Albuquerque’s vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem

inspire
learn
dream
achieve
excel
start
fail
restart
invest
think
create
succeed
The Albuquerque metro area is celebrating an evolution in economic development – one of innovation created and perpetuated by entrepreneurs as its leaders.

Here you will find an environment that encourages and applauds diversity and empowers individuals with ideas at all levels of society, regardless of education, background or interest.

Here you can be a part of a collaborative and inclusive approach to economic development, supported by public-private partnerships, community organizations, investors, government and academia, and driven by you.

This community-based economy, where job seekers become job creators, will not only provide the foundation for long-term prosperity but also serve as a model for other vanguard cities.

The innovation district invites you to participate in the dynamic collision of ideas emerging within a one-mile radius of Central and Broadway.
our scene

PROGRAMS, ENTERTAINMENT AND RESOURCES FOR UNCONVENTIONAL THINKERS

Albuquerque’s entrepreneurial sector is not just a place for business but also a destination for discovery, cradle for diversity of thought and a center of expansion:

• The ecosystem has six business accelerators, each with a unique focus - women-owned, creative, high-growth, early stage, high-tech and manufacturing.

• Albuquerque is designated among the country’s elite “Rise of the Rest” cities and has prominence at the internationally acclaimed South by Southwest Music, Film and Interactive Festival.

• Our entrepreneurs and residents will soon have access to a first-of-its kind electric vehicle rapid transit system and citywide bike paths.

• Our city has for the past four years been among the Top 10 most digital cities in America and is recognized as a leader in building the broadband and digital infrastructure needed for the future.

• Residents are now thinking in new ways, feeling included and have access to Entrepreneurial Mindset training.

• Downtown is adding amenities, such as a grocery, pharmacy, entertainment hub and diverse residential offerings, at an unprecedented pace.

All of this, combined with offices, street art, and local microbreweries and coffee shops, create a walkable urban setting that embraces quirkiness and ingenuity.
Innovate ABQ is the heart of Innovation Central. It is being developed as a premier Downtown innovation site for researchers, inventors and entrepreneurs. This entrepreneurial hub will sit on seven acres and be anchored by a core research and business incubation site. Innovate ABQ is a collaboration among UNM, CNM, STC.UNM, the City of Albuquerque, the County of Bernalillo, Nusenda Credit Union, the business community, and other public and private partners. A portion of the project is scheduled to open in Fall 2017.

Where: Central and Broadway
CONNECT // innovateabq.com

Epicenter

The city’s community center for entrepreneurs is used for events and programs that support the small businesses community. The Epicenter also augments existing incubators and collaborative work environments.

Where: 119 Gold Ave. SW
CONNECT // abqic.com

Events For Networking, Creative Thinking – And Good Times

1 Million Cups

Entrepreneurs gather weekly to hear two six-minute presentations about local businesses and feedback from an audience of mentors, advisors and other innovators. One of over 100 cities in the country with this program from the Kauffman Foundation, Albuquerque’s 1MC event is among the largest in the nation.

When: 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays
Where: FatPipe ABQ, 200 Broadway NE
Cost: FREE
CONNECT // 1mcabq.com

CreativeMornings

Albuquerque is among more than 100 international host cities of this breakfast lecture series, featuring a 20-minute presentation by a single speaker on a selected creative theme. Occurs bimonthly.

CONNECT // creativemornings.com/cities/abq

Fail Night/Entrepreneurial Happy Hour

Entrepreneurs gather quarterly to share stories of failure, redemption and lessons learned.

When: First Thursday of February, June, September, December 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Where: Local breweries
Cost: FREE
CONNECT // facebook.com/ABQentrepreneurs

Impact & Coffee

A mixer for the nonprofit sector, this event brings together leaders, volunteers, board members and funders to have coffee and hear about new social profit ventures in a six-minute presentation.

When: First three Tuesdays of each month, 9-10 a.m.
Where: Epicenter, 119 Gold Ave. SW
Cost: FREE
CONNECT // Check abqic.com calendar for updates

It’s Never Too Late to Innovate

This breakfast event is designed for seniors and retirees to learn about the mentors, programming and resources available in Albuquerque to start a business.

