



Collaborative Workspace Program

Annual Report

Opportunities for Collaboration

The Collaborative Workspace Program is a competitive grant program that took root after the release of a report commissioned by MassDevelopment in 2013, titled “Innovation in Manufacturing: Makerspaces.” This report defined makerspaces as “evolving hotbeds of innovation” where both artisans and engineers can customize workshops according to their skills, products, and scale.

Fast forward to 2024 and you can find co-working locations across Massachusetts where professionals and others are learning from each other, developing new business opportunities, and benefiting from shared resources.

Applications are accepted through the Massachusetts Community One Stop for Growth – a single application portal and collaborative review process for all community development grant programs. The Collaborative Workspace Program recently completed its eighth round and is part of a statewide strategy to foster community-based innovation and creativity. By supporting the essential elements of this infrastructure, we can accelerate the pace of new business formation, job creation, and entrepreneurial activity in our cities and towns.

Massachusetts’ economy thrives when local entrepreneurs, creators, and small business owners have the space and resources they need to be successful. The Collaborative Workspace Program represents an important tool that can be used to embrace a community’s collective talents to help drive growth and success.

MassDevelopment Board of Directors *(as of June 30, 2024)*

Maura Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Yvonne Hao, Chair
Secretary, Executive Office of Economic Development

Brian Kavoojian, Vice Chair
Managing Partner, National Development

Jessica Andors
Executive Director, Lawrence CommunityWorks

Gary Campbell
Chief Executive Officer, Gilbert Campbell Real Estate

Joan C. Corey
Business Agent, Teamsters Local Union No.25

Juan Carlos Morales
Founder and Managing Director, Surfside Capital Advisors

Bran Shim
Senior Advisor, Executive Office for Administration & Finance

Kristina Spillane
Managing Director, Strategic Accounts, Fidelity National Information Services

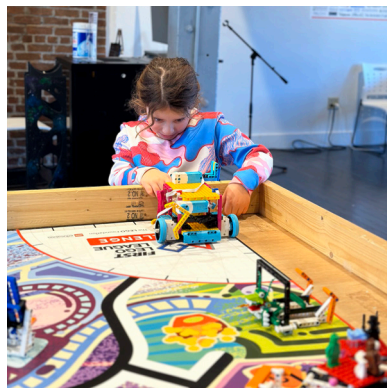
Julieann Thurlow
President and Chief Executive Officer, Reading Cooperative Bank

PITTSFIELD

BIC Works @MoCA

Officially opened in 2020, the Berkshire Innovation Center (BIC) is a regional technology hub in Pittsfield for businesses and young professionals. With a mission to spark innovation and the sustainable growth of technology-focused companies, BIC provides regional manufacturers and STEM businesses with advanced R&D equipment, state-of-the-art laboratory and training facilities; offers collaboration opportunities with BIC's renowned research partners; as well as connects local students through internship and apprenticeship programs.

With a \$50,000 grant from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program, the organization fit out the new BIC Works @MoCA within the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in North Adams in partnership with BIC members, academic institutions, and economic development partners. The partnership helped vitalize the Mass MoCA community, giving the BIC a physical presence and ease-of-access to serve students and organizations in northern Berkshire County.



NEW BEDFORD

Capitol Theater Shared Use Kitchen

Community Economic Development Center is using a \$100,000 Collaborative Workspace Program grant to support the build-out of the former Capitol Theater in New Bedford's North End neighborhood. Funds will be specifically used to fit out the shared-use kitchen, adjacent to a market incubator and training space, that can be leased on an hourly basis to start-up food-based businesses.

BOSTON

Innovation Studio

Innovation Studio operates community-based spaces, where they run a continuum of programs and events to support entrepreneurs and businesses. Committed to building inclusive, accessible, and innovative communities, Innovation Studio holds a mission to make innovation, entrepreneurship, and business ownership attainable through an empowering network of community spaces and individualized pathways.

With the \$50,000 grant from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program, the organization was able to renovate and refit its Innovation Center and Entrepreneurial Incubator into a state-of-the-art creative, tech-forward meeting, conference, and corporate event facility. The incubator now serves as a launchpad for small business growth in the meeting and conference industry.

CAMBRIDGE

The Foundry

The Foundry Consortium is a community-driven Cambridge nonprofit fostering learning, creativity, and collaboration. Operating out of The Foundry, the Consortium unites creatives in underrepresented communities by building an accessible and dynamic environment where everyone can connect and access opportunities in the arts, entrepreneurship, technology, and education.

