

LIBRARIES BUILD BUSINESS IN SPOKANE COUNTY



LIBRARIES ADVANCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP across the United States. With the relevant technology, resources, and staff expertise, libraries are well-equipped to support entrepreneurs and local small businesses in conducting market research, developing business plans, gaining access to emerging technologies, and sustaining small business amidst economic uncertainty. America's libraries have a critical role in addressing inequities in economic opportunity.



Libraries Build Business is a national initiative of the American Library Association, supported by Google.org, to partner with a cohort of 13 public libraries. The cohort will build local capacity and expand services for small businesses and entrepreneurs with a focus on businesses owned by people from low-income and underrepresented groups, such as Black,

Latinx, and women-owned businesses. With the goal of identifying promising practices and models for library-led entrepreneurship initiatives, the cohort, in collaboration with the ALA project team, will develop and evaluate practical resources for the field to ultimately scale successful entrepreneurship programs in the nearly 17,000 public libraries.

Representing 12 states and including rural and tribal, urban, and suburban communities, the cohort will create a playbook of promising models and lessons learned available to all public libraries across the country.

Small Business Boot Camp brings education and support to the Deer Park business community

Spokane County Library District is now offering **Small Business Boot Camp** for business owners and entrepreneurs in the Deer Park area, a rural, low-income community distanced from core services, including Internet. Deer Park Library is an active member in the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce and has the official role as Neighborhood Champion, promoting Small Business Saturday and the Shop Small movement. Through experience working with the area businesses, the Library has identified the programs needed to expand and enhance Small Business Saturday and beyond.

The Boot Camp program is designed to build skills and support business success in the community through training and micro-grants. Micro-grant funds will give participants the ability to implement something they learn during the program that will further their businesses' success. For example, a business may opt to hire a professional to design an attractive, engaging website.

The program will deliver beneficial training through monthly seminars led by experts and designed for the working entrepreneur. The program includes regular networking opportunities and presentations, and assistance with childcare is offered during all sessions. Knowledgeable, trained staff are available for personalized assistance with the expanded business resources.



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