

# Richard Florida ~ What A Creative Neighborhood Looks Like

Table 2. Summary of neighbourhood characteristics

Characteristics	'Creative' neighbourhoods	'Science' neighbourhoods
Firm location	Edge of core	Suburban
Office rents	Medium-high	Low-medium
Firm structure	Micro-small	Medium-large
Anchors	Venues; institutions	Large firms; institutions
Workforce location	Overlapping	Adjacent
Transportation	Public; walk; bike	Private (cars)
Density	Very high	Low-medium
Land use	Mixed	Mono
Building types	Varied; adapted reuse	New; purpose built
Bars, restaurants, cafes	Dense; authentic	Sparse; inauthentic
Change/ evolution	Gentrification	Sprawl
Social dynamics	Larger social networks; inter-firm (?)	Smaller social networks; intra-firm (?)

Innovation and creativity are the basic engines of economic development in cities, regions and nations. But what makes some places more innovative than others? How do certain neighborhoods come to specialize in different types of creativity?

A new study published in the journal *Regional Studies* by my Martin Prosperity Institute (MPI) and University of Toronto colleague Greg Spencer takes a detailed look at the kinds of neighborhoods that are home to high-tech industries versus those that foster vibrant arts, cultural and music scenes. He focuses on Canada's big three city-regions: Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. Spencer defines high-tech or "science-based" industries as spanning computer, software, pharmaceuticals and medicine, as well as research and development, while "creative" industries include film and video, music, radio and television, and design, as well as independent artists, writers and performers.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/creative-neighborhood>