

OCEAN STATE **INNOVATE**

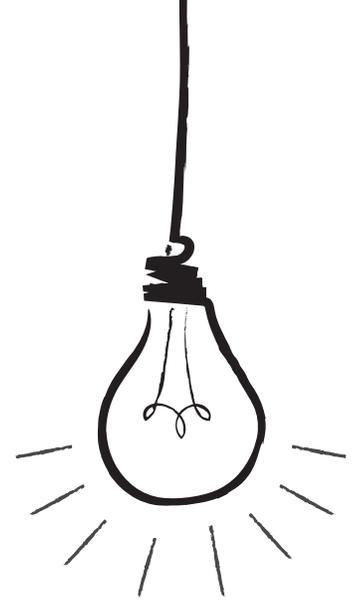
March 11 + 12, 2017

Facilitated by The Medici Group



SWEARER CENTER
BROWN UNIVERSITY

OCEAN STATE **INNOVATE**



In early 2016, a steering committee of local leaders came together to think about new ways to harness community knowledge to address Rhode Island's most significant challenges. These conversations turned into a two-day convening of a cross section of Rhode Islanders, working together to break down silos and explore profound solutions to these pressing issues. On March 11 and 12, 2017, residents, community leaders, and college students gathered to participate in Ocean State Innovate, where they engaged in creative problem-solving for a better Rhode Island.

ISSUE AREAS:

