

Pictures: 10 coolest startup spaces in Seattle's Pioneer Square

Brian Hayden, GeekWire, 07 November 2012

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Blink Interactive, photo courtesy of Blink

All technology companies in Seattle have to compete for talented workers. Aside from the opportunity to create something important and building financial security, workers also consider the environment where they will be spending their long hours when selecting the company they want to work for.

Below are some office space features that startup companies seek out when searching for the creative environment that attracts talent:

- High ceilings with exposed beams and HVAC ductwork
- Exposed brick
- Interesting design features (paint colors, glass walls, hardwood or polished concrete floors, etc.)
- Open space for workstations.
- Lots of conference rooms.
- Natural light into the space (with the ability to provide darkness for long hours staring at the computer screen)
- Suite amenities (lunch room, lounge, views, decks, ping pong, beer pong, foosball, darts, pool table, poker table, video gaming area, nerf guns, kegerator, bar, etc.)
- Building amenities (showers, bike lockers, fast Internet, etc.)
- Nearby amenities (bus access, parking, restaurants, coffee, etc.)

While Fremont, Ballard, South Lake Union, Pike Place Market and a handful of buildings in the central business district also offer cool space, Pioneer Square is the neighborhood in Seattle that has the highest concentration of buildings with the features above.

Below are my personal picks for the **Top 10 Coolest Startup Spaces in Pioneer Square**. These companies have been ranked based on the 'coolness' of their creative environment:

#10 Symform National Building, National Building – 1008 Western Ave

#9 Identitymine, 1201 Western Building

#8 Flowplay, Prudential Building – 114 Alaskan Way South

#7 Quote Wizard, Interurban Building – 157 Yesler Way

#6 SURF Incubator, Exchange Building – 821 2nd Avenue

#5 Morse Best Innovation, Coleman Building – 811 1st Avenue

#4 Climate Corporation, F.X. McRory's Building – 419 Occidental Ave.

#3 Imperium Renewables, Provident Building – 568 1st Ave South

#2 Blink Interactive, Waterfront Place, 1011 Western Avenue

#1 Payscale, Reedo Building, 542 1st Avenue South

In developing this list, we surveyed over 50 buildings and several hundred spaces. We searched for spaces that accommodate less than 100 people (hence 'startup').

It should also be noted that not all of the companies we approached were comfortable having pictures taken of their space (although we did get pictures of over 100 companies). Finally, some of the companies listed above have been around longer than a couple years so you may not consider them a startup anymore.

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