

Creating Entrepreneurial Ecosystems In the ARC Footprint in Tennessee



The Story of Chattanooga

Revitalizing Entrepreneurship

“ Dirtiest city in America.”

- Walter Cronkite, 1969



Visioning + public/private partnerships



Waterfront



2008 ... Big Wins for Chattanooga
on the Economic Dev't Front ...
but what about Entrepreneurship?

amazon

The Amazon logo consists of the word "amazon" in a bold, lowercase, black sans-serif font. Below the text is a curved orange arrow that starts under the letter 'a' and points towards the letter 'z'.

ALSTOM



WACKER

2008

CreateHere's mission was to engage Chattanoogaans to express their ideas, organize around common purposes, and take action in order to make Chattanooga the most dynamic, creative and entrepreneurial city in the world.



2009



Developed and funded by a local foundation with a mission to fund and co-locate high-growth startups

- ❖ Lease subsidies
- ❖ Up to \$150,000 in forgivable loans
- ❖ Diverse Advisory Board brought together by one goal

2010

CO.LAB

THE COMPANY LAB from idea to business



2011

CHATTANOOGA BECOMES THE GIG CITY

Chattanooga, TN is
A playground for pioneers

1GB
PS

START HERE »

\$300M Investment

* \$200M Bond Issue

* \$111M Federal Funding

Results:

Community Wide Gig/Sec
Internet speeds & Smartest
Smart Grid in U.S.



2012



GIGTANK

THE RESULTS – CO.STARTERS



The starting point for a startup community.
CO.STARTERS: A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Designed for “lifestyle” companies or those with a local market focus
- Can be customized for different stakeholder groups ... rural, researchers, high schools, veterans
- Over 1,300 graduates, 435 of which are from Tennessee
- 2,752 jobs created | \$165 million in economic impact
- Currently licensing program throughout the state, ARC region & the US

www.costarters.co

THE RESULTS – ACCESS TO CAPITAL

2010 // Chattanooga's Investment Landscape = \$0



2015 // Chattanooga's Investment Landscape = \$40M +



2015 - CHATTANOOGA'S INNOVATION DISTRICT & THE EDNEY BUILDING

