

BACKGROUND - WHAT LED TO THIS IDEA?

On Saturday, June 14, Experience Milwaukee at the Wantable Cafe hosted Google's Chief of Staff of DeepMind, their AI research lab. With only 24 hours' notice (the opportunity popped up at the last minute), 120+ tech community members from Milwaukee and the surrounding area (as far as Madison) attended this interview and meet-and-greet at 8am on a Saturday morning!

This sparked a lively discussion about what's happening in our cafe, and within Walker's Point in regard to tech, business, and community. So we did a bit of research and discovered that Walker's Point has a significant density of tech and tech-enabling businesses. Along with its creative vibe and entrepreneurial grit, we think this is the right time and neighborhood for innovative action.

WHY WALKERS POINT?

Walker's Point has a vibrant technology, entrepreneurship, and creative innovation community. Anchored by industry giants like Rockwell Automation and PKWARE, and energized by emerging AI-focused startups and tech nonprofits, the neighborhood offers a unique ecosystem that guides ideas from concept to commercialization.

At a quick glance, here is a list of some of the innovative organizations in Walker's Point:

- Zurn Water Solutions
- Rite-Hite
- Rockwell
- Kamatsu
- STAMM Technologies
- Wantable
- PKWARE
- Virtual Benefits Administrator (VBA)
- Digital Bridge
- Geno.Me
- CAREDirect
- Spin Group
- Walker Media Group
- TriMarq
- Requisor AI
- My Way Out
- Gateway Capital Partners
- The Water Council
- Eagleknit Innovation Hub (CenturyLink Data Center)
- Experience Milwaukee / Wantable Cafe
- Oasis at the Global Water Center
- BizStarts Community Market
- Anodyne
- Station 1846
- Good Work
- Eagleknit Converge
- Colectivo Foundry
- BREW 2.0
- UWM School of Freshwater Sciences Lab Space and Research Commercialization
- i.c. stars
- UWM School of Freshwater Sciences

- Islands of Brilliance
- Black Sheep Group

Specifically looking at Experience Milwaukee at the Wantable Cafe, here is an example of activity in Walker's Point:

- The co-working cafe has become "home" for several tech group events including
 - MitobYTE (<https://mitobYTE.com>), who organizes Code + Coffee, Code + Brews, tech resume workshops, and more
 - Milwaukee Venture Partners (<https://milwaukeevp.com>)
 - Innovation League, founded by former Manpower CTO, Ken Rheingans (<https://www.innovationleague.org>)
 - Databricks Meetup, organized by Xorbix (<https://xorbix.com>)
 - Black Sheep Group (a collection of founders, corporate innovation leaders, and Milwaukee's tech A-list who have returned to the Milwaukee area)
 - FOR-M Founders Showcase, organized by the Milwaukee Tech Hub Coalition (<https://www.mketech.org>)
 - Midwest Founders Community meetups (<https://www.thefounder.community>)
 - Entrepreneur Incubator, organized by Oakes Co. (<https://www.theoakesco.com>)
 - Vibe coding community
 - Founder First Fridays, organized by Experience Milwaukee (<https://www.experiencemilwaukee.com>)
 - Milwaukee Brewers technology team, which hosted their 2026 strategic planning day in the cafe (first time they were all in-person in the same room, ever)
 - i.c.stars Commencement (<https://www.icstars.org/location/milwaukee>)