



JEFFERSON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Job Description

Creative Entrepreneurship Network

Seeks Network Weaver

(part-time, contract position)

Goal: The Survival of Makers & Job Creation through Pandemic Recovery

As Jefferson County starts to recover from the pandemic, we seek to strengthen our local economy in ways that are less dependent on tourism. We seek to not only help these businesses survive but to grow and create jobs that provide living wages. We seek to articulate their growth and succession needs so that eventually we can start to train our local youth for those opportunities. We propose a strategy that matches the existing culture and scale in Jefferson County: no box stores, creative, entrepreneurial.

Strategy: Creative Entrepreneurship Network

Jefferson Community Foundation is launching the research and development phase of a Creative Entrepreneurship Network. Creative Entrepreneurs are local business owners who make craft-driven goods and who, for the purposes of this network, not only want to survive but grow and offer new jobs. Potential makers might include: woodworkers, metal forgers, makers of food products, brewers, leather workers, custom metal workers, sailmakers, instrument makers, etc.

The strategy is to build a network of support around these local makers in ways that they themselves define as meaningful and needed. This support network may ultimately include people and organizations that can offer: mutual support and information sharing; professional development; product development guidance; marketing strategy; access to new supply chains; diversified financing opportunities; work spaces; advocacy for supportive policies (zoning & permitting); and more.

As a start, though, we need to listen to the makers themselves. Once we know what they see to be the greatest obstacles and opportunities they face, we can start to map existing assets in our community and engage specific people in the network that can help address some of those needs. This is the role of the Network Weaver.

ISO: Creative Entrepreneurship Network (CEN) Weaver

The CE Network Weaver might: identify and connect local makers; gather them to identify shared aspirations and needs; map community assets that can be engaged to meet those needs; identify where gaps exist; engage new people and organizations in the support network and facilitate action planning; identify moments of opportunity and facilitate/support action; tell the stories and evolve a network identity; and shepherd the network through growth phases.

We say “might” because first we need to ensure (a) the makers themselves want such a network; and (b) that there is a community of makers who want go beyond survival to ultimately create new jobs. This growth is at the center of creating an economy that is less dependent on tourism. If the desire on the part of local makers is not there on these two issues, then we will not proceed with building a network. So we see this to be the first in a potential series of contracts as we follow the lead of the makers. Ultimately, this network might become an independent entity or go to another economic development organization – such as the EDC or Chamber – to be housed.

Contract Details

Period of Initial Contract:	Now through July 30, 2021
Time Commitment:	20 hours a week
Compensation:	\$30 - \$40 per hour dependent upon experience

This position is a contract position - not an employee - of JCF. The Network Weaver will report to and work at the direction of Siobhan Cauty, CEO of Jefferson Community Foundation.

Deliverables:

- Co-create with key partners the criteria for core group of creative entrepreneurs.
- Create a list of local creative entrepreneurs who fit criteria.
- Facilitate 1 – 3 initial gatherings to assess commonly experienced obstacles and opportunities.
- Create criteria for a “go/no go” decision on the desire and opportunity of the Creative Entrepreneurship Network and facilitate a decision with JCF team. If “go”, then....
- Create a list of “stage one” organizations and people who can help address the obstacles and opportunities by participating in the network.
- Facilitate a LEAN workshop with all stage one network participants to create action plans.
- Work with JCF CEO to develop an outline for phase two contract for ongoing work.

Qualifications

We seek candidates who have experience in community engagement and facilitation, live in Jefferson County, and are entrepreneurial themselves. We encourage a diverse range of applicants and seek candidates who demonstrate the following values of JCF:

- **Trustworthy:** We are accountable for providing exceptional, accurate and responsive service and for doing work that changes lives.
- **Collaborative:** We make choices in the context of our community and work cooperatively with others to achieve shared goals.
- **Diverse:** We work for racial equity and actively engage and connect people across traditional divides.
- **Creative:** We apply mastery in our field to create effective solutions for challenges that don’t have obvious answers.
- **Kind:** We bring our whole selves to our work and create a daily experience that is meaningful.
- **Generous:** We model the generosity we want to see in the world.

To Apply

Email resume and cover letter describing why you are the ideal candidate to Siobhan@JCFgives.org. Put the following in the subject line: “CEN Application”. Resumes will be reviewed as received until the contractor is hired.