

# THE WORKSHOP

## An Exciting Use for a Flexible Space

### Teaching Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Library's Workshop

*The Concord Free Public Library Corporation acquired the adjacent Heywood-Benjamin House and property at 151 Main Street and is in the quiet phase of a campaign to fund a substantial addition that will connect the Library House to the Main Library. The project will allow us to meet growing demand by creating a new and expanded Children's Center, Teen Zone, Program and Meeting space as well as enhancing our Special Collections and creating the Workshop: flexible DIY space where people can create, invent, learn, and collaborate. Among many potential uses, the Workshop could prepare students and adults to compete in the fast-changing world of business.*

### The Workshop will be a great place to teach innovation and entrepreneurship

Concord's history is one of revolution. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, we inspired the other twelve colonies to pursue independence. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we gave birth to a literary and philosophical revolution that continues to inspire readers and thinkers the world over. With the arrival of the information age in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Concordians once again played a significant role in conceiving, funding, and building the companies and industries that are transforming our world: information technology, life sciences, financial services, and internet services to name a few.

Opportunity abounds. The rate of change – and disruption – is accelerating and those who are able to adapt and thrive have the potential to transform the world for the better. And who better to teach them than the accomplished people of Concord?

### The Workshop will connect proven talent with unlimited potential

The Workshop will offer an array of programming that encourages and prepares our community to compete and thrive in this time of unprecedented opportunity. We will do so by connecting the knowledge, wisdom, and guidance of our successful entrepreneurs with anyone who wants to learn to take risks or create something new. We imagine a program built on the talent embedded in our community:

- *Innovation Series.* A monthly speakers program in which Concord innovators share their experience and insights with participants.
- *Classes.* Financial accounting, business analytics, design, marketing, coding, systems thinking, leadership... There is a long list of relevant courses to be developed.
- *Business Plan Competition.* An annual competition with cash prizes that allows high school students to develop and present new business ideas.



- *Field Trips.* Seeing is believing and site visits are a powerful tool for learning and expanding horizons.
- *Internships.* Creating opportunities for our youth to get hands on experience in the enterprises created by Concord entrepreneurs.
- *Mentorship.* Providing guidance to budding entrepreneurs of all ages that are seeking to drive positive change in the world. Real world experience is a great teacher.
- *Program Support.* A dedicated program director will be available to ensure quality, follow through, and vibrancy in the program.

Simply put, we want to create a hub for innovation in the heart of Concord. Participation will be free to all and programs will be based out of the new Workshop. The Workshop will provide free programming and resources in a flexible, dynamic space where of all ages can learn to be innovative thought leaders right here in the center of Concord.

This is just the beginning; there is no telling where things will go once we engage the energy and creativity of our community.

### **We invite you to help make the Workshop a reality**

Concord is blessed with an abundance of visionaries who have launched successful and significant enterprises. You are one of them. Our hope is that a few of us can unite to take the lead in creating this new opportunity, contributing both time and treasure to:

- Play an active role on the Workshop's Advisory Council.
- Get involved as a teacher, speaker, or mentor. Host a visit to your company. Advise on a business plan. Dream up an idea that will get others excited.
- Help us build partnerships with local companies and educational institutions whose participation will strengthen our programs. Harvard and MIT are in the works.
- Become a co-founder of our innovation program. We are seeking up to six families to fund the initial build out and programming of the Workshop.

The generous support of our Co-Founders will be prominently recognized on a plaque in the Workshop.

### **Help make the Library the place where Concord connects, learns, and innovates**

For more information about CFPL's Connecting Our Community Campaign, contact Marcy Bouley Eckel at [MEckel@CFPLCorp.org](mailto:MEckel@CFPLCorp.org).