When: Monthly, last Monday, 8:30-10 a.m.
Where: FatPipe ABQ, 200 Broadway Blvd. NE
Cost: FREE
CONNECT // fatpipeabq.com/events

TechCoABQ

This locally organized effort from the TechCo news and event platform offers quarterly events ranging from Fireside Chats and Demo Nights to Pitch Competitions as well as news about local startups and the Albuquerque ecosystem.

CONNECT // tech.co/city/albuquerque

TAZA

Taza es el único evento a nivel nacional basado en el programa “1 Million Cups” dedicado en exclusiva a los emprendedores que hablen lenguaje español.

Cuando: 9-10 a.m. jueves
Donde: South Valley Economic Development Center, 318 Isleta Blvd.
CONEXTA // sven@svedc.org

Emprendedores

Emprendedores es un campamento de entrenamiento de negocios (5 semanas) para pequeñas empresas hispanas. Este programa incluye información acerca de cómo hacer crecer un negocio, enfocándose en los temas más importantes tal y como: ¿Cuáles son las opciones para financiamiento? o ¿Cómo se maneja el flujo de caja? Durante todo el proceso los empresarios hispanohablantes aprenden o mejoran su habilidad de hablar inglés.

Emprendedores fue creado para orientar a empresarios inmigrantes a expandir su potencial, e integrar su trabajo a la comunidad general.

Cuando: Hay varias opciones durante todo el año
Where: Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce - Barelas Economic Opportunity Center, 1309 4th St. SW
CONEXTA // www.ahcnm.org
Incubators & Co-Working Spaces

BioScience Center

The center, which provides office and lab space, funding leads, networking opportunities, mentorship and education, is the only incubator in New Mexico focused on nurturing bioscience and life-science startups.

Where: 5901 Indian School Road NE

CONNECT // thebiosciencecenter.com

FatPipeABQ

FatPipe ABQ helps entrepreneurs to build their businesses by providing the space for collaboration and the initial resources needed for success. Home to 1 Million Cups.

Where: 200 Broadway NE

CONNECT // fatpipeabq.com

Free Range

Located in a historic 1930s building in the university area, this co-working space is designed to be easily accessible to pedestrians, students, rapid transit riders and residents.

Where: 1700 Central Ave.

CONNECT // freerangespaces.com

Ideas & Coffee

This co-working space, located just outside of Downtown, mainly attracts technical people and those who just pop in to get some work done.

Where: 5021 Indian School NE, Suite 500

CONNECT // ideasandcoffee.com

Keshet Ideas and Innovation Center

Designed with arts entrepreneurs in mind, Keshet provides business development assistance, counseling and networking opportunities, as well as access to office, rehearsal and performance space. Home of Mentorship Mondays.

Where: 4121 Cutler Ave.

CONNECT // keshetdance.org/keshet-ideas-and-innovationcenter-kiic

Native Entrepreneur in Residence Program

The NEIR program at New Mexico Community Capital provides an environment that maximizes the probability of business success by providing resources for Native-owned startups and existing companies.

CONNECT // nmccnp.org/wordpress/native-entrepreneur-in-residence

Simms Space

Located atop one of Downtown’s high-rises, Simms bills itself as having the ambience and amenities of a big city, with everything from dog-friendly space to discounts offered at a gym in the building.

Where: 400 Gold Ave., Suite 700

CONNECT // ABQcoworking.com

SINC

New Mexico’s first incubator for nonprofits, designed to support innovative and disruptive new ideas in the nonprofit sector.

Where: Epicenter, 119 Gold Ave. SW

CONNECT // sincnm.org

South Valley Economic Development Center

A community-based, grassroots resource for entrepreneurs in the South Valley and beyond, this incubator supports Spanish- and English-speaking entrepreneurs. The Mixing Bowl kitchen at SVEDC also provides space and startup support to food manufacturing, catering and food truck companies.

