

Collaborative Workspace Program

FY19 ANNUAL REPORT



Aclarity



About the Collaborative Workspace Program

MassDevelopment is pleased to submit an annual report for the Collaborative Workspace Program – a program designed to accelerate the pace of new business formation, job creation, and entrepreneurial activity in Massachusetts communities by supporting infrastructure that fuels community-based innovation.

Funding to support the Collaborative Workspace Program in fiscal year 2019 originated from state capital authorizations of \$1.5 million. An additional \$655,000 was contributed from the Barr Foundation – a partner in helping to cultivate and advance new ideas. This amount represents the second installment from the Barr Foundation of a three-year \$1,965,000 grant awarded to MassDevelopment to support the program.

An organization can apply for a seed grant of up to \$25,000 to plan and study the feasibility of a new collaborative workspace, or a fit-out grant of up to \$250,000 for building improvements and/or equipment purchases. Both types of grants require a one-to-one match. Eligible spaces include artists' studios, collaborative kitchens, coworking spaces, innovation centers, and makerspaces. This report summarizes 28 new awards made in fiscal year 2019 (eight seed grants; 20 fit-out grants) totaling \$2,200,387. Since its inception in the fall of 2014, the program has made 105 awards (39 seed grants; 66 fit-out grants) totaling \$6,589,131 to 82 organizations in 44 communities across the state.

Annual surveys submitted by the grantees detail that the Collaborative Workspace Program has activated 240,195 square feet of space. Grantees have also added 3,771 new member/users since implementing their grant-funded projects, and total reported member/users now stands at 8,719. These spaces continue to respond to member needs by adding new programs, educational tools, and networking opportunities.



Fit-Out Grants

LaunchSpace, Athol - \$105,000

LaunchSpace currently operates a coworking space at the Orange Innovation Center and is adding a second location in Athol. The new space, located in a former school, will operate as a community kitchen and coworking space, providing opportunities for workforce education and development. The grant will be used to replace the building's heating system.

Artists for Humanity, Boston - \$250,000

This collaborative maker studio, located in the newly expanded EpiCenter, will be equipped with tools and technology to help Boston-area youth produce transformative art and deliver high-quality creative services. The grant will be used for third-party labor and materials for workspace improvements, including interior fit-out costs, soft costs, and equipment purchases.

Fab@CIC, Boston - \$33,466

Fab@CIC is a digital fabrication lab and makerspace that provides public access to tools used for fabrication and technical invention. Upgrades to the facility will include additional workstations, graphic designs for visual placemaking, purpose-built material and tool storage solutions, and movable partition walls to help convert the space for events.

The Umbrella Community Arts Center Makerspace, Concord - \$85,000

The Umbrella Community Arts Center is creating a makerspace that will support artists, students, and entrepreneurs as they explore and innovate. The grant will be used for facility buildout and new equipment for a digital arts and design room, makerspace classroom, fabrication lab, and production shop.

Red13 Studios, Framingham - \$135,763

BamRock Entertainment's Red13 Studios is a membership-based collaborative for musicians, artists, videographers, photographers, and other creatives. Funds will be used to build and furnish additional spaces including a collaborative visual studio, dedicated coworking and community space, and for the purchase of new and/or used equipment.

Studio for Integrated Craft, Great Barrington - \$147,572

Studio for Integrated Craft is a collaborative workspace in a repurposed mill, founded with the goal of fostering a professional creative community. The grant will be used for renovations including architectural, structural, and electrical engineering; removal of heavy existing machinery; masonry work; and roof repairs.



Artists for Humanity



Fab@CIC



Red13 Studios

Creatorpult Makerspace, Haverhill - \$25,602

Creatorpult Makerspace currently offers classes, equipment, and tools for 3D printing; electronics troubleshooting/prototyping; model, miniature, and 3D print painting; airbrushing; and wood carving. Funds will be used for new equipment including industrial 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines, a robotics lab, and furnishings.

60 Vibe, Lawrence - \$89,500

The coworking space will use grant funds for the repair and remodeling of its historic mill space, and to help acquire office equipment, work tables, conference-room furniture and fixtures, common-area finishes, and Bluetooth-accessible locks.

Brickyard Collaborative, Lynn - \$56,000

The Brickyard Collaborative is proposing a hybrid makerspace/incubator/coworking kitchen in Lynn. Funds will be used for buildout and equipment acquisition.

BoroBot, Middleborough - \$7,500

The BoroBot makerspace will educate and train members in CAD Design, 3D printing, CNC machining, electronics, and programming microcontrollers in the pursuit of a broad-spectrum innovation pathway to employment or entrepreneurship. Funding will be used to acquire equipment including 3D printers, a CNC machine, and an alarm system.

