

# FORGE ARKANSAS

## Who We Are

Forge Arkansas is a nonprofit organization dedicated to stimulating innovative and entrepreneurial activity by creating a collaborative ecosystem in Northeast Arkansas.

We will accomplish this by providing spaces, services and resources for self-directed exploration, education and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

## Makerspace (Forge Labs)

- Provide STEAM training to adults and youth;
- Provide access to tools, equipment and training;
- Enable local inventors and entrepreneurs through soft and hard prototyping spaces;
- Create a place where individuals of any age can explore their passions for Making;
- Network with other makerspaces to create collaborative projects, programming and events; and
- Deliver a demonstrative skill to individuals and their prospective employers.

## Business Incubator (Forge Factory)

- Educate and train entrepreneurs start-up skills through technical assistance programs;
- Identify and introduce entrepreneurs to networks that will help them define, develop and validate a replicable and scalable business model;
- Provide a flexible, vibrant and effective work environment for a startup to grow with programs that facilitate expansion and transition outside of the incubator; and
- Introduce startups to industry experts, service providers, investors, angels, VCs, and mentors.

## Local Food Network (Forge Foods)

- Establish and maintain a seed library open to the community;
- Create and support economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses;
- Provide land access to residents as well as knowledge, tools, and resources that empower residents toward increased self-sufficiency;
- Create a democratic food co-op to promote cooperative ownership and leverage community buying power;
- Expanding access to healthy foods among disadvantaged members of the community; and
- Provide access to a commercial kitchen and canning facility.

## Community Enrichment (Forge Ahead)

- Partner with local producers, businesses, government, transportation, education, and other organizations;
- Create economic development opportunities;
- Develop in-house workshops to provide the community a chance to share their knowledge;
- Facilitate and encourage collaboration between The Forge departments, as well as the community; and
- Provide educational opportunities through workshops, classes and certifications.

## Vision

Forge Arkansas desires to provide world class facilities, supported by key services, that bring ideas into reality and forges a city that values diversity, culture, and prosperity.

## Mission

Forge Arkansas will achieve our vision by creating the following facilities, each with their own missions, yet all working toward the vision of Forge Arkansas: