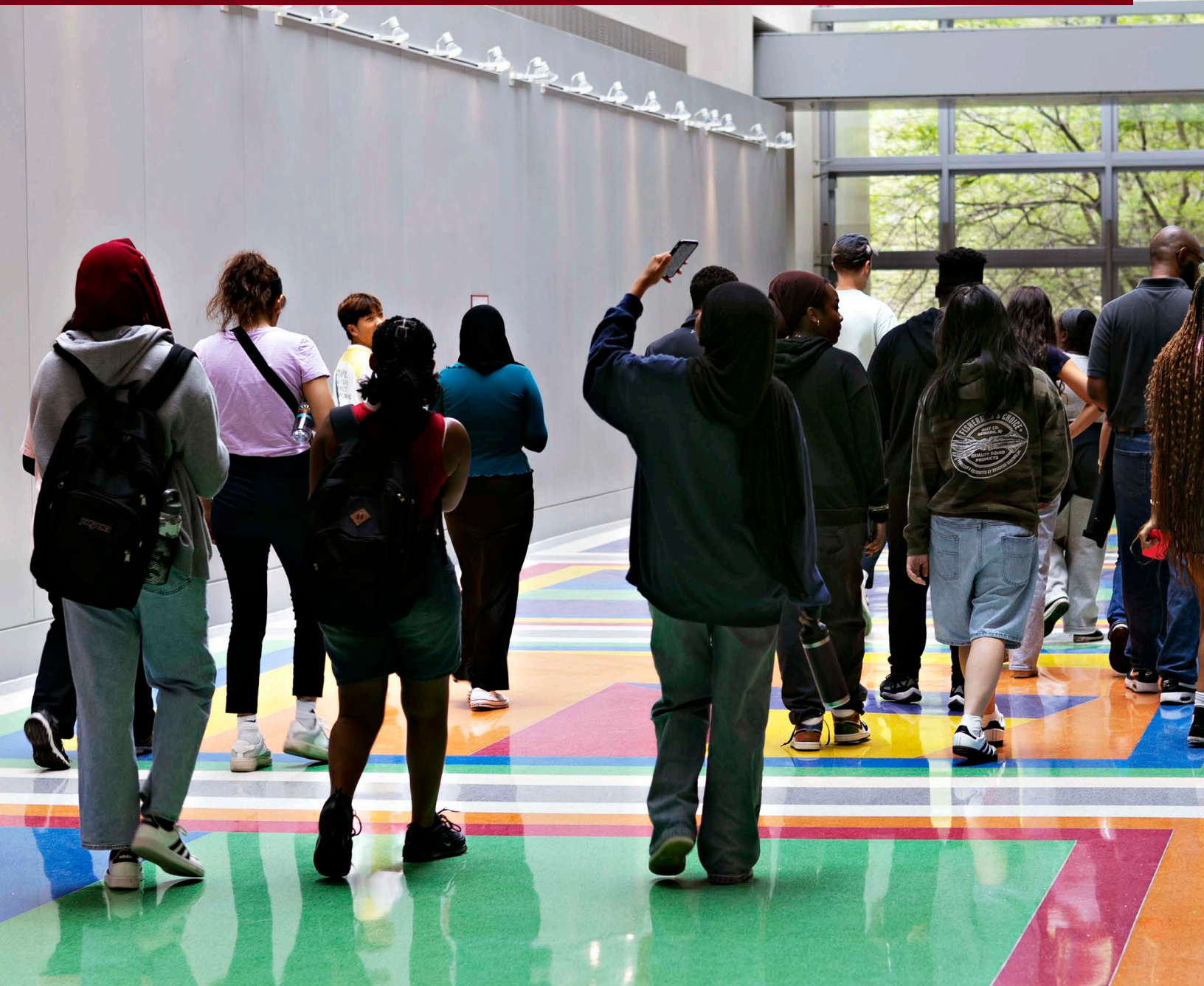


MIT in Cambridge

Impact Report



Office of Government
& Community Relations



Photo by Logan Read

About the 2024 Report

MIT cares deeply about its neighbors and strives to provide meaningful support to the surrounding community of Cambridge. This report features a sampling of MIT's activities and impact in our host City.

Learn more about MIT's engagement and collaboration with Cambridge:

ogcr.mit.edu

 [@mitogcr](https://twitter.com/mitogcr)

 [@mitogcr](https://www.instagram.com/mitogcr)

About the Cover

During summer 2024, The Job Connector by MIT partnered with the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging at MGH to host 20 local high school students for an exploration of careers in the medical fields. Over a six-week period, these future scientists studied basic neuroanatomical concepts by analyzing brain imaging data, visited world-renowned research centers in Kendall Square (like the McGovern Institute), and were paired with seasoned STEM mentors who offered guidance and support. The students toured MIT's campus and explored the colorful Sol LeWitt *Bars of Color within Squares* installation.

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bit.ly/m/MITImpact





Photo by Gretchen Ertl

MIT President Sally Kornbluth

The MIT community welcomed Sally Kornbluth as the Institute's 18th president in January 2023. In her previous role as provost of Duke University (2014 to 2022), she earned a reputation as a brilliant administrator, a creative problem-solver with a gift for collaboration, and a champion of faculty excellence and student wellbeing.