WHALE Co-Creative Center, New Bedford - \$14,165

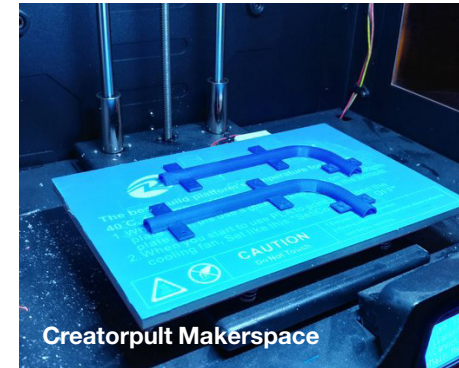
The WHALE Co-Creative Center (CO+) is a 10,000-square-foot development designed to establish a footprint for creative enterprise in New Bedford's historic downtown to connect, support, and celebrate artists and cultural entrepreneurship. Funds will be used for acoustic and sound isolation structural components, as well as IT, photography, and vinyl, paper, and mat cutters.

Empow Studios, Newton - \$89,931

Empow Studios is a newly opened community learning and innovation space focused on AR/VR technologies and related fields of 3D design and robotics among others. Funds will be used for the construction of a control room, storage, and equipment.

Zea Mays Printmaking, Northampton - \$92,500

Zea Mays Printmaking is a studio, gallery, educational facility, and research center with a focus on sustainable printmaking. Zea Mays offers workshops, exhibitions, and residencies. The grant will fund HVAC upgrades, a new letterpress, screen-printing studios, print storage, and equipment.



Creatorpult Makerspace



WHALE Co-Creative Center



Zea Mays Printmaking

Provincetown Commons, Provincetown - \$231,372

Provincetown Commons is a hybrid economic development center, coworking space, makerspace, and arts-related studio. Educational programs provide economic development support for startups, artists, designers, and small-business owners. Funds will complete the renovation of a 10,000-square-foot building and help the organization purchase furnishings and IT equipment.

Incubate Quincy 1400, Quincy - \$75,000

The Quincy Center for Innovation coworking space is proposing a move to Quincy Square and will use funds for furniture, IT equipment, and lighting.

Nibble Kitchen, Somerville - \$61,610

Nibble Kitchen is a coworking space that hosts the Nibble Culinary Entrepreneurship Program, developed and run by the Somerville Arts Council. Nibble offers licensed kitchen, vending, and teaching space to emerging culinary entrepreneurs from the area's diverse immigrant communities. Grant funding will help with the installation of a full commercial kitchen.



Nibble Kitchen

Valley Venture Mentors, Springfield - \$142,000

Valley Venture Mentors provides mentoring to entrepreneurs and startups. The funds will be used for furnishings, equipment, and a security system for the Valley Venture Hub coworking space.



Valley Venture Mentors

526 Main Street Partners, Worcester - \$250,000

526 Main Street Partners is developing an arts-related studio space and creative retail incubator. The developer will use grant funds to renovate, outfit, and equip the studio.

Becker College, Worcester - \$21,400

Grant funding will be used to create the first-ever eSports lab of its kind in central Massachusetts. The project will also add capacity to the AR/VR lab located at the New Ventures Center at the Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGI) within Becker College's Colleen C. Barrett Center for Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

CreativeHub Worcester, Worcester - \$94,506

CreativeHub Worcester is building a makerspace where artists, entrepreneurs, innovators, hobbyists, and students can come together and work in a dynamic ecosystem. Funds will be used for construction, furnishings, and equipment.



CreativeHub Worcester

Seed Grants

The Record Co.

Boston - \$25,000

The Record Co. is an affordable coworking space for musicians. Grant funds will assist with pre-build design costs for the organization's new recording studio and rehearsal suites.

NewVue Communities

Fitchburg - \$25,000

NewVue Communities is building the Fitchburg Arts Community, a 62-unit mixed-income artist-preference housing development and studio space located at the site of the former BF Brown School. The project includes an arts campus that connects to the Fitchburg Art Museum and downtown Fitchburg. This grant will be used for site engineering.

Berkshire Community College

Great Barrington - \$25,000

Berkshire Community College is proposing a test kitchen and coworking space at its South County Center on Main Street in Great Barrington. Funds will be used for a feasibility analysis, engineering, and design costs.

Mill City Grows

Lowell - \$20,000

Mill City Grows is using funds to hire a consultant to guide them in developing an Urban Food & Sustainability Center in partnership with the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust. The feasibility study will explore the viability of purchasing the last privately owned farm in Lowell and developing the Center, which will house an incubator space for food entrepreneurs, gardeners, and educators.

Cultural Alliance of Medfield

Medfield - \$25,000

Funding will allow the nonprofit Cultural Alliance of Medfield to assess two unoccupied buildings at the former Medfield State Hospital for redevelopment. The campus will include a makerspace, commercial kitchen, visual arts studios, arts-related space, live/work units, a performing arts venue, classrooms, and outdoor event space.

