

**POSSIBLE
DREAMS
2026**

SUMMARY REPORT

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On the warm evening of Monday March 9, 2026, over 120 Haverhill community members enthusiastically came together at the Hartleb Technology Center at Northern Essex Community College for Possible Dreams 2026. Thirteen chosen ideas were shared by their submitters, who teamed up with table hosts to facilitate discussions in small groups.

The evening's format followed a structured, participatory format:

- Welcome and introduction by Team Haverhill Vice President Lisa Marzilli
- One-minute idea pitches from each of the thirteen idea submitters
- A 30-minute facilitated discussion and a 20-minute open networking session.
- Quick updates of discussions from each idea submitter

One of the major themes at Possible Dreams 2026 centered around enriching Haverhill with arts, cultural, and community events, and many projects reflected this vision. These projects included:

- **Participating in Haverhill's 250th United States anniversary celebration:**
Organizing community festivities to commemorate this historic milestone.
- **Erecting a John Greenleaf Whittier statue:**
Honoring the renowned poet and Haverhill native with a public monument.
- **Connecting with other "Haverhill" communities:**
Building relationships and collaborative events with other towns named Haverhill.
- **Beautifying Bradford Square:**
Enhancing the visual appeal and public spaces in Bradford Square.
- **Creating a Haverhill Art Museum:** Establishing a museum dedicated to local and regional artists, fostering creativity and cultural engagement.
- **Watching the World Cup together:**
Hosting community viewing events to bring residents together in celebration of the World Cup.
- **Starting a Christmas Market:**
Launching a festive market featuring local vendors, crafts, and holiday activities.

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Among these diverse proposals, the Christmas Market captured particular attention for its originality, earning it the distinction of “Most Creative” idea.

In addition to arts and culture, education-focused projects included Reading Buddies, Financial Literacy Program, and Future-Ready AI Workshop. The Financial Literacy Program received the “Biggest Impact” award for the evening.

The discussion also included ideas aimed at encouraging children to spend more time outdoors:

Haverhill Family Trail Guide: Establishing a kid-focused guide that would complement our city’s current trail guide.

Haverhill Community Playground: Building a one-of-a-kind inclusive playground for the Haverhill community.

The Haverhill Family Trail Guide received the “Most Doable” project award for the evening.

This year, the concept of boosting Haverhill’s self-sufficiency resurfaced through the proposal of an Edible Perennial Nursery.

We appreciate all the idea submitters, table hosts, and participants. Your enthusiasm and creativity highlight the community’s potential and enable Possible Dreams to function as a connector and catalyst for practical, resident-led change in Haverhill.

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team HAVERHILL

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GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in contributing, supporting or helping to move any of these ideas forward, please email the listed contact. If you know of any resource, individual or organization, funding source or sponsor, volunteers or any other connection that might be able help, please take that extra step and connect them with the listed contact, too! Dreams only become a reality when action is taken!

Reading Buddies

Volunteer to read with students twice a week for thirty minutes, in Haverhill's elementary schools and make an impact on grade-level reading.

Contact: **Gail Sullivan** *Gms62345@gmail.com*

Financial Literacy Program

Create a community-wide financial literacy program to strengthen family and the community.

Contact: **Hellen Chen** *wsb.hellenchen@gmail.com*

Haverhill Family Trail Guide

Create a family/children-friendly trail guide, showcasing the trails of the 15 conservation areas throughout Haverhill.

Contact: **Denise Johnson** *dmjohnson33@verizon.net*

Haverhill Sister Localities

Develop connections with other localities named Haverhill in an effort to bridge the gap of the urban/rural divide.

Contact: **Adaela McLaughlin** *adaelamclaughlin12@gmail.com*

Haverhill 250th Call for Participation

Call for programming to celebrate Haverhill's special place in the history of the United States, during it's 250th anniversary celebration.

Contact: **Jimmy Carbone** *foodkarma@gmail.com*

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Haverhill Community Playground

Redevelop the current playground at Golden Hill into a destination, one of a kind, community playground for all of Haverhill, and beyond.

Contact: **Brittany Safy** *BrittanySafy@gmail.com*

John Greenleaf Whittier Statue

Install a large scale statue in a highly visible area, in honor of Haverhill's John Greenleaf Whittier.

Contact: **Tim Coco** *tcoco@whav.net*

Christmas Market

Create vibrancy and bring people to the downtown area for local retail shopping with a temporary holiday artisan market.

Contact: **Michael Conneely** *mike@thepeddlersdaughter.com*

Bradford Square Beautification

Increase plantings, trees, flowers, painting and building improvements in the Bradford Square area.

Contact: **Elizabeth Firger Smith** *efirgersmith@gmail.com*

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Future-Ready AI Workshop

Introducing a free, hands-on workshop that introduces free AI tools, addresses AI risks, and drives local economic growth.

Contact: **John Michitson** michitson@mitre.org

Haverhill Museum for the Arts

Create a permanent art museum to spotlight the work of Haverhill artists.

Contact: **Richard Itwaru** richard.itwaru@gmail.com

World Cup Viewing Events

Develop a series of family-friendly viewing events for the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament.

Contact: **Nik Orellana** nikolas.orellana@mahouse.gov

Edible Perennial Nursery

Raise edible perennials including fruits, vegetables, and nuts for farms, and individuals to enhance food resilience and community self-reliance.

Contact: **Sven Amirian** sven@svenamirian.com

team HAVERHILL



CONNECT



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**Team Haverhill thanks
all of the attendees that
brought bright ideas
and amazing energy to
Possible Dreams 2026**

THANK YOU HAVERHILL!

Many thanks to those that stepped forward and presented their ideas as table projects, and led group conversations.

Thank you to all of the Table Hosts that volunteered to keep the conversations productive and positive.

Thanks to Laura Kozlowski of Laura Kozlowski Photography for the excellent event photography. Find Laura at: laurakozlowski.com

Special thanks to Annie Liebert, for her awesome graphic design and many contributions that help make this event a success.

Thank you to Michael Crouse for assisting with audio and video technology at the event.

Thank you to Kerri Alves and George Scobie for helping with registration and tallying votes.

We would also like to thank the Greater Haverhill Foundation for their continued support.

THANK YOU HAVERHILL!

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teamhaverhill.org