Kornbluth graduated from Williams College with a BA in political science and later, shifting focus, earned a BA in genetics at Cambridge University. She received her PhD in molecular oncology from Rockefeller University, and then completed postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Diego. A cell biologist, Kornbluth joined Duke as an assistant professor of pharmacology and cancer biology, and later as a full professor. Her research has focused on the biological signals that tell a cell to start dividing or to self-destruct — processes that are key to understanding cancer as well as various degenerative disorders.

To our neighbors in Cambridge and Boston, and to leaders across the Commonwealth: Let's find ways to support each other in this work, so we can move as fast as the moment demands!

President Kornbluth's Inaugural Remarks

With a natural inclination for direct engagement, President Kornbluth started her presidency with a listening tour to get to know the Institute community and its challenges and opportunities. What she learned helped shape the priorities outlined in her inaugural address. **Explaining that she was drawn to the Institute because of the extraordinary opportunity for impact, she identified bold objectives for MIT, in service to the world:**

- **Lead the development of solutions to dramatically accelerate progress against climate change.**
- **Help to realize the societal benefits of AI and ensure that its power is harnessed for good.**
- **Redefine the future of biomedicine by forging new links between engineering and life science.**



Learn more about President Kornbluth's initiatives:
president.mit.edu

The Climate Project at MIT

Developed through extensive consultation and planning with experts from disciplines across the Institute, the Climate Project at MIT launched in February 2024 and represents an ambitious new model of accelerated, university-led innovation. Its three-part structure — consisting of Climate Missions, Climate Frontier projects, and a Climate HQ — is designed to marshal MIT's talent and resources to research, develop, deploy, and scale up serious solutions to help change the planet's climate trajectory.

The plan consolidates and energizes the work that is being done across campus where **more than 300 faculty, working with their students and research and teaching staff, are already engaged** in leading-edge work on climate issues. The Institute has also taken important steps to enhance climate education, expand public outreach on climate, and decarbonize the campus. The Climate Project is a university-wide, mission-driven, solution-focused, and global-in-scope endeavor.

This problem-solving work will revolve around six focused missions:

1. **Decarbonizing Energy and Industry**
2. **Restoring the Atmosphere, Protecting the Land and Oceans**
3. **Empowering Frontline Communities**
4. **Building and Adapting Healthy, Resilient Cities**
5. **Inventing New Policy Approaches**
6. **Wild Cards (unconventional solutions)**

The Climate Project at MIT is supported by a commitment of \$50 million in Institute resources — the largest direct investment by MIT in climate work, and just the beginning of a far more ambitious effort to address the extraordinary demands of this global challenge. In addition, the Sloan School will contribute \$25 million to endow a new climate policy center. Together, **the \$75 million will allow for early advancements and express the seriousness of our intentions to potential partners around the world.**

We can only meet this crisis if we're brave enough to lower our shields, reach out and work together in new ways. And we cannot be satisfied with the normal academic tempo—there simply isn't time.

President Kornbluth's Inaugural Remarks



Learn more about the Climate Project at MIT:
president.mit.edu/climate-project

Campus Decarbonization Plan

While the Climate Project extends and amplifies efforts already underway across MIT, multiple areas of the Institute are working to decarbonize the campus and respond to the climate crisis. By utilizing the campus as a testbed and incubator, MIT models new and proven ways of responding to the challenges of our changing planet.

The bold campus decarbonization plan is underway and transforms how energy is generated, distributed and used on campus. The plan seeks to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2026 and eliminate direct carbon emissions from MIT's campus by 2050.



MIT is reducing its direct carbon emissions in three ways:

- 1. Generation:** Reduce and ultimately eliminate use of fossil fuels for generating heat and electricity
 - Accelerate the decarbonization of regional grids with multi-stakeholder partnerships to enable large-scale renewable energy projects. This achieves immediate and significant reduction in emissions. MIT is seeking to enable 450 megawatts of new renewable energy.
 - Install solar panels on campus rooftops to increase generation four-fold by 2026. MIT is also enabling several community-based solar programs across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through a joint agreement.
 - Apply advanced cogeneration technology found in MIT's upgraded Central Utilities Plant to generate heat, cooling and electricity for the campus when less carbon intensive than the local power grid.
 - Advance planning to integrate large-scale electric heat pumps into MIT's heating infrastructure for cleaner heat generation, further reducing fossil fuel use and campus carbon emissions.
- 2. Distribution:** Improve heating and cooling systems
 - Convert high-pressure steam to medium temperature hot water for more efficient and cost-effective thermal distribution to campus buildings.
 - This method of distribution will also result in decreased infrastructure corrosion and wear and tear.
- 3. End Use:** Achieve higher energy efficiencies
 - Focus on design and construction that minimizes emissions and increases energy efficiency, using leading edge control equipment and sensors that optimize ventilation rates, improve energy recovery, and help building systems run more efficiently.
 - Reduce emissions by 10-15% with building retrofit projects. MIT has identified the top 20 research buildings on campus that consume more than half of the total energy use on campus.
 - Employ AI-enabled sensors to optimize temperature set points and reduce energy use.
 - Continue to convert MIT's fleet to all-electric vehicles; add more electric car charging stations.

Our faculty and researchers are working to identify ways to amplify MIT's contributions to addressing the world's climate crisis. Part and parcel of that overall goal, we are putting significant effort into dramatically reducing our own carbon footprint.

