

Center for Community-Based Enterprise

P.O. Box 15652, Detroit, MI 48215
(313) 331-7821 www.c2be.org



Mission

The Center for Community-Based Enterprise, Inc. (C2BE) supports and connects entrepreneurs, community and resources to grow “community-based enterprises” (CBEs): companies that are sustainable; locally-rooted; intentionally structured to provide community benefit; and committed to paying living wages.

Vision

Creating a business resource center and co-operative that serves, and is made up of, community-based enterprises, enabling collaboration between and sustained economic growth for member businesses and good local jobs.

Strategies

- Find, support, connect and scale-up local community-based enterprises (CBEs).
- Catalyze collaboration across all strata of the community to create new products and jobs.
- Help non-traditional entrepreneurs create or expand businesses.
- Identify growing market niches using Metro Detroit’s unique skills, technology and untapped intellectual property resources and help local CBEs exploit them.

Resources

Skills and Creative Firepower:

Commitment of over 100 expert advisors from business, labor, government, academia and community organizations, including entrepreneurs, labor leaders, engineers, lenders, artists, inventors, craftspeople and professionals in law, economics, intellectual property licensing, workforce development, product development, youth development, and leadership development.

Intellectual Property:

Access to numerous auto industry-owned and other patents using a variety of technologies

Funding:

In 2008-10 institutional funders included: Innovation Network for Communities; ShoreBank Enterprises; MLG Foundation; Skillman Foundation; and Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Current Programs

Developing Detroit Green Construction, L3C

C2BE is helping a group of Detroit businesses and non-profit organizations collaborate on a proposal to the City of Detroit to more efficiently use federal weatherization and home repair funds to improve Detroit neighborhoods, while providing good jobs for Detroit residents in an L3C company owned by Detroit resident contractors, employees and non-profit investors. C2BE’s current partners in developing Detroit Green Construction, L3C are Pinnacle Construction, L.L. Ladomer & Co., LLC, and Vanguard CDC. We are discussing collaboration with local organizations that provide green jobs” training to city residents, to help their trainees get good, equity-owning jobs in a professionally managed company. An initial purpose of the L3C is to anchor some of that one-time federal stimulus money coming to the City of Detroit in the form of equity owned by Detroit contractors, employees and community organizations. From its inception, the company will seek business opportunities beyond stimulus funds to provide long-term stability.

withDetroit – CBE Business Network

withDetroit is a mutual self-help network of metro Detroit CBEs focused on growing a vibrant, robust, local economy, creating good jobs and broadening local ownership. Network members agree to help each other however they can, starting with a work project in May and workshop in June 2010.

Innovation Brokering - Redeploying Auto Industry People and Intellectual Property

C2BE created its mission driven for-profit sister, **INGENUITY US, LLC, (IUS)** as an “innovation broker” to demonstrate model CBE practices while generating jobs and revenue for C2BE’s long-term sustainability. IUS is investigating several business opportunities. IUS focuses on redeploying southeastern Michigan’s underutilized intellectual property, technology and human resources to manufacture new products for growth markets in the new economy, while developing a more patient, rooted capital structure for collaboration among CBEs.

Recent Programs

Education on Community-Based Enterprises Best Practices

During 2009 C2BE presented a series of 19 events showing Detroiters successful CBE experiences to inspire them to create new CBEs, and foster collaboration among local stakeholders. These events were co-sponsored by took place at a wide variety of businesses, universities, community centers, churches and unions throughout metro Detroit.

Urban Grocery Store Pre-Feasibility Study and Speaker Event

C2BE performed a prefeasibility study for the Detroit Community Grocery Store Coalition to guide their work on bringing stores providing fresh food to inner city neighborhoods. As their effort narrowed down the location, we organized with them a speaker event featuring a best-practice example from Philadelphia, co-sponsored by the Detroit Community Grocery Store Coalition Force, MOSES and UFCW Statewide Community Development. We continue to support this effort.

Next Steps

Information Clearinghouse, Education & Technical Assistance Center

To date, C2BE has been funded to do research and education on CBE concepts and consulting. C2BE currently fields information and technical assistance requests on an ad hoc basis from entrepreneurs, community organizations, and government officials and links them to resources. We are seeking resources to establish an information clearinghouse, education and technical assistance center (similar to the Ohio Employee Ownership Center at Kent State University) with capacity to provide ongoing programs to grow and support CBEs, build a strong CBE network and help major community institutions use their buying power to generate more local businesses.

Community Business Resource Network – Finding, Connecting, Supporting CBEs

C2BE seeks to find and link our region’s existing community-based enterprises (CBEs) into a “Community Business Resource Network,” to generate business by matching CBEs’ resources to unmet needs. ‘withDetroit’ is the starting point. The Network would broker mutually beneficial business relationships to help CBEs scale up. This mutual support strategy has proven effective in the Ohio. The Ohio Employee Owned Network (<http://www.oeockent.org>) has served 93 companies for 20 years, providing joint purchasing, education and resource sharing. A similar strategy has been very successful on a larger scale in Spain and Italy. Community-based enterprises in southeastern Michigan would benefit from a comparable mutual assistance program. By joining the Community Business Resource Network, metro Detroit CBEs would find opportunities to cooperate and provide services to each other; bid for larger contracts together; buy in bulk, etc., thus enabling them to scale up.

Localizing Metro Detroit Anchor Institution Supply Chain

Based on the successful Evergreen Cooperative Group model in Cleveland, C2BE seeks to work with the leaders and purchasing departments of local universities, hospitals, governments, foundations, etc., to identify products/services they use that are not currently provided by locally owned businesses; provide feasibility studies on potential businesses that could be created locally to serve those needs; seek purchasing commitments from the relevant anchor institutions; and structure the businesses that are feasible, and facilitate business structures (such as employee ownership) to ensure continued local presence, and incorporation of green business practices.

Center Partners

The Center has a diverse group of partners and welcomes new organizational partners that share our values, and our commitment to action. Current partners include: **American Ingenuity Alliance; Capital Ownership Group; Ingenuity US, L3C; Innovation Network for Communities; Intellectual Property Commercialization Group; Local Initiative Support Corporation; Michigan AFL-CIO’s Human Resources Development Inc.; Michigan NAACP; ShoreBank Enterprises Detroit; Skillman Foundation; and Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice.**

Membership in and withDetroit

Individuals and organizations are eligible for membership in C2BE. Members get discounts on publications, conferences, and technical assistance. Organizations and businesses may also join *withDetroit*, a CBE business mutual self-help network, as part of their C2BE membership; if they are willing to actively participate in helping fellow member businesses “however they can”.

You can join on-line at www.c2be.org or complete the form below and return it with a check made out to “Center for Community-Based Enterprise, Inc.” to Center for Community-Based Enterprise, PO Box 15652, Detroit, MI 48215. Organization rate ranges include an honor system sliding scale.

Annual Membership Rates				
<i>Individual</i>		<i>Organizations</i>		<i>Sponsor or Partner</i>
Founding Member	\$100	Established business	\$100 - 250	Gold \$2,500 +
Member	\$ 50	New Small Business	\$50 -100	Silver \$1,000
Student & Unemployed	\$15	Non-profit	\$50-75	Bronze \$ 500
Work Exchange Member – 10 hours				

Enclosed is a check for membership in/or contribution to (circle one) the Center for Community - Based Enterprise, Inc.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Check box if organization also chooses to join the “withDetroit” Network

Address _____

_____ *City* _____ *State* _____ *Postal Code*

Email & Phone _____

Email address _____ *Phone 1* _____ *Phone 2* _____

For more information contact

Deborah Groban Olson, C2BE Executive Director

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