

# HACKERFUND®

Compton Unified School District  
501 S. Santa Fe Avenue  
Compton, CA 90221

November 13, 2018

Dear Board Members,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to propose a plan to operate the first innovation center in the City of Compton. We are excited that your school district is poised to become a regional technology hub due to its prime location and growing S.T.E.A.M. community. Hacker Fund is well-positioned to leverage our recent success within the Los Angeles ecosystem for the development of a high quality center for educational and professional development.

Hacker Fund works with community organizations, libraries, and school districts. We empower community stakeholders at every stage of their life to innovate and create by offering access to new skills, specialized machinery and tools, and space to build projects.

Our work has been featured in publications including Business Rockstars, Microsoft Developer Network, and The Jewish Journal. Hacker Fund has also been endorsed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, CA State Assembly members, and members of Congress. Our “commitments to innovation, learning and development have been of great benefit to our City” (Mayor Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA). We plan to bring this same type of creativity and excellence to Compton.

This outline includes details regarding our team, timeline, space utilization, and budget for the pilot for the **“Compton Innovation Center”**. We seek a letter of intent from the Compton Unified School District that details the space that will be provided to Hacker Fund for the creation of this center. If you have any questions please reach out to me at [brezh@hacker.fund](mailto:brezh@hacker.fund) or (213) 785 - 7382.

On behalf our staff, Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers, we appreciate your thoughtful consideration!

Regards,



Justin Brezhnev  
President & CEO

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Compton innovation Center is to:

- Provide CUSD students with career pathways through S.T.E.A.M. education
- Promote expansion of the CUSD Career Technical Education program
- Create a homebase for entrepreneurship and professional development for Compton stakeholders

## **Meet the Team**

Hacker Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been in operation since 2014. Our mission is to empower technologists to create social change. We provide educational resources, capacity-building services, and run an accelerator for technology nonprofits in Los Angeles. In our most recent cohort, we accelerated 10 nonprofit projects, including the largest organization for civic technology in Los Angeles, the first reproductive justice hackathon in Texas, and a nationwide computer science mentorship program that has served over 15,000 students to date. Our team has 10+ years of collective experience in furnishing and managing nonprofit innovation centers and over 30+ collective years in nonprofit management experience. Our team members have developed innovation centers with the following organizations: LA Makerspace, CTRL Collective, and Rhubarb Studios.

## **Programs**

### *Career Pathway Program*

This educational program will provide various project-based learning opportunities for students of CUSD which will be curated by the Hacker Fund staff. The programs will include:

- Youth activities that align with CTE Pathway Concentrations (7/15 Pathways): *Arts, Media, & Entertainment, Business & Finance, Engineering & Architecture, Information & Communication Technology, Manufacturing & Product Development, Transportation, and Marketing, Sales, & Services*; ie. "Intro to iOS Development", "Intro to Game Development with Unity", "Entrepreneurship 101", etc.
- Hackathons - 24 to 36 hour innovation marathons
- Compton Hack Days - Day-long events that provide students with S.T.E.A.M. workshops
- Career Fairs - Events that bring together employers from the Hacker Fund network in S.T.E.A.M. fields
- Activities using the hardware/software libraries and makerspace

### *Professional Membership*

Individuals who desire to apply their education to creating a prototype will receive various capacity-building services once approved for a professional membership. These services include:

- Community Events
  - Compton Techweek
  - Startup Weekend: Compton
  - Code for America: Compton Brigade
  - Hack Nights
- Mentorship

- Technology Q&A sessions at office hours
- Research support
- Organizational Development
  - Talent acquisition via recruitment services
  - Discounts to various service startups including TechSoup, Slack, HelloSign, etc.
  - 1:1 coaching with technology and business mentors as needed
  - Access to volunteer database of 200+ members
- Software/Hardware Library - Members will be able to use various resources provided by Hacker Fund sponsors
- Coworking Space - Members will have access to work tables, soldering stations, computer labs, and an open area for discussion/meetings.
- Makerspace - Members will have access to state-of-the-art maker equipment for rapid prototyping.

### *Accelerator Program*

Hacker Fund will provide fiscal sponsorship for professional members who are building nonprofit technology projects to help the disadvantaged, educate the broader community, or protect the environment. Projects must be charitable, educational, or scientific. The experience will include:

- Fiscal sponsorship when necessary, which includes 501(c)(3) status in order to collect donations.
- Fundraising tools including corporate sponsorship software, donation platforms, and grants databases.
- Demo Days: Our staff will invite funders who are interested in supporting social impact startups. These individuals will be corporate executives, foundation grant officers, philanthropists, and impact investors.

### **Metrics**

Hacker Fund is a data-driven organization. In order to assess our success/failures, growth, and customer satisfaction, we document our metrics via survey responses and reports. We have several quantifiable metrics that we will measure at various intervals.

These include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ● Number of innovation center members (student, general stakeholders served) | ● Number of people served by organizations in cohort                 |
| ● % of students that graduate through CTE pathway                            | ● Number of prototypes developed in the innovation center            |
| ● Number of community event participants                                     | ● Number of funders attending Demo Day                               |
| ● Number of accelerator applicants   | ● Net-promoter score with innovation center members                  |
| ● \$ amount in funding raised by innovation center members                   | ● % of students that graduate with an interest in S.T.E.A.M. careers |
| ● Jobs created by cohort members   |  |
| ● Volunteer opportunities created by cohort members                          |  |

### **Space**

The venue is the multipurpose room(s) (Rm. 91/92) at Centennial High School currently used for CTE classes. The proposed schedule is below:

*Weekdays (8am - 4pm): Career Pathway Program (CUSD Students Only)*

*Late Afternoons/Nights & Weekends: Professional Membership & Accelerator Program (General Public)*

The space will have modular design by Hacker Fund for multi-purpose use:

- Electronics/soldering stations
- Computers and miscellaneous hard drives for 3D design and development
- Head-mounted displays (Oculus Rift, HTC Vive, Magic Leap, etc.)
- 3D printers
- General coworking

The following technology partners have been identified to assist with furnishing the technology space:

- Oculus
- HTC Vive
- Microsoft
- Unity 3D
- Adobe
- GoPro

### Budget & Timeline

Hacker Fund