Glen Shor, MIT Executive Vice President and Treasurer



Photo by Logan Reed

Learn more about campus decarbonization:
sustainability.mit.edu

Climate Resiliency

City of Cambridge Collaboration

MIT is creating a more weather-resilient campus as the Institute and the City of Cambridge collectively face increased risks from intense rainfall events, sea level rise, and extreme and prolonged heat. MIT's campus flood model was built in partnership with the City. Its use enables new construction and major renovations to align with the City's climate resiliency standards and informs flood risk reductions throughout campus decision-making. With the data from this model, MIT is creating a dashboard with a twofold purpose: help MIT develop plans and procedures for mitigating and addressing heat on campus, and serve as a model for other universities and communities grappling with the same challenges.

To adapt to heat risk, MIT works with the City's Emergency Management team to develop and promote Campus Cool Spots. These are publicly accessible, air-conditioned spaces with free admission. MIT is also collaborating with the City's Department of Arts and Cultural Planning to jointly monitor heat risk and develop temporary cooling solutions for outdoor public spaces.



This approach is the center of how we operate at MIT. We seek to identify solutions for our own campus in a manner that others can learn from and potentially adapt for their own resiliency and climate planning purposes. We're always looking for ways to further align with efforts at the city and state level.

Julie Newman, MIT Director of Sustainability

Commonwealth Climate Coalition

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Collaboration

Higher education sustainability and climate leaders, including MIT's Director of Sustainability, convened for a Commonwealth Climate Coalition (CCC) roundtable in June 2024. The event, which was the first in a series for higher education leaders, centered on collaboration opportunities between academia and the state. The roundtable focused on campus topics like living labs, partnerships between municipalities and universities, leading by example, aggregated procurement for decarbonization, and supporting the next generation of sustainability leaders.



Campus Cool Spots

Campus Cool Spots are air conditioned locations to hang out, stay cool, and enjoy the activities the spaces offer. These areas are open to the general public during their hours of operation.

- MIT Museum
- MIT Welcome Center
- MIT Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research
- The Broad Discovery Center at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Cambridge Nonprofits

MIT supports more than 180 local nonprofits, primarily in Cambridge, through a variety of approaches including direct financial support, the use of Institute facilities, volunteerism, serving on boards and committees, sharing expertise, and employee donation and collection drives. MIT is actively engaged with area organizations to best match the needs of the nonprofit and community with potential resources and support from the Institute.

Notably, **MIT has hosted the CASPAR emergency services center on its campus for over forty years.** Students, staff, and faculty frequently volunteer at the shelter by cooking dinner for the guests, assembling bagged lunches for the First Step Outreach team, staffing an advisory committee, and planting perennials in the garden. The Institute has sponsored CASPAR's annual fundraising gala for decades.

The MIT Community Service Fund

Since 1968, the MIT Community Service Fund (CSF) has provided financial resources to support local nonprofits with MIT ties, as well as MIT students, staff, and faculty volunteers engaged in public service initiatives. From strengthening relationships between the Institute and surrounding communities

to funding service projects that offer educational value to MIT students, the organization's founding principles of community-building and collaboration remain at the heart of CSF's work. Fully supported by donations from the MIT community, **the CSF distributed \$45,000 to Cambridge nonprofits where MIT volunteers are at work and nearly \$29,000 to service projects led by the MIT community during the 2023-2024 academic year.**

Learn more about The MIT Community Service Fund:

csf.mit.edu

X Instagram @mitcsf

The Covid-19 Neighborhood Respond Fund

Established by MIT in April 2020 as an urgent response to the rapidly unfolding health crisis, the employee-based Covid-19 Neighborhood Response Fund provided immediate support to six Cambridge organizations. These nonprofits specialize in the direct service delivery in the areas of food insecurity, unemployment, and homelessness – all problems exacerbated by the pandemic. The outpouring of support from the MIT community helped these organizations respond to increased demand for their vital services during a turbulent time.



Photo courtesy of Food for Free



Photo courtesy of MIT BoSTEM

Over the past four years, the Neighborhood Response fund distributed over \$180,000 from over 400 MIT community members for the six community-based organizations: Cambridge Community Center, CASPAR, East End House, Food for Free, Just-A-Start, and Margaret Fuller House. The fund was wholly supported by donations from within the MIT community during a time of immense uncertainty. Almost four years after its establishment, the fund disbursed its final contributions in April 2024.

Priscilla King Gray (PKG) Service Center *Social Impact Internship*

The MIT PKG Center’s Social Impact Internship program pairs highly-skilled MIT undergraduates with nonprofits, government agencies, and social enterprises to build capacity and bolster the technical capabilities of those organizations while engaging students in challenging social impact issues in real-world settings. PKG programs result in positive impacts for both the MIT students and the participating Cambridge community partners. Feedback from internship host sites consistently demonstrates the value of social impact internships: 96% of supervisors rated their experience hosting an MIT student as “Excellent” or “Above Average.”

Right now, this is a digital survey tool — and that’s actually a big equity issue. For example, many patients don’t speak English, and some don’t have access to a phone with internet access, which is how the survey is administered.

Daisy Wang, PKG Social Impact Intern

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the PKG Center funded a dozen MIT students focused on social impact work in Cambridge. The Center also piloted a new residential community, the Boston Summer of Service, for students engaging in social impact internships and direct service within the Cambridge and greater Boston area.

For example, Daisy Wang ’24 interned with the Health Equity Research Lab at the Cambridge Health Alliance, and helped the team analyze data regarding the implementation of a mental health survey tool used by clinicians to monitor patients’ symptoms. Wang used qualitative and quantitative data to make recommendations for improving access.

