Supporting a Community of Innovators

The Alexandria Co-working Network’s collaboration spaces are housed in public libraries across Arizona. The spaces, which are free and open to the public during normal library hours, provide access to co-working space as well as resources that people can use to move their ideas forward, including:

- Experienced mentors from ASU’s mentor network
- “Pracademic” (taught by practitioners) classes from ASU’s Rapid Startup School
- Physical and digital assets from the libraries

Local library staff, who go through specialized training at ASU, act as champions by offering information resources to their community of innovators.

These collaboration spaces are designed to complement other types of co-working spaces rather than compete with them. The Alexandria Co-working Network is designed for those who aren’t necessarily coders or techies by nature, or who don’t live in the tech clusters where co-working spaces often are located.
Providing a Community Asset

Part of the mission of the Alexandria Co-working Network is to be a trusted asset for communities. Libraries have several characteristics that make them a natural home for these collaboration spaces.

- They are geographically dispersed, providing services to communities over a wide geographical area.
- They are networked together both through technology and organizationally through the Arizona public library system.
- They are highly trusted institutions that are embedded in communities—safe places for community members to connect with others, find information and resources and pursue their entrepreneurial ideas.

Each library that joins the Alexandria Co-working Network creates its own space designed to meet the unique needs of the community it serves. In addition, each library can name its space, establishing a distinctive identity within the network.

Driving Economic Development

The long-term objective of the Alexandria Co-working Network is to support the hundreds of entrepreneurs, inventors, problem-solvers and small-business owners across Arizona who need help to advance their ideas but don’t currently have access to the necessary tools. The network provides access to resources that people can use to move their ideas forward, ultimately spurring economic development and creating new products, businesses and jobs across the state.

WHO: The Alexandria Co-working Network is open to entrepreneurs, innovators, inventors, problem-solvers, small-business owners and others who want to advance their ideas.

WHERE: The collaboration spaces are housed in public libraries throughout Arizona and are open to the public during normal library hours.

For more information about the Alexandria Co-working Network, visit entrepreneurship.asu.edu.

“This is the role of the library in a new economic, social and learning landscape. This innovative concept combines the proven success of ASU entrepreneurship programs with the library as a known space for continuing education for all people.”

– Carol Damaso
Director, Scottsdale Public Library