Foundry Consortium used a \$95,000 Collaborative Workspace Program grant to enhance its workspace by implementing soundproofing, improving the safety and accessibility of its performance space, introducing more intuitive on-site technology, and streamlining the reservation process to lower barriers to access. This project addressed the expressed needs of the artists and organizations that access the site to further facilitate increased usage, lower barriers to entry, improve booking processes, and enable users to monetize their work.



METHUEN

Jacqueline Business Services

Jacqueline Business Services (JBS Corp) is a family-owned and operated financial services firm with offices in Lawrence and Methuen, specializing in business taxes, bookkeeping, and payroll services. By providing businesses with customized solutions, JBS Corp emphasizes strong communication and reliable delivery in their services, and helps businesses grow and succeed.

With the support from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program, the company continued the build-out of a collaborative workspace in Methuen for small business owners who want to start or grow a business. The \$50,000 grant was used to fit out the space for educational and coaching programs, as well as financial consulting, assistance with local, state, and federal regulation, human resources support, and operational guidance.

TAUNTON

KJ Management

Doing business since 1984, KJ Management is a family-owned property management business that owns and manages multi family rental housing throughout the Twin Cities.

The business used a \$12,500 grant from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program to study the market and feasibility of opening and operating a coworking space in Taunton.

LYNN

Lynn Music Foundation

The Lynn Music Foundation is an inspiring, inclusive space that provides Lynn artists with resources and a community to connect and grow. The Foundation manages the Lynn Arts building located downtown, which houses The Neal Rantoul Vault Theatre, a versatile black box theater accommodating up to 150 people, catering to artists and organizations seeking community engagement.



The Lynn Music Foundation, in collaboration with Lynn Museum, used a \$81,000 grant from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program to improve and activate the first- and second-floor spaces of the Lynn Arts building to provide a center for development and collaboration opportunities for local artists in music, media, and visual arts.



BOSTON Maverick Landing Community Services

Maverick Landing Community Services is a multi-service organization in the heart of the Maverick Landing housing development in East Boston. With a mission to “build an equitable community by uplifting families, promoting community health, and nurturing resident and youth leadership and creativity,” the organization runs a variety of programs, offering resources and services to residents.

With the help of a \$51,000 Collaborative Workspace Program grant from MassDevelopment, the organization created a versatile, entrepreneurial space in a 1,000-square-foot and adjacent 700-square-foot location that was underutilized during working hours. By repurposing this space, the organization was able to provide individuals with an inclusive community venue, empowering individuals to work, learn, and create together.



NANTUCKET

Nantucket Food Group

The Hive Nantucket is using a \$100,000 Collaborative Workspace Program grant to advance the conversion of an existing building into a shared food production and innovation facility, helping local food businesses achieve commercial viability, regional competitiveness, and national visibility. Funds are being used to buy technology and equipment needed to launch the Nantucket Food Group operations and provide programming once renovations are complete.



NORTHAMPTON

The Sphere Northampton

Located at 82 Maple Street in Florence, (commonly known as Parsons Block: 76-96 Maple Street), The Sphere Northampton is dedicated to building an inclusive community that uplifts and inspires women and nonbinary entrepreneurs. The organization hosts a variety of events to serve as a resource and a safe space for minority entrepreneurs to connect, seek advice, and network in a supportive community.

With a \$100,000 grant from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program, The Sphere Northampton built out a vacant and gutted storefront to increase space and visibility of The Sphere Innovation Lab, which is a woman- and nonbinary-oriented entrepreneur coworking space based on inclusivity and collaboration.

REVERE

Women Encouraging Empowerment

Women Encouraging Empowerment educates, advocates, protects, and advances the rights of low-income immigrant and refugee women and their families through programming, leadership development, and service delivery.

The organization upgraded technology and made essential renovations to its facility in Revere's Shirley Avenue neighborhood with a \$20,000 grant from MassDevelopment's Collaborative Workspace Program. The facility is a space for community gathering, resource sharing, and programming, and the improvements enabled flexibility for many uses.



Fiscal Year 2024 Awarded Projects

Fit-Out Grant

BIC Works @MoCA
North Adams - \$50,000

Nantucket Food Group
Nantucket - \$100,000

Innovation Studio
Boston - \$50,000

Jacqueline Business Services
Methuen - \$50,000

Lynn Music Foundation
Lynn - \$81,000

Maverick Landing
Community Services
Boston - \$51,000

The Foundry
Cambridge - \$95,000

The Sphere Northampton
Northampton - \$100,000

Women Encouraging
Empowerment
Revere - \$20,000

Seed Grant

Capitol Theater Shared Use Kitchen
New Bedford - \$100,000

KJ Management
Taunton - \$12,500



MassDevelopment.com | 617-330-2000