Learn more about the PKG Center:
pkg.mit.edu
X Instagram @mitpkg

K-12 Academic Enrichment

MIT works closely with the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) to deepen educator and student engagement and participation. The MIT community consists of hundreds of researchers and scientists looking to expand their impact by inspiring and empowering future generations of learners, scientists, designers, and innovators. **Seventy-five percent of MIT departments participate in K-12 outreach opportunities.**



MIT Full STEAM Ahead

Initially developed as a response to the need for online resources during the Covid-19 pandemic, MIT Full STEAM Ahead is now in its fourth year and has expanded to in-person student and educator workshops and programs. The MIT Full STEAM Ahead Into Summer program welcomes local middle schoolers to explore MIT's campus for three weeks and engage with hands-on learning in engineering, art, and project creation. For educators, the Full STEAM Ahead Educators Immersion Program focuses on building the capacities of schools and organizations by working with cohorts of educators across Massachusetts. Beginning with a two-week summer engagement, the team unpacks the lessons from the program and presents these ideas as "building blocks" that educators will use to develop new projects implemented within their classrooms, schools or organizations over the fall semester.

Learn more about MIT Full Steam Ahead:
fullsteam.mit.edu

The Tech Experience

Through a series of coordinated partnerships between MIT's Office of Government and Community Relations and CPS's technology department, the Tech Experience matches Cambridge students' STEAM interests with MIT resources for collaboration opportunities. Educators can engage in guided networking and brainstorming around their STEAM curriculum. Part of the series includes an annual field trip for all CPS 7th grade students to the MIT Museum, as part of Computer Science Education Week. During the field trip students have the opportunity to explore topics in AI and chat with local CS-industry professionals while building mazes.

Over the past five years, the partnership has resulted in more than 15 collaborations with MIT departments reaching approximately 1,500 K-12 learners. Additionally, more than ten professional development opportunities have been jointly curated for educators.



MIT Cambridge Impact Scholars

Now in its eighth year, the MIT Impact Scholarship program awards ten \$10,000 scholarships annually to college-bound students from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, Prospect Hill Academy, and the Community Charter School of Cambridge. The awards are made based on the students' personal impact that they bring to their families and communities and are intended to help defray the cost of post-secondary education. To-date, scholarships in the amount of \$800,000 have been awarded to 80 Cambridge students.



I want to express my gratitude to everyone involved in the MIT Impact Scholar program. Receiving this award allowed me to focus on my academics and grow into someone I am very proud of. I am deeply grateful for the support you have provided, and I will miss writing these reflections on my involvement. Thank you again!

2020 MIT Impact Scholar; now a rising college senior

A 2024 snapshot:

- **Forty Cambridge students are currently using MIT scholarship funds.**
- Those students are studying at 24 colleges/universities across the United States.
- A majority of the awardees attend school in the Commonwealth.
- Those outside the Commonwealth pursue their education all over the country including Stanford University, Howard University, Columbia University, Brown University, and Swarthmore College.

Cambridge Promise Scholarships

Under the leadership of the Cambridge Mayor's Office, and in collaboration with City staff, the Cambridge Public Schools, the College Success Initiative, members of the Cambridge School Committee, and the Cambridge Community Foundation, a working group established the Cambridge Promise Pilot program in 2022. The program was modeled after the successful Boston Tuition-Free Community College Fund. This initiative aims to confront disparities in educational achievement and defray the escalating costs of higher education. **MIT proudly contributed \$25,000 towards the scholarships, ensuring full funding in the pilot's inaugural year.**



Photo courtesy of Community Charter School of Cambridge

Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program

MIT hosts several Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (MSYEP) worksites that provide opportunities for Cambridge high schoolers to gain exposure to future educational and career pathways. The Mayor's Program aims to respect students' time and honor the value of their work, so participants are compensated with an hourly wage as they learn workforce skills.

The 2024 summer welcomed 52 Cambridge students at four MSYEP worksites across the Institute.

Lemelson-MIT (LMIT) hosted 25 students who learned about innovation processes by working with the local community. During the six-week program, participants immersed themselves in the Invention Process Curriculum — a rigorous and hands-on educational framework that encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. The curriculum is designed to guide students through every stage of the invention process, from identifying a problem to developing a viable solution, and ultimately, to creating a working prototype.

Museums and Public Art

Museums, arts, and architecture thrive naturally in MIT's creative culture of experimentation and innovation that crosses every discipline. **The campus features more than 3,500 noted works of contemporary art and landmark buildings** by legendary architects like Frank Gehry and I.M. Pei.

MIT Museum

Founded in 1971, the MIT Museum explores invention, ideas, and innovation. Through interactive exhibitions, public programs, experimental projects, and its renowned collections, the MIT Museum showcases the fascinating world of MIT, and inspires people of all ages to discover the possibilities and opportunities offered by science and technology. The MIT Museum moved to the heart of Kendall Square — at 314 Main Street — in 2022.

The MIT Museum offers free memberships for Cambridge residents.

Towards the center of campus, two galleries are free and open to the public. Under the big dome, the MIT Museum Studio and Compton Gallery is a changing exhibition space that showcases the varied fields of science, technology, architecture, history, and art. Newly refreshed and located at 55 Massachusetts Avenue, the Hart Nautical Gallery offers a display of historical and modern maritime material.

