In 2013, the vision for the development of the Charleston Tech Center (CTC) began to take shape when the City of Charleston unanimously voted to purchase the land for office and parking infrastructure in support of Charleston’s growing tech economy. Fast-forward to 2021 and voilà – 40 tech companies now call the CTC home having opened their doors less than 9 months ago amidst a global pandemic.

While that is something to celebrate, imagine an additional 30-40 companies on the adjacent city-owned parcel of land plus the Charleston STEM Learning and Activity Center! This vision can become reality through the leveraging of funds from the 2021 American Recovery Act. We are counting on Governor McMaster and the SC legislature to make this happen. This investment would go well beyond simply recovering from a crisis to directly preparing the future workforce for high-wage careers in the tech industry.

Our tech community is at the heart of the CDC. Still, the pandemic and its subsequent variants, combined with the current hybrid workforce model being practiced by many tech companies, have kept us guessing the best way to serve the community in a safe and responsible manner. Instead of larger events, for the remainder of the year, we will focus on smaller gatherings and events like CDCu and the Diversity Initiative while looking ahead to Spring 2022.

Years of experience with talent development have shown us that there is no magic bullet or instant success. Our workforce development strategy is comprised of three parts - Connect with CharlestonWorks, Develop with CDCu and Support with tech user groups by hosting them at the Flagship. Recognizing that our students are just a few years away from the workforce, the CDC is exploring launching a computer science and robotics focused STEM program to introduce them to a career in tech.

The Flagship is working! Companies are thriving, our conference facilities are being heavily utilized as the hybrid workplace model becomes mainstream and our short-term leases have tech companies rejoicing. In a short six months since opening, companies at the Flagship continue to upgrade to larger offices and a couple busting out and going upstairs...fulfilling our vision.

Companies continue to raise capital in the region including seed and early stage all the way to growth capital. Now that the dust has settled at the Flagship, we plan to convene a gathering of capital/financial professionals to see how we can better serve entrepreneurs with a range of capital solutions to grow their businesses. If you are a capital professional interested in participating, email me.

As a public-private partnership, we are grateful for and honored to serve our members, investors and residents. Here are just a few who have joined us in Q2 and Q3 of this year:

- Interloop
- BagValet
- GigPro
- Hyper
- Abuzz
- favrit
- MeetEm.com
- Uncommon Giving
- InspireUs Solutions
- Accrete AI Government LLC
- IBM Watson Health
- Rez Rev
- PranaScience Institute
- Think Unified
- Atlantic Merchant
- Accelarise
- Reason One
- CITYDATA.ai
- Unified Experience
- Environmental Business Ventures

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Next CDCu:
Beyond The MVP - Efficiency Hacks to Take Your Company to the Next Level
Date: Wednesday, Oct 13, 2021
Time: 9AM - 10:30AM
Cost: $40 ($30 CDC members)

Join Brian Hutchins of Waitlist Me for tips and first-hand advice on how to drive your business to the next level after initial product release.