Smart Government

Transportation for Working Families

Housing

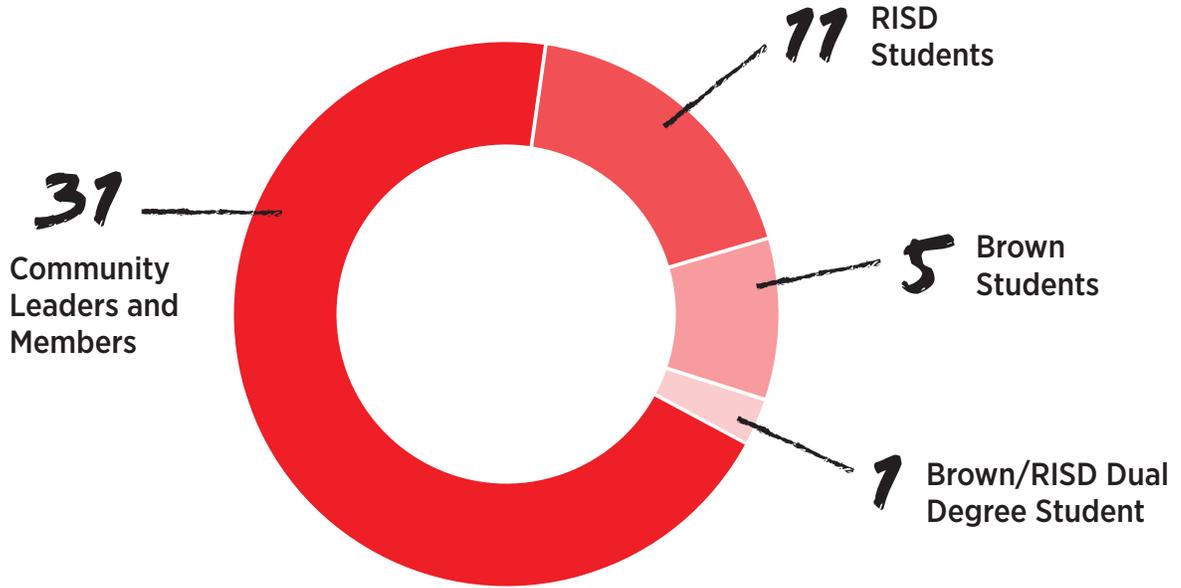
Affordability

Design

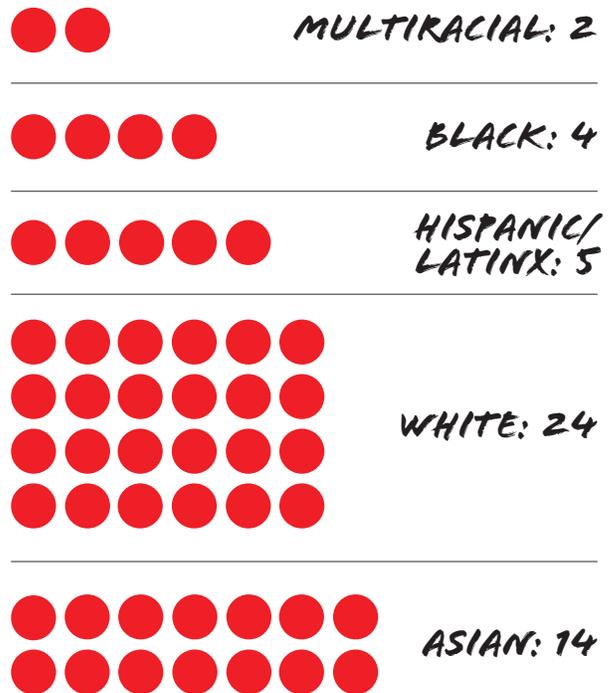
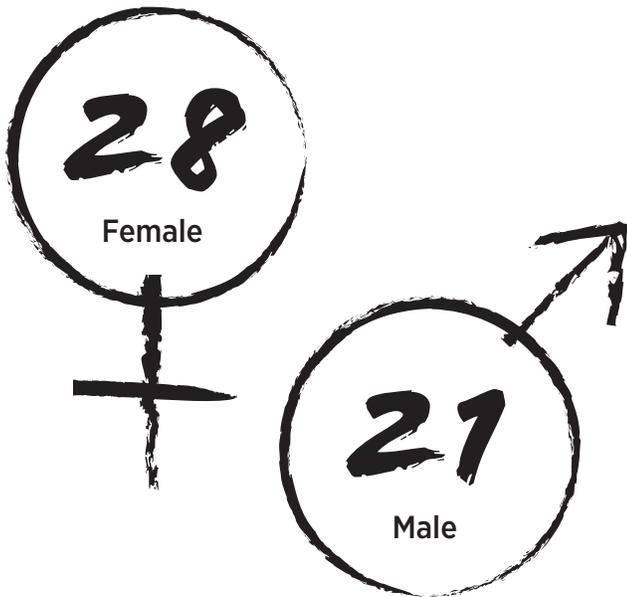
Brown University alum Frans Johansson led diverse teams through the Medici Group's approach to innovation. Participants developed, refined, and selected ideas in ways that incorporated and leveraged the different perspectives in the room.

PARTICIPANTS

49 Total Participants



Participant Demographics



INNOVATION GOALS

- Make government as fun and interactive as BuzzFeed.
- Support government bills, campaigns, and projects with the same enthusiasm you would for your favorite sports team.
- Make government services as accessible and choice-filled as a vending machine.
- Get people out of cars; drive demand for public transportation.
- Bring the destination to the individual so they don't have to travel.
- Make Rhode Island the most navigable state in the nation.
- Make it as easy to find affordable housing as it is a book at the library.
- Create incentives for landlords to be amazing for everyone.
- Make every abandoned lot and property a thriving community space.



IDEAS

Over the two days, ten teams worked to develop and refine their best ideas, and present them to the room for feedback and revision. Each team's best idea (as determined by the participants) is represented below.

★ **Community Space Incentives would encourage landowners** to turn their vacant lots into thriving community spaces by providing tax incentives for redevelopment.

★ **The Perfect Pass would deliver legislative information** in a fun and reader-friendly format. The intention is to engage citizens by showcasing how particular issues are relevant to them and people they care about.

★ **WHO R.I. would be a media production company** that promotes a more transparent local and state government. The multi-channel, nonpartisan platform commissions high school and college students to develop critiques of R.I.'s bills, referendums, and issues.

★ **RIPTA Ride + Surprise would invigorate RIPTA** by turning buses into centers for arts and culture, to change conceptions of what it's like to take the bus.