Learn more about the MIT Museum:

mitmuseum.mit.edu

X @mitmuseum

Public Art and the MIT List Visual Arts Center

At the MIT List Visual Arts Center, visitors encounter a dynamic program of temporary exhibitions in the galleries, as well as renowned permanent and public art collections located across the Institute. The List Center is free and open to all. **Over 80 pieces of public art are displayed on campus via the List Public Art Collection.**

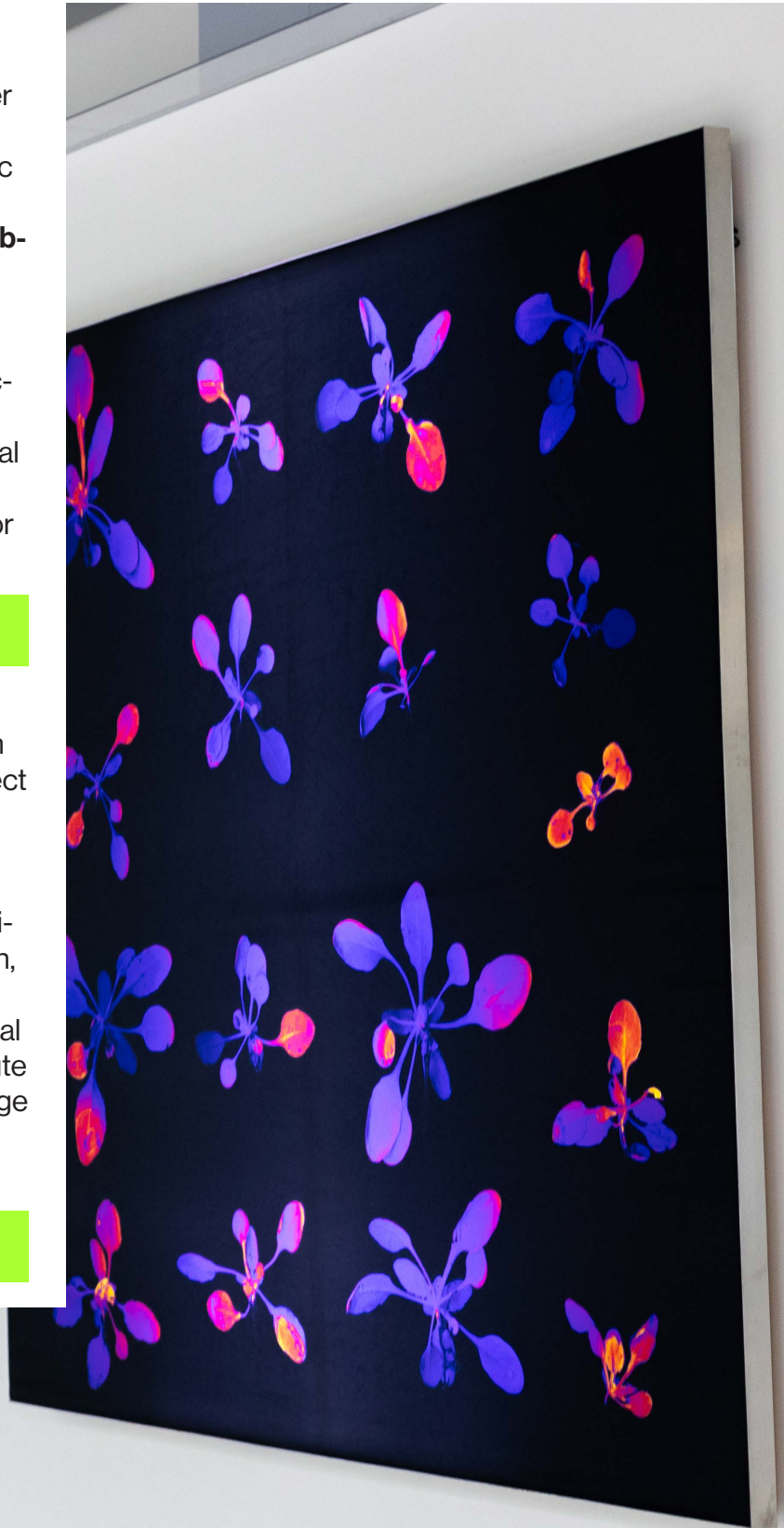
Many works in the Permanent and Public Art Collections were brought to campus through MIT's Percent-for-Art Program, administered by the List Visual Arts Center, which now allocates **up to \$500,000 to commission art** for each new major renovation or campus construction project.

Learn more about List:
list.mit.edu

Koch Institute Public Galleries

Located on Main Street in Kendall Square, the Koch Institute Public Galleries were established to connect the community in Kendall Square and beyond with the work of the David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. Visitors can explore current cancer research projects, examine striking biomedical images from the annual Image Awards exhibition, hear first-person reflections on cancer and cancer research, and investigate the historical, geographical and scientific contexts out of which the Koch Institute emerged. The Galleries also play host to a wide range of programming, including public events and youth outreach programs.

Learn more about Koch Institute Public Galleries:
ki.mit.edu





An aerial photograph of a modern urban courtyard. The courtyard is paved with light-colored tiles and is filled with people, trees, and various festival activities. In the background, there are several multi-story buildings with distinctive architectural features, including a large building with a facade of vertical copper-colored slats. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day.

