NYC’S TECH OPPORTUNITY GAP
STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS AND COLLABORATION WITHIN HIGH-TECH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

High-tech jobs are those focused on the creation and management of high-tech tools, products, systems, and support services.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. High-tech jobs are a key driver of growth for both the NYC tech ecosystem and the NYC economy overall, offering well-paying jobs across all industries.

   - **161,000** high-tech jobs in NYC
   - **+46,000** jobs added since 2008
   - **+45%** growth vs. 17% citywide
   - **+80%** higher wages than NYC overall

2. High-tech skills are growing in importance for all workers at a pace that will be accelerated by technological change and automation.

3. Today’s high-tech workforce is not representative of New York’s diversity, and this underrepresentation will have major implications as technology reshapes modern life and the economy.

   - **18%** Black & Latinx in High-Tech vs. 37% Citywide
   - **24%** Women in High-Tech vs. 50% Citywide

4. Critical disconnects in information, data collection, and ecosystem collaboration must be addressed to ensure that all New Yorkers can benefit from high-tech opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A diverse high-tech talent pool served by integrated, lifelong learning opportunities is critical to ensuring New York City’s workforce is more competitive and equitable.

- **Standardize tools** to support data collection, transparency, and improvements to high-tech training.
- **Create infrastructure** for continuous learning and reskilling that meets the demands of rapid technological change.
- **Create more inclusive on-ramps** to high-tech careers by focusing on all levels of the career ladder.
As technological change transforms all facets of modern life and the economy, high-tech skills and the jobs that leverage them are growing in importance. This report was commissioned to better understand the nature and trajectory of jobs that require high-tech skills and how the NYC workforce development ecosystem can better prepare New Yorkers to realize the economic opportunity provided by high-tech jobs.

This report’s findings will be used to help inform the planning of Civic Hall @ Union Square, a first-of-its-kind center focused on technology for good in New York. The building will include a three-story, 40,000-square-foot Learning Center opening in 2021, a future center of gravity for advancing our City’s tech workforce where any citizen can access 21st-century technology education.

Civic Hall is the nation’s leading center for learning and collaboration focused on advancing civic tech and problem-solving for the public good. Civic Hall’s mission is to embed civic values wherever technology and society meet, and to help people discover new ways of embodying those values in their work and life. Civic Hall serves as a dynamic and uniquely inclusive hub for ideas, tools, learning, relationships and ventures—both old and new—that can bring about a more just society.

Cognizant U.S. Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation supporting STEM education and skills training. Launched in 2018 with an initial $100 million investment from Cognizant, the Foundation has since awarded $12 million to organizations working to educate and train the next generation of workers in communities throughout the U.S.

HR&A Advisors has over 40 years of experience advising on complex economic development and real estate projects in cities across the world. HR&A’s Urban Tech & Innovation Practice works with governments, technology companies, institutions, advocates, and developers to leverage the technology and innovation economy to increase economic competitiveness, improve quality of life, and broaden economic opportunity in cities. Firm clients include Sidewalk Labs, Google, Airbnb, WeWork, Industry City, CUNY, and the City of New York, as well as innovation districts and research parks across the U.S.