Newton Innovation Center

Newton - \$25,000

The Newton Innovation Center is seeking a new home and will use seed funding for construction cost verification and operational models.

Wellspring Cooperative Corporation

Springfield - \$25,000

Grant funding will support a feasibility study for a 3,000-square-foot shared commercial kitchen that would incubate new food businesses, process its own food products, and develop a "Food Business 101" training program for entrepreneurs.

Alternatives Unlimited/ValleyCAST

Whitinsville - \$22,500

Alternatives Unlimited and its arts and culture subsidiary, ValleyCAST, will use funding to undertake a feasibility study and strategic plan for the Whitin Mill Complex, as well as other property operated by Alternatives Unlimited in the Blackstone Valley. The project seeks wider use of these sites in collaboration with artists, community groups, educational institutions, and entrepreneurs for the long term.

Innovation Stories that Inspire

Another Castle – Greenfield

Jacob is a Greenfield native with a degree in computer science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was looking for opportunities in game development when he came across a press release highlighting Another Castle, a coworking space that caters to game developers and designers in the Pioneer Valley. This led to a connection with anchor member HitPoint Studios – where he is now a full-time employee.

Greenspace Cowork – Greenfield

Bueno Social and Facta Studio, two small firms with company memberships specializing in digital marketing and web development, respectively, were introduced at Greenspace CoWork and have since begun collaborating to win new shared work that they could not have obtained independently.

Brickyard Collaborative – Lynn

The Brickyard Collaborative, a hybrid makerspace and innovation incubator, opened its doors to members shortly after receiving a Collaborative Workspace Program grant. Within two weeks, 20 members signed on to take advantage of the creative co-op and available technology – a powerful factor in building membership.

BoroBot – Middleborough

Drew, BoroBot's first user, has opened his own 3D printing company and has already completed two jobs and is finishing up a third. Drew had no previous experience in CAD/3D printing before he attended one of BoroBot's classes, but now he has a viable small business poised for growth.

Provincetown Commons – Provincetown

Paul is an emerging artist who had been creating artwork in his small apartment until he obtained a membership at Provincetown Commons. The studio space gave him room to create larger, more substantial paintings and offered him an opportunity for professional growth. Paul headlined his first art show at Four Eleven Gallery in June 2019 and Provincetown Commons facilitated a collaboration with a local business, where one of Paul's designs is being printed on t-shirts for sale at a local gift shop.



Greentown Labs – Somerville

Greentown Labs in Somerville provided a west coast company in the development stages of electric rocket propulsion with a safe, affordable place to test its technology. The company has since relocated to Boston where all of its R&D is now conveniently under one roof.

Nibble Kitchen – Somerville

After completing the Nibble Entrepreneurship Program at Nibble Kitchen in Somerville, two entrepreneurs, originally from Caracas, Venezuela, will be opening their own restaurant within Aeronaut Brewing Co. in Somerville. The duo also obtained a ServeSafe certification and was able to hone and share their cooking, prompting this new business venture.

Technocopia – Worcester

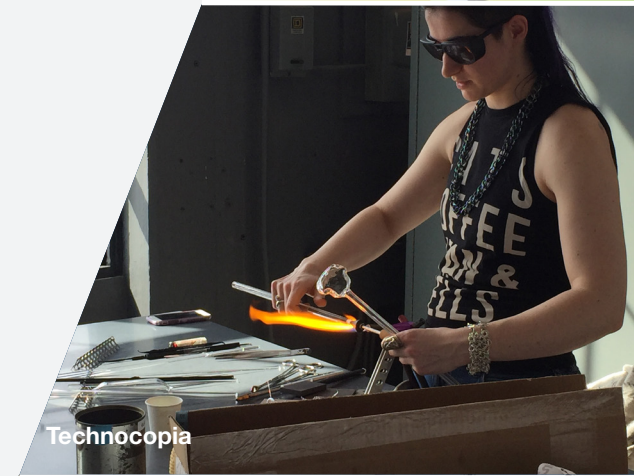
Alyssa took her first woodshop class at Technocopia in fall 2018. She increased her knowledge by volunteering and interning at the makerspace. Under Technocopia’s woodshop steward and instructor, she worked diligently on projects and was eventually awarded a community membership.

WorcLab (formerly the Worcester CleanTech Incubator) – Worcester

WooRides has brought the city of Worcester its first-ever cycle rickshaw service. The cooperatively owned company built its product prototype at WorcLab using a range of equipment and lab space for testing.



Greentown Labs



Technocopia



WorcLab

Approved Projects Fiscal Year 2019

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GIVE. GET. GROW.

Valley Venture Mentors



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