Cambridge Science Festival

In 2007, the MIT Museum established the Cambridge Science Festival and has continued to produce this annual celebration with generous support from the the City of Cambridge ever since. The first of its kind in the United States, the multi-day festival showcases science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), making it accessible, interactive and fun for all. The festival offers a range of activities across the City including demonstrations, workshops, tours, debates, contests, talks, and behind-the-scenes glimpses, all showcasing the richness of scientific inquiry and the excitement of discovery.

The 2023 Cambridge Science Festival was held during the last week of September. **The week-long festival featured 245 events created in collaboration with 280 partners in 90 venues – all of which were free and open to the public.** The Festival partnered with Cambridge Public Schools to offer in-school programming for elementary school students. Cambridge Public Libraries also offered 25 programs and events throughout the week. The culminating event — the Carnival — held in the Kendall/MIT Open Space, had a **record-breaking attendance of over 17,000 people during the four-hour event with over 100 pop-up, hands-on STEAM activities.**

Learn more about the Cambridge Science Festival:
cambridgesciencefestival.org

  @cambscfest



Economic Development

MIT contributes to the City's robust economic health in a variety of ways. Student, staff, and faculty spending, the creation of spin-off companies, the tourism draw, the influx of research funding, a voluntary payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, and the magnet effect for new companies and industry are among some of those factors. Another example is the Institute's annual real estate tax payment. MIT is the longtime #1 taxpayer in the City of Cambridge because the Institute has historically chosen to invest in its home municipality. **MIT's 2024 tax payment is \$96.7 million, which represents 16.8% of the City's tax levy.**



Photo by Logan Read





MIT will create an appealing new hub of activity in the heart of Kendall Square, a place for discovery and innovation, for grabbing a sandwich, for walking the dog, for making friends, raising kids — and meeting your next collaborator.

President Sally Kornbluth

Kendall and Volpe

Building on the success of its Kendall Square Initiative, which replaced six parking lots with retail, restaurants, open space, housing, and lab and office space, MIT is embarking on the mixed-use redevelopment of the nearby 10-acre Volpe parcel, now named Kendall Common.

Learn more about Kendall Common:
kendallcommon.com

 @kendallcommon
 /rolleramakc

Thanks to the Cambridge community's extensive urban planning and visioning efforts, the project will advance a plan that connects the neighborhood with new open space, pedestrian links, housing, retail, and science and innovation space. MIT held dozens of public and community meetings to inform the project and ultimately to design a center that is reflective of Cambridge.



We are extremely excited to bring Kendall Common to life in a way that is inviting and authentically Cambridge, while channeling MIT's spirit of innovation throughout the project. This parcel of land — right in the heart of Kendall Square — has been closed off to local residents and visitors for far too long, and we look forward to opening it up and making it accessible for all to utilize and enjoy.

Patrick Rowe, MITIMCo Senior Vice President

As part of the Volpe zoning agreement, the Institute will provide and has already delivered, numerous community benefits. These commitments are woven into many of the areas of this report and more are summarized below.

Learn more about the commitments:
volpe.mit.edu



Photo by Jake Belcher

Kendall Square Retail

Over the past year, MIT has recruited and opened several exciting new locally-based retail establishments. Ripple Café, a second location for the Dorchester-based coffee shop, opened at 314 Main Street and next door Row 34 opened as a new location for the popular seafood and oyster bar, offering lunch and evening dining. Locke Bar & Kitchen opened at One Broadway and features elevated pub food with a large outdoor dining area. Answering a call from the community for a pharmacy, CVS opened its first Kendall Square location at 238 Main Street. The beloved Flat Top Johnny's pool hall reopened at 238 Main, along with Ping Pod, an autonomous 24-hour ping pong location.

Kendall/MIT MBTA Station and Bluebikes

MIT recently completed the renovation and construction of the Inbound Kendall/MIT MBTA headhouse. The new entrance – which was featured on the cover of the January 2024 issue of Architectural Record – provides a unique and welcoming gateway to the campus. MIT hosts six Bluebike stations on campus and three of the stations made the top ten of Bluebike's most popular stations in the system. **The MIT at Mass Ave/Amherst St Station claimed the top spot with 79,156 total trips in 2023.**

Grand Junction Path

The planned Grand Junction Multi-use Path for bicycles and pedestrians will enliven the railroad corridor running east and west, while enhancing the track crossings running north and south, and making the campus more porous and inviting. MIT has contributed \$1 million for the design and construction and has committed an additional \$8 million for construction and will provide an easement through its property for the multi-use path.

Housing

MIT actively invests in building housing for Cambridge residents and the MIT community. At the Kendall Square and Kendall Common developments, the Institute has 1,700 units of housing constructed and planned, of which approximately 330 will be affordable units. For example, 165 Main Street is a 300-unit apartment building with 54 affordable units, nine middle-income units, and 36 smaller innovation units. There are also efforts on a neighborhood scale, such as the renovation of the triple-decker house at 882 Main Street, now completed, that provides three affordable family units in Lafayette Square.

In addition, MIT will contribute approximately \$66 million to the Cambridge Affordable Housing Trust during the course of the Kendall Square and Kendall Common developments.

