



URBANTECH | NYC THE
GRID

WHAT IS THE GRID?

The Grid is a partner network for the urban tech community in New York City. The Grid was created to support three main goals:

- Accelerate startup growth in the urban tech sector
- Bring together local and global urban tech stakeholders to leverage local expertise and resources such as space, brand, network, ideas, or human capital needed to develop and scale urban technologies
- Provide access to founders, talent, investors, communities, and potential partners, and build new pathways to urban tech jobs and business opportunities



WHO LEADS THE GRID?

The Grid is an initiative of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), NYC's primary public sector engine for inclusive economic growth and development in the five boroughs. The Grid is run and managed as a partnership between NYCEDC's Urbantech NYC team; an NYC-based global nonprofit, CIV:LAB; and their partner, Emergence Creative, a creative agency dedicated to social impact.

Urbantech NYC is an NYCEDC portfolio of industry programs focused on seeding and growing urban technology startups, workforce, research, and innovation. Since 2013, Urbantech NYC has invested more than \$8 million into flexible and affordable workspace, prototyping resources, curated partnership networks, programming, and more to support organizations making cities more livable, sustainable, and resilient.

CIV:LAB is a platform for civic and urban innovation, connecting local innovators with government, academia, business, and community within their cities and around the world. CIV:LAB's goal is to connect diverse groups in order to identify, fund, pilot, and scale urban solutions globally.

WHAT DOES THE GRID DO?

Being a part of a network is an effective way to access new ideas, new pathways, and new opportunities. But often it's hard for entrepreneurs to find a way "in" if they don't have an existing connection, keeping them from accessing the broader benefits of the network, and the sense of community that comes with it. And without strong connective tissue, organizations often fail to effectively collaborate on ideas, events and projects.

The Grid offers a platform for connections and programs between and across NYC's powerful urban tech community. The Grid offers community events to identify common pain points and begin developing solutions to shared challenges together. It offers educational series, speakers, and debates to surface new ideas. It offers commercialization support to help universities, entrepreneurs, investors, and the communities that support them get big ideas off the ground. And most of all, it creates the context for diverse organizations working in urban tech to meet, discuss, and create.

WHO'S PART OF THE GRID?

The Grid was launched in February 2019 with more than 70 founding members and a 16-member Steering Committee. Together, its members offer all the **key ingredients** to make urban technology thrive in New York City, and represent **several cross-sections** of our urban tech community:

- Startups, academia, corporates, community-based organizations, capital providers, nonprofits, incubators/accelerators, and government agencies
- Neighborhood/local community-focused groups, as well as citywide, regional, and global institutions
- Emerging tech communities in The Bronx, Queens, and beyond, to established tech corridors in the Brooklyn Tech Triangle, Flatiron, and Soho
- Each of the six subsectors of urban technology

Since launching, The Grid continues to grow, offering rolling admissions for all types of organizations in New York City's urban tech ecosystem.

WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE GRID?

The Grid's success **depends on its diversity**. It is open to high-impact and high-potential organizations with unique perspectives, resources, insights, and connections.

That said, all Grid members have a few things in common:

- They are all **focused on or working in urban tech**, which we define as tech-enabled urban development. Grid members are those that create technology and innovation that ease the challenges of urbanization and make cities more livable.
- Their work is most often related to mobility, real estate tech, energy efficiency, IoT/connectivity, civic tech, urban agriculture, clean tech, waste, or water tech.
- They think about specific **ways they can contribute** to the urban tech ecosystem—by offering resources, connections, time, and vision—and not just what they can get from the urban tech community.
- They are **organizations** (whether public, private, or nonprofit), not individuals.
- They are either based in, or have a strong presence in, the greater **New York City area**.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THE GRID?

To join The Grid, organizations must submit a complete application. The application can be found on the Urbantech NYC website at urbantechnyc.com/contact, or can be requested by emailing urbantechnyc@edc.nyc.

Applications are always available and are reviewed on a rolling monthly basis. They are evaluated based on several characteristics, including:

- Fit and focus on urban technology specifically
- Commitment and ability to contribute to the broader urban tech community
- Balanced, diverse representation within The Grid
- Unique perspectives and resources to offer to The Grid

IS THERE ANY MEMBERSHIP FEE?

There is **no application or membership fee** to join The Grid. However, all members are evaluated on their willingness and ability to contribute to The Grid and their fellow members, financially or otherwise.



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