Coming Together to Support Local Business: The Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative

Joe Collier, Business Reference Librarian
Mount Prospect Public Library

• MPPL is a medium-sized public library serving a community of 54,000 people

• Illinois is made up of three library systems:
  • Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)
  • Chicago Public Library System
  • Illinois Heartland Library System
Getting Started

• Ad hoc partnerships already in place
  • Jump Start Your Business
  • Entrepreneurs Café
• Community engagement
  • Grew out of a conversation with the Mayor at a Chamber Business Breakfast
• Create formal partnership
  • Re-brand current ad hoc collaborations
  • Develop new programs focused on shared goals and feedback from the business community

• Logo

[Image of Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative logo]
Community Partnerships

- Ask the question of your potential partner:
  - What do you want to achieve from this partnership?
  - How can we help you achieve it?
- Increase range of info about library
  - Point back to current library services/collection/resources
- Emphasize the collaboration/grounded in community
- Pool resources
- Consistency in programming/avoid duplication
- Increase perception of legitimacy for business community
- Skills and experience complement each other
Mount Prospect Entrepreneurs Initiative (MPEI)

2016
- MPEI page on Village website
- MPEI e-newsletter – over 200
- Facebook page and Twitter feed
- Advisors Roundtable (A2A)
- Small Business Boot Camp
- Spotlight on Success Film Series
- National Small Business Week Half-Day Workshop
- Connection w/ CFPB
- MPEI model included in book
- IEDC Award for Entrepreneurship-Bronze
- MPEI intro/program editorial in Community Guide/Business Directory with distribution of 10,000

2017
- Small Business Resource Review Workshop
- SCORE Mentoring
- Added databases

2018
- Summer Social
- Podcasts
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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