Graduate Housing

As part of the Volpe zoning agreement, MIT committed to delivering 950 new or converted beds of graduate student housing. To complete this ambitious goal, MIT took the following steps:

- At 70 Amherst Street (Building E2), 135 beds were converted to graduate student use in 2017, and an additional 15 graduate student beds for graduate resident advisers were created or converted in other undergraduate facilities.
- The Graduate Tower at Site 4 (Building E37) opened in 2021 with 454 new units. With the demolition of the Eastgate Apartments (Building E55) in 2023, the net gain was 250 graduate student beds.
- The Graduate Junction Residence (Buildings W87 and W88) project was completed and opened for the Fall 2024 semester, adding 675 new on-campus beds for graduate students and their families.

With the opening of Graduate Junction in August 2024, MIT has delivered 1,075 new beds for graduate housing, exceeding its commitment by more than 100 beds. **These additional beds will allow about half of the projected graduate student population to live in MIT housing.**

Community Events



Photo courtesy of MIT Open Space Programming

Kendall/MIT Open Space

Each year, the Open Space Programming team hosts **over one hundred public events in the Kendall/MIT Open Space** and adjacent MIT Welcome Center. The team collaborates closely with organizations in and around Cambridge, MIT, and Kendall Square. Events include lunchtime networking and food trucks, community gatherings, outdoor movies, LEAP Labs geared toward families and kids, and more. These public programs ensure the open space meets its overarching objective — to provide an accessible, active, inclusive, and welcoming space for the Cambridge, MIT, and Kendall Square communities.

Lunar New Year

In February 2024, MIT welcomed the Year of the Dragon with hands-on crafts, face painting, free snacks, and entertainment. Families around Cambridge enjoyed a fun-filled day in the Kendall/MIT Open Space and MIT Welcome Center, with activities for attendees of all ages. The packed program schedule included a performance from MIT Lion Dance, Chinese calligraphy lessons, and free traditional treats and hot drinks.

LEAP Labs

A creation of Open Space Programming, the LEAP (Learn, Explore, and Play) Lab series provides an opportunity for families and children to gather for playful connections and hands-on learning. LEAP Lab programs are held on Saturday mornings throughout the year. Topics vary and 2024 programs included: the Science of Marshmallows with MIT PhD student group Kitchen Matters, a free copy of *Asteroid vs Comet* and reading from astrophysicist and the author Dr. Marc Kuchner, and creative dance for kids led by Jean Appolon Expressions.



Photo by Zhenghua Li

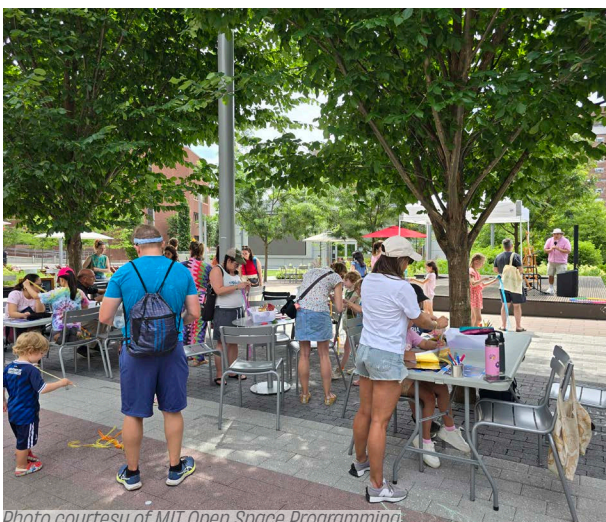


Photo courtesy of MIT Open Space Programming

Learn more about Open Space Programming:
openspace.mit.edu



X @mitopenspace

Rollerama

The summer of 2024 rolled in with Kendall Common's first pop-up experience: **Rollerama at Kendall Common**. The installation featured free roller-skating and fun activities for the entire Cambridge community. Skate rentals were also free, and voluntary donations were directed to local non-profits. A highlight of the space was a 7,000 square foot mural by Boston-based artist Massiel Grullón featuring retro-inspired shapes. Rollerama also served as the location for the **Kendall Common Block Party**, previously known as the Volpe Block Party. For eight years, the Cambridge community has come together for free food, fun, ice cream, music, and activities for all ages. During summer 2024, **Rollerama hosted hundreds of Cambridge residents, including 43 campers and counselors from Kennedy-Longfellow School** for a fun, roller skating field trip.



The Job Connector by MIT

Now in its fifth year, the Job Connector — a free workforce development hub established as part of MIT's Volpe zoning agreement — **has helped more than 825 Cambridge residents advance their careers.** The Job Connector provides comprehensive support to job seekers at all stages of their professional journeys. This support includes resume and cover letter writing, networking and interview preparation, and individual counseling.

In order to maintain strong ties with residents and connect with local job seekers, the Job Connector actively immerses itself in the Cambridge community. Outreach efforts include partnerships with local organizations, a monthly email newsletter, an active social media presence, and participation at community events. These activities help the Job Connector to bring its services to those who need them the most.

Programming

The Job Connector provides both professional development and industry-specific programs. **In the past year, seven intensive programs served more than 115 residents** and explored topics including the construction and trades-based industry, barriers to employment, job searching 101, career development skills, and professional networking.

Introduction to Construction and the Building Trades

For the past three years, the Job Connector has hosted its fall flagship program: Introduction to Construction and Building Trades program. **Each session serves between 15-20 Cambridge residents** who learn the ins and outs of the high-growth construction and building trades sector. Industry experts provide first-hand information on topics such as local building trades unions, entrepreneurship within the field, construction management, real estate development, and more. The multi-week paid program is made possible through partnerships with the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions, CSL Construction, Turner Construction, local independent builders, Building Pathways, and City leadership. **Program graduates have gone on to participate in advanced training programs and join unions;** two graduates now work for CSL Construction.