Where: 318 Isleta Blvd. SW

CONNECT // SVEDC.org

WESST

WESST provides critical business training, consulting, incubation and capital to start-ups and existing businesses. Its Downtown headquarters includes a best practice business incubation program, a state-of-the-art digital media studio and the Veterans Suite co-working space.

Where: 609 Broadway Blvd. NE

CONNECT // wesst.org

ABQid

The ABQid business accelerator is an intensive three-month mentoring and customer validation process designed for high-growth companies.

Where: 302 Central Ave. SE

CONNECT // abqid.com

Creative Startups

This nonprofit accelerator for the creative economy is designed for entrepreneurs who blur the lines between technology and the creative industries, including the arts, design, fashion, music, food and architecture. There is also a pre-accelerator for early stage creative entrepreneurs.

CONNECT // creative-startups.org
IGNITE

IGNITE’s 12-week program provides entrepreneurs with the business skills, training and support needed to move their early-stage companies forward, faster. Hosted by Central New Mexico Community College’s STEMulus Center.

Where: First Plaza Galeria, 20 1st Plaza Center NW
CONNECT // stemuluscenter.org/ignite-community-accelerator

HauteCELERATOR

This accelerator for women-based companies focuses on helping women build viable, long-term companies that not only sustain the founder, her family and employees but that also have the potential to become drivers of economic growth. Hosted by Hautepreneurs.

CONNECT // hautepreneurs.com/welcome/hauteCELERATOR

Start-up Factory

Start-up Factory is focused on technology commercialization out of New Mexico’s research institutions. The accelerator program works with technologists looking to commercialize a product, invention or service, with the help of early investment. Hosted by New Mexico Angels.

CONNECT // nmangels.com/nmstartupfactory

TEAM Accelerator

An engineering, development and manufacturing project funded by the City of Albuquerque to support local high tech entrepreneurs anywhere on the continuum from minimal viable product through manufacturable product launch.

CONNECT // team-technologies.com/noauth/Accelerator.aspx

ABQid Office Hours

with an SBIR expert

The Small Business Innovation Research program exists to encourage businesses to undergo federal R&D that has commercialization potential. Businesses that would like to seek funding can get help here.

When: 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
Where: 302 Central Ave SE
CONNECT // abqid.com

Entrepreneurial Office Hours

Entrepreneurial Office Hours is an after-hours opportunity for entrepreneurs to meet with navigators and coaches who assess their needs, make connections and help them determine and take the next steps. Sponsored by the City’s Economic Development Department.

When: Drop in anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. Wednesdays
Where: Epicenter, 119 Gold Ave. SW
CONNECT // bit.ly/1mcabq_meet

Mentorship Monday + Mixer

Learn from multiple mentors covering a variety of topics in “speed-dating style” during the first hour, followed by 60 minutes of networking to meet other arts entrepreneurs and KIIC members.

When: 4:30-6:30 p.m., last Monday of each month
Where: Keshet Ideas and Innovation Center, 4121 Cutler Ave NE
CONNECT // keshetarts.org/kiic

New Mexico Angels Office Hours

Members of the New Mexico Angels answer questions about angel investment and how to find funding.

When: Monthly, first Monday, drop in between 3-5 p.m.
Where: WESST, 609 Broadway Blvd. NE
Cost: FREE

SCORE

SCORE is a non-profit volunteer resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration, providing lifetime free mentoring for small businesses, peer-learning Business Owners Councils and educational courses for start-ups as well as established small businesses.

Where: Epicenter, 119 Gold Ave. SW
CONNECT // albuquerque.score.org

Small Business Resource Collaborative (SBRC)

The SBRC assembles action teams to address targeted needs of entrepreneurs in the neighborhoods where they work. Developed to assist business along the Central Avenue corridor during a period of construction, the success of the SBRC will be applied to other regional projects.

CONNECT // sbrcabq.com

Places That Educate

CNM STEMulus Center

The center provides accelerated educational opportunities and entrepreneurial support that benefits the region’s economy. This includes a nine-week Deep Dive Coding Bootcamp and an Entrepreneurial Mindset Program. Operated by Central New Mexico Community College.

