



# SPACE MATTERS: **OFFICE YOUR STARTUP IN STL**

When it comes to deciding where to office your startup, St. Louis has a lot to choose from. Here's a guide to the options.

1.

## **CO-WORKING SPACES**

Co-working involves more than desk space—it's a whole way of working. Unlike in a typical office environment, co-workers don't usually work for the same employer. It's more about sharing space, amenities and an office culture. If you've been hacking away at your new company from home or a neighborhood coffee shop, co-working could be an option that helps you avoid isolation and take your idea to the next level.

Co-working spaces in St. Louis include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>The BHIVE</b> (Central West End, St. Louis)     | <b>OPO Startups</b> (St. Charles, MO)             |
| <b>CIC St. Louis</b> (Central West End, St. Louis) | <b>Peer 151</b> (Belleville, IL)                  |
| <b>Exit 11 Workspace</b> (Washington, MO)          | <b>Rise Collaborative Workspace</b> (Clayton, MO) |
| <b>Hive44</b> (Fenton, MO)                         | <b>TechArtista</b> (Central West End, St. Louis)  |
| <b>Industrious</b> (Downtown St. Louis)            | <b>T-REX</b> (Downtown St. Louis)                 |
| <b>Nebula</b> (Benton Park, St. Louis)             |   |

Read more detail on each co-working space in EQ's [Co-Working Guide to St. Louis](#).

2.

## **STL VENTURE WORKS INNOVATION CENTERS**

STLVentureWorks locations make up a network of innovation centers run by the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. Benefits include financial assistance, space rental, shared client services, and on-site management consulting.

- **Grand Center location:** specialty space for culinary-related companies
- **Helix Center BioTech Incubator:** wet labs, dry labs, and office space for bioscience and AgTech companies
- **South County location:** a 21,000-square-foot business incubator featuring office, warehouse, and production space for companies from all industries
- **Wellston location:** office and warehouse space - undergoing a major expansion in 2017
- **West County location:** office, warehouse and production space for startup and early stage small- to mid-sized businesses

## STARTUP INNOVATION DISTRICTS

Innovation districts are areas featuring dense communities of startups, research-oriented institutions, tech and creative companies and entrepreneur support organizations. They facilitate the creation and commercialization of new ideas and support the city's economy. In St. Louis, we have a few such innovation hubs, and they offer shared and dedicated office/lab space or co-working.

### Downtown Innovation Community

Downtowns have always been business hubs, so it's no surprise that St. Louis' Downtown has re-emerged as one of St. Louis' growing innovation districts. In fact, this innovation community recently set a goal to create 1,000 new companies and 10,000 new jobs Downtown by 2025. Anchored by T-REX Innovation Center, the startup hub housing over 170 tech startups, entrepreneur support organizations and venture capitalists, the Downtown innovation community offers affordable office space to growing companies. Downtown St. Louis, Inc. maintains a [database of office space](#).

### Cortex Innovation Community

Founded in 2002, The Cortex Innovation Community is a vibrant 200-acre innovation hub and technology district integrated into St. Louis' Central West End and Forest Park Southeast residential neighborhoods. It is surrounded by nationally ranked Washington University in St. Louis and Saint Louis University, as well as medical centers and abundant cultural and recreational assets. The Cortex district is made up of five innovation centers: Center for Emerging Technologies, BioGenerator, CIC St. Louis, Venture Café and TechShop. In 2016, Cortex announced its next wave of development, which will include a boutique hotel, a residential and parking project, and an additional office and lab space building. More [leasing & development information](#) is available online.

### 39 North Plant Science District

39 North is the St. Louis region's AgTech Innovation District, plans for which were [unveiled in December 2016](#). The district will encompass nearly 600 acres in Creve Coeur and will include St. Louis' top plant science and AgTech companies, including Monsanto Co. headquarters, the [Donald Danforth Plant Science Center](#), [BRDG Park](#) and the [Helix Center BioTech Incubator](#).

The Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, the largest independent plant science research institute in the world. BRDG Park is designed for post-incubator companies from early-stage to those that have advanced their science, demonstrated proof of concept, raised additional funds and are poised for growth.

[Leasing opportunities at BRDG Park](#) range from 1,500 to 15,000 square feet and can accommodate customized wet labs and office space for life science, plant science, AgTech or CleanTech companies.