Photo by Logan Read



In June 2023, the Cambridge City Council unanimously recognized Job Connector staff for being "deeply committed to serving the Cambridge community," and the Job Connector itself for having "a significant impact on residents across our City allowing them to thrive and empower themselves."



Photo by Logan Read



Photo courtesy of The Job Connector

“ *What I have learned here has given me so much confidence to use my skills in the workplace. My only wish is that we had more time together! The confidence boost from the program training and the guest speakers was really impactful.* ”

Firdaus Hamyar, Spring 2024 Program Graduate

Administrative Assistant Program

The Job Connector celebrated the graduates from the inaugural Administrative Assistant Training Program in June 2024. **The five-week series offered 17 Cambridge residents the opportunity to develop their skills** in professional communication, writing, spreadsheets, marketing, and graphic design. For three days each week, participants attended workshops that emphasized interactive communication and writing to establish a strong foundation for administrative roles. Hands-on activities improved proficiency in essential software and technical skills. Graduates joined this program from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds, and bonded closely over the five weeks, spending many hours together outside of class reinforcing their learning. Many of the program participants have received job offers and all expressed feeling accomplished and optimistic about their career opportunities at the end of the program.

The success of this training program is greatly attributed to the generous support from employer and community partners. Participants had the opportunity to interview with potential employers for administrative roles. **Thirteen local organizations played a critical role in supporting the program**, including: Beacon Hill Associates, East Cambridge Savings Bank, Homeowner’s Rehab, Inc. (HRI), the City of Cambridge, and MIT HR. These partnerships are an essential part of Job Connector programming and play a critical role in creating career pipelines for the City’s residents.

Other Programs



Throughout the year, the Job Connector office space at 792 Main Street is used to host various hiring fairs. For example, staff recruited throughout Cambridge for a local restaurant hiring fair and training opportunity. Attendees were also able to train for CPR and ChokeSaver certifications — which provide an essential skill set for prospective employers. During tax season, the Job Connector and the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee teamed up to host tax preparation sessions for Cambridge residents.

During the 2024 summer, the Job Connector partnered with the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging at MGH to host 20 local high school students for an exploration of careers in the medical fields. Over a six-week period, these future scientists studied basic neuroanatomical concepts by analyzing brain imaging data, visited world-renowned research centers in Kendall Square (like the McGovern Institute), and were paired with seasoned STEM mentors that offered guidance and support.



Photo by Logan Read

Learn more about The Job Connector by MIT:
jobconnector.mit.edu

 @MITJobConnector
 /MITJobConnector





Meet our Office

Hello from MIT's Building 11 in beautiful Cambridge, Massachusetts! You've made it to the last page and the end of our 2024 MIT in Cambridge Impact Report. We hope you've gotten an idea of the breadth and depth of the Institute's deep engagement and commitment in our shared community. This report is published every other year by MIT's Office of Government and Community Relations (OGCR).

The office oversees MIT's community engagement efforts in Cambridge and beyond. We are a connector between campus and the City and the Commonwealth. Our team acts as a resource for members of the MIT community seeking information or assistance with government matters, as well as for neighbors seeking connections with the Institute. Central to our mission is promoting collaboration and mutual understanding between MIT and the broader community.

While this report shares a portion of the exciting activities happening on campus and in Cambridge, we also want to introduce ourselves. We hope we have a chance to meet at the next community event or while walking around one of the galleries on campus, but until then, learn more about the people behind the OGCR acronym.

Sarah Gallop

Director



I try to inspire and empower our office to help MIT be the best neighbor it can be.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
Jill Brown-Rhone Park

Outside of Cambridge?
The White Mountains of New Hampshire

Annalisa Bhatia

Associate Director



I serve as a liaison between MIT and the governments, community leaders, and peer institutions where we work.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
North Point Park

Outside of Cambridge?
Copper Country

Anya Bear

Community Engagement Administrator



I engage with the local community and nonprofits to identify opportunities to work together and build MIT's relationships.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
Looking at the Charles River

Outside of Cambridge?
Traveling spontaneously

Rohan Kundargi

K-12 Community Outreach Administrator



I collaborate with brilliant educators across Cambridge to co-design fun opportunities for learners of all ages!

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
Magazine Beach

Outside of Cambridge?
California's Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Logan Read

Communications Specialist



Using formats (like the one you are reading right now!), I tell the Institute's story in Cambridge.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
Walking along the Charles River

Outside of Cambridge?
Inside a book

Sara Reese

Manager, Job Connector



I lead the Job Connector team in delivering high-quality programs and career advising for Cambridge residents.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
Graffiti Alley in Central

Outside of Cambridge?
Swimming in the ocean or dancing at a concert

Ted Downing

Program Administrator, Job Connector



I design and facilitate programs for Cambridge residents that create pathways to rewarding careers and bridge the opportunity gap.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
Felipe's Taqueria

Outside of Cambridge?
At a beach

Hector Acevedo

Community Outreach Administrator, Job Connector



I bring awareness to residents about programs and events to connect local talent to employers across Cambridge and beyond.

Favorite spot in Cambridge?
La Fabrica in Central

Outside of Cambridge?
Relaxing on a beach



Photo by Logan Read

MIT's Office of Government and Community Relations

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