Where: First Plaza Galeria, 20 1st Plaza Center NW
CONNECT // stemuluscenter.org

Girl Develop It ABQ

To encourage more women to participate in programming and other tech fields, this local chapter provides opportunities for women (and men) interested in learning web and software development in non-judgmental environments.

CONNECT // girldevelopit.com/chapters/albuquerque
innovationAcademy

This UNM program focuses on entrepreneurial education and development, with 80+ courses teaching soft skills and offering experiential learning tailored to turning an idea into a business. Now on the UNM campus, it will be located in the Lobo Rainforest Building under construction at Innovate ABQ.

CONNECT // innovationacademy.unm.edu/

Sandia National Laboratories’ Entrepreneurial Exploration Program

Created to invigorate and inspire entrepreneurship at the Labs, it is aimed at Sandia principal investigators interested in learning about opportunities and resources available to entrepreneurs. EEx is a program of the Center for Collaboration & Commercialization (C3).

CONNECT // sstp.org/c3

TREP Centers

Named ‘Trep’ as an abbreviation for entrepreneur, these dedicated library spaces help anyone with an idea access the information and resources they need to start a business.

Where: Main Branch Downtown, 501 Copper NW
Patrick J. Baca library, 8081 Central NW

CONNECT // abqlibrary.org/trep

TrepConnect App

This app makes it simple for entrepreneurs and immigrant entrepreneurs to use their native language and independently find support and resources based on their location and needs. Android coming soon.

CONNECT // itunes.apple.com/us/app/trepconnect/id1175108181?mt=8

Global Entrepreneurship Week

Albuquerque is a host city for the world’s largest platform for connection and collaboration. Dozens of activities unite aspiring entrepreneurs and innovators with investors and business and technology professionals to capitalize on the city’s escalation of entrepreneurial innovation.

CONNECT // gewabq.com

Mini Maker Faire

Where creativity and invention intersect, this annual two-day, family-friendly adventure celebrates the Maker Movement.

CONNECT // albuquerque-minimakerfaire.com

National Spotlight

Albuquerque Living Cities Integration Initiative

The ABQ Living Cities Integration Initiative is a “grow our own” approach to economic development that involves generating collective impact to accelerate job creation and economic mobility. The goal is to create a climate of robust entrepreneurship and a spirit of willingness inclusive of multiple partners, including Mayor Richard Berry, the city of Albuquerque Economic Development and over 120 community partners.

CONNECT // livingcities.org

Entrepreneurial Mindset Programs

Recognizing the power of the entrepreneurial mindset, Mayor Richard Berry and Central New Mexico Community College partnered with the Marion Ewing Kauffman Foundation’s Ice House Entrepreneurial Mindset Training Program to bring the curriculum to all City employees as a standard part of employment and to residents of all ages through CNM and Albuquerque Public Schools classrooms. Albuquerque is being viewed as a model by other cities seeking to implement a similar program. The training has been proven to help people think more creatively and more positively, and to see opportunity in challenges.

CONNECT // cnm.edu/depts/workforce-training/workforce-training

Annual Events

Startup Weekends

These sprints of innovation come in three forms in Albuquerque: Women’s Edition, Teen Weekend and Original. But they all involve sharing ideas; meeting cool people; learning from coaches and community leaders; discovering what it takes to start a business; and in the end, forming companies. Check for dates on the calendar of events at abqic.com.
coverage art: Rendering of Innovate ABQ, courtesy Perkins+Will

**frequently asked questions**

**HOW ARE INNOVATION CENTRAL, INNOVATE ABQ AND THE INNOVATION DISTRICT DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER?**

**A //** Innovation Central is the name of the innovation district. Innovate ABQ is a multi-purpose, seven-acre project being developed at Innovation Central’s core.

**WHO CAN BE PART OF INNOVATION CENTRAL?**

**A //** Anybody with an idea.

**WHO MANAGES INNOVATION CENTRAL?**

**A //** The Albuquerque community.

**HOW DOES INNOVATION CENTRAL AFFECT ME?**

**A //** Its initiatives, many of which are outlined in this brochure, make Albuquerque an attractive place to live, work and prosper.

**WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

**A //** Visit abqic.com.