

Idea Name: Social Innovation Shared Space

Organization: Pillar Nonprofit Network

Description: Pillar Nonprofit Network in partnership with Emerging Leaders recognizes an overwhelming community interest in creating a shared space to spark social innovation among nonprofits, social enterprises, social purpose businesses and entrepreneurs. A shared space and incubator will create a place for co-location, co-working, incubating new ideas and fostering social innovation and community change. The learning, networking and animation opportunities inherent in a shared space environment create the conditions for intentional social innovation and cross-sector collaboration. A commitment to diversity of people, ideas, and partners is the cornerstone of shared spaces and will guide this process. What is the status of this idea – is anything already happening?

Considerable community dialogue about a shared space model has been underway for several years. The learning to date from these discussions has been of critical importance in understanding the need for a feasibility and business plan to assess community need and viability and to create a framework for action. Any game-changing idea worth pursuing must embrace the possibility of failure as a part of its scope. Therefore, it is critical to document the failure and learning from past attempts to create shared space, integrating this into the proposed feasibility and business planning process. A proposal has been submitted to the London Community Foundation and funding has been secured from Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration and United Way of London & Middlesex for the feasibility and business plan to move forward.

Status: \$130,750 for feasibility and business plan; Implementation cost to TBD Funding Requested from City (\$) if any: TBD Will this idea move forward without City of London funding? The feasibility and business plan will move forward without funding from the City of London.

Engagement by staff and City Council will be important at this stage. If the social innovation shared space initiative is considered viable during the feasibility and business plan a more formal request will be submitted to the City of London.

Partners: Emerging Leaders - Partner to engage 22- to 44-year-old demographic as stakeholders in community consultation process. Understanding of entrepreneurship and access to many stakeholders considering shared space initiatives.

Centre for Social Innovation (Toronto) - Provide consultation and guidance as experts in creating a social innovation shared space. Explore potential partnership in London.

Webisodes - Create 9 short documentary videos to capture stakeholder engagement during feasibility and business plan. Create one documentary video to capture full process and results of feasibility and business plan.

Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration - funder United Way London & Middlesex - stakeholder engagement and \$5000 in funding Other - cross sector participation from nonprofits, social enterprise, social entrepreneurs and social purpose business

Cost: Unknown - **Funding Requested from City (\$) if any:** unknown - **Will this idea move forward without City of London funding?** Unknown

Will your idea create jobs? - Will your idea create jobs? Yes

How many jobs will be created? 21-50

Full or Part-time: Full-time (32hrs/wk+)

Permanent or Temporary: Permanent

Job Level: Entry-level

Job Salary: Salary of \$20,000 - \$40,000 (\$12-\$20/hour)

What sector(s) will this create job(s) in? Other

Is there anything else you can tell us about how your idea will

create jobs? A social innovation shared space will spark new enterprises and jobs. There are economic development spin-offs that have been realized at the Centre for Social Innovation in

Toronto as a tested example. **Will this idea leverage investment from others? What kind? How much?** The provincial government and United Way of London & Middlesex have made some initial investments. A request is currently submitted to the London Community Foundation. The financing strategy will be a critical section of the feasibility and business plan.

Will this idea stimulate spin-off benefits? What type? How? When? Where? -

We believe London is facing unprecedented economic, environmental, social and cultural challenges. We also believe new innovations and cross-sector collaboration among nonprofits, social enterprises, social purpose businesses and entrepreneurs are key to turning these challenges into opportunities to enhance our community. This shared space will provide an environment where individuals and organizations from across sectors, as tenants, will come together to deal with issues like (but not limited to) poverty reduction, job creation, environmental stewardship, inclusion of newcomers, and accessibility of the arts. A shared space will generate daily knowledge-sharing opportunities to forge authentic, innovative and cross-sector community partnerships. A shared space will also contribute to economic development by creating a place to inspire, connect and empower people to realize enterprising ideas for sustainable community impact.

Will this idea build new or existing partnerships? How? Social innovation and entrepreneurship are

key areas of focus for both Pillar and Emerging Leaders. As mature collaborators, Pillar and Emerging Leaders will be effective community connectors for the many stakeholders exploring shared space initiatives. Their involvement in past attempts and being seen as the “go-to” places for these ongoing discussions make Pillar and Emerging Leaders the ideal organizations to move this concept forward into a more concrete and documented plan and to test its viability. Recent discussions specific to a social innovation shared space have occurred with Richard Ivey School of Business, Attraction, Biz Inc., Fringe Theatre Festival, LEDC, Old East Village BIA, the City of London, Libro, Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration, London Arts Council, Downtown London, London Heritage Council, TechAlliance, web.is.odes, the Research Park at Western University, United Way of London & Middlesex, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Goodwill Industries, London Public Library, several social entrepreneur and many others.

Will this idea benefit emerging or established industry sectors? How? This idea will benefit social enterprise and social purpose business that will be emerging as well as support existing social enterprise and social purpose business.

Will this idea fuel transformative change in London’s economy?

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Will this idea fuel transformative change in London’s economy? If so, how?

No response provided.

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