★ **Ocean State SEE proposes to invigorate the R.I. economy** by enabling local boat owners in the Narragansett Bay to become on-demand boat "drivers" for commuters or tourists.





Grab + Go Government would bring government services to people's door by converting a truck into a "mobile city hall," which makes things like registering to vote or getting a birth certificate easy and accessible.



R11 would be a program where university students function as **health coaches** to patients in the community to better manage chronic conditions outside of the traditional medical setting.



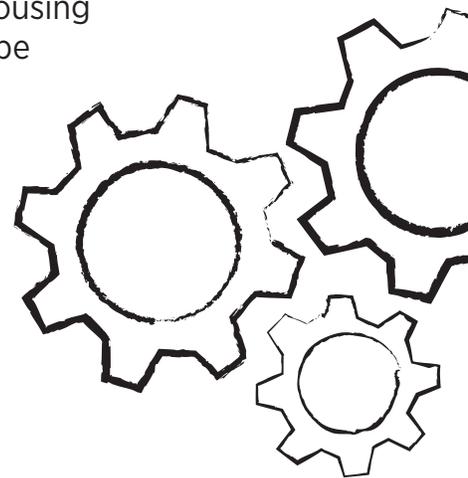
The Real R.I. Living would be a **web-based platform** that redefines affordability in Rhode Island by allowing locals to search for private and public affordable housing options using visual aids.



You Connect would match individuals and families with homeowners who have empty space in their homes to create affordable housing solutions. The compatibility of renters and homeowners will be determined on an online platform.



R.I. Trend Report would make learning about local political leaders fun by participating in R.I. specific BuzzFeed-like quizzes. This new media platform brings together humor, local politics, and easy-to-read interface to engage the public in politics.





WHAT'S NEXT

March 20, 16 participants attended a follow-up event at the United Way of Rhode Island. Here, groups reunited to decide which projects they wanted to pursue and what their next steps will be. The Social Innovation Initiative (SII) at Brown University's Swearer Center is offering seed grants to support teams who want to further develop ideas that came out the event. The Swearer Center is committed to strengthening its support of impact-driven community capacity and innovation and support of more students engaging deeply in the local community. SII aims to help spur, cultivate, and support innovation in R.I. Request for proposals are being accepted on a rolling basis through May 31, 2017.



OCEAN STATE INNOVATE



The Social Innovation Initiative at Brown University's Swearer Center (SII) creates and connects students to meaningful experiences focused on building empathy, identity, and social impact through the lenses of innovation and entrepreneurship. SII hosted Ocean State Innovate and provided the planning and operational support.

The Rhode Island School of Design Career Center (RISD Careers) educates, advises, and empowers students and alumni to effectively translate their education and creativity into fulfilling professional experiences. RISD Careers was a partner in the planning and design of the event and supported student outreach and engagement.

The Medici Group envisions a world where people use our differences to change it. Their mission is to create that world. Using their unique methodology, founder and CEO Frans Johansson, a Brown alum, was our facilitator for Ocean State Innovate.

The Steering Committee provided structure and substance to the development of the event. Steering committee members were:

- * **Richard Culatta, Former Chief Innovation Officer, State of R.I.**
- * **Jessica David, Vice President of Strategy & Community Investments, Rhode Island Foundation**
- * **Kevin Jankowski, Director, Rhode Island School of Design Career Center**
- * **Diana Perdomo, Director of Grants and Strategic Initiatives, United Way of R.I.**
- * **Nicole Pollock, Chief of Staff, City of Providence**
- * **Liz Tanner, Executive Vice President of Client Services, Commerce R.I.**
- * **Mark Tracy, Hope Health, Board Member and Secretary**

With special thanks to our student leaders, Brown University's Gabriela Gonzalez and Tiffany Chen and RISD's Sophie Chien for your dedication and support.



SWEARER CENTER
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Swearer Center at Brown University
Box 1974
25 George Street
Providence, RI 02912
(401) 863-2338
swearer.brown.edu