

## Reasons To Get Excited

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By [The Day](#)

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The very special event held last week at the Garde Arts Center provided an overriding impression - New London is a city on the move.

This, of course, is in stark contrast to the usual opinion people have of New London as the city that can't seem to get anything done. The place where a redevelopment effort stalled when it turned into a federal eminent domain case, where constant budget battles appear to take the city two steps back for every step forward.

But at "Pre:View New London" it was apparent for all who bothered to see, that despite such setbacks this is a vibrant place. Local businesses, civic groups, city officials and developers were given the chance to say what they were up to, and they're up to a lot.

Listeners heard of expansion and renovation programs at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Connecticut College and Mitchell College. They were told that downtown retail continues to grow, that the number of people living downtown is increasing dramatically, that a growing list of events and the city's historic assets can make New London more of a tourist destination.

They were reminded that the coming renovation of the Parade area and a study of how to capitalize on New London's role as a transportation hub could be transforming.

Most important, perhaps, the event demonstrated how many good people care deeply about New London and are willing to put a lot of time and effort into making it better.

Coordinating all these efforts, harnessing that great energy, are the challenges that lie ahead - but there are definitely reasons to be excited.

*New London*