



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Economic Development Division

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Office of Business Resources

Dan Kennelly, Manager
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To: Mayor and Common Council

From: Ruth Rohlich

Date: 12-28-2018

Subject: Cooperative Enterprise Development Program: Updated Scope of Services and Executive Board Creation

The Cooperative Enterprise Development Program has had successes in the completion of its first fiscal year. These include working to establish worker cooperatives in the following fields: bookkeeping, commercial/residential moving, racial equity consulting, home health care, retail and restaurants, yoga studio and childcare. The Madison Cooperative Development Coalition (MCDC) has also collaborated with community organizations including Centro Hispano and the Madison Public Library to hold workshops to educate community members on what a Worker Cooperative is, and how they can start a worker cooperative.

This program has gained national recognition as a city-led effort to create an equitable economy through worker ownership. It is still an experiment and we are all learning how to work together every day.

Looking to the second fiscal year of this program, we are suggesting some changes to the work plan and the MCDC structure to improve the program. We will continue to keep equity at the forefront of the project and continue to move forward in establishing MCDC as an organization that will continue to function after the initial seed funding from the City of Madison is expended.

These are the proposed changes:

1. Appointment of an Executive Board (EB) to oversee all fund disbursement with approval from the Common Council, oversee fundraising and grant writing for MCDC, oversee the creation of processes and data collection to better track outcomes and oversee the partner organizations. In the immediate, the EB will oversee all positions funded through City funds. The Executive Board will include:
 - City of Madison Representative – Ruth Rohlich, Office of Business Resources
 - Representative from the UW Center for Cooperatives – Courtney Berner, Executive Director
 - Cooperative Representative – To be determined
2. Creation of a Board. The Executive Board will create a structure for MCDC and will bring on additional Board members to focus on fundraising, administration, oversight of work by multiple community organizations and the UW Center for Cooperatives around the goals of this project.
3. The Common Council will approve all Community Based Organization (CBOs) grants and all Cooperatives In Development (CIDs) receiving financial assistance from City funds.

We believe these changes will improve the program as we proceed into 2019 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ruth Rohlich
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