their hiring plans.
- Identify skill priorities and explore possible incentive tools.

Phase 2: Align Employer Needs, Training Resources, & Incentives (Timeline TBD)

- Align public-sector resources with employer hiring goals and needs

Phase 3: Secure 100 employer job commitments (Timeline TBD)

- Secure local employer pledges with or without incentives
- Report on wage, placement, and growth success

Employer Interview Prospects



Initial engagement goal:

- Mix of 50% IT industry sector and 50% Non-IT sectors with tech jobs
- Mix of large and small companies
- Reach out to 15 companies with the goal of 10 quality interviews