



MIT has a unique commitment to its host community, recognizing that the long-range welfare of the community and the Institute are often inseparable. The Office of Government and Community Relations coordinates the Institute's community relations efforts in a variety of ways that include supporting nonprofits, engaging in neighborhood activities, and contributing to educational initiatives. Below are some examples of ways in which MIT collaborates with its host community.

The Office welcomes inquiries, as well as ideas on ways that MIT's outreach efforts can promote a more vital community-at-large.

### **Supporting Nonprofits**

The Institute solidly backs nonprofit organizations that address the challenges that its host community of Cambridge faces, including providing programs for youth, meeting basic needs for underserved populations, and promoting environmental sustainability. Some of the Institute's recent ventures with area nonprofits are described below.

#### **Facility use**

MIT often sponsors groups wishing to hold events in Institute facilities, providing a venue for celebrations, fundraisers, performances, and ceremonies.

Some of the Cambridge-based groups that have recently held events at MIT are:

- Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House;
- Cambridge Community Schools;
- Food for Free;
- Breakthrough Cambridge; and
- Cambridge Community Chorus.

#### **Board and committee representation**

Institute staff members provide expertise and access to MIT resources for a variety of nonprofits and civic entities by serving on boards and committees of these organizations. Staff also serve on City committees and task forces on topics related to public policy issues that impact our community.

Some examples of such engagements include:

- CASPAR;
- Kendall Square Association;
- YMCA;
- Cambridge Rotary Club;
- Central Square Business Association;
- Kendall Community Group; and
- Cambridge Office for Tourism.

#### **Volunteerism**

Faculty, staff, and students at MIT are involved in a broad range of volunteer activities in the community, including mentoring and tutoring, providing health education, cleaning up the Charles River, and feeding the homeless and hungry. The Institute's Public Service Center (PSC) serves as a resource for programming, guidance, information, and support to those who are interested in public service.

#### **Charitable drives**

The Institute, through its charitable giving campaign, and individual MIT departments collect items through clothing and food drives, serve and deliver food, and contribute items for agencies' wish lists.

Among the local organizations that have benefitted from recent collections are:

- Cambridge Senior Center;
- Cambridge Community Center;
- Salvation Army;
- Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House; and
- CASPAR.

#### **Financial contributions**

MIT makes modest donations to selected programs, organizations, and events, to assist in the support of their mission and activities.

Some recent examples of financial assistance include:

- Tutoring Plus;
- Cambridge NAACP;
- Community Art Center;
- Cambridge Family and Children's Service;
- Central Square Theater
- Girls' LEAP; and
- East End House.

## Supporting Nonprofits (Continued)

### Community Service Fund Support

The MIT Community Service Fund (CSF) makes financial grants to dozens of organizations and projects in Cambridge that provide crucial social services, and where MIT volunteers dedicate their talent, time and efforts.

In the past year, the CSF disbursed more than \$83,000 in grants to 20 Cambridge-based agencies and student projects, including:

- Cambridge School Volunteers;
- Just A Start;
- Science Club for Girls;
- Cambridge Community Center;
- Project Manna;
- CitySprouts; and
- On The Rise.

## Neighborhood Relations

MIT is firmly committed to promoting town-gown collaboration and understanding and to acting as a resource for its neighbors.

Some of the ways that the Institute has worked in partnership with its closest neighborhoods include:

- Holding neighborhood meetings to discuss and solicit input on building projects;
- Organizing an open house at the MIT Museum;
- Sharing information and promoting dialogue with neighborhoods adjacent to campus; and
- Collaborating to organize and promote Area IV Pride Day.

The Institute welcomes neighbors to campus for many other events such as public discussions, lectures, and concerts. Among recent events are:

- The Cambridge Science Festival;
- Cambridge Public Library panel discussions;
- The Cambridge Public Schools' Superintendent's kickoff for teachers;
- Cambridge Police Awards; and
- The Mayor's Senior Citizens Luncheon.

## Educational Initiatives

MIT is dedicated to sharing its academic resources, talented instructors, and excitement about learning through a variety of programs.

Some recent or ongoing educational initiatives include:

- The Edgerton Center, providing hands-on science and engineering education experiences for school groups of a range of grade levels;
- The annual Massachusetts State High School Science and Engineering Fair, hosted on MIT's campus for over 60 years;
- ReachOut, a program that recruits, trains, and matches MIT tutors with children who need help with reading;
- CommuniTech, a project through which qualified families work one-on-one with MIT students, allowing them to learn basic or advanced computer skills; and
- The KeyPals mentoring program, which pairs sixth grade students with MIT staff for email exchanges and visits to campus.

## MIT Museum

The Museum, a founding collaborator of the Cambridge Science Festival, engages the public by inviting adults and children to explore the foundations and frontiers of science and technology, offering a special focus on MIT's contributions. Family-oriented activities include demonstrations and hands-on science discovery projects.

The Museum offers free admission on Sundays from 10 to 12, and on second Fridays from 5 to 8. Cambridge Public Library cardholders receive free admission in July and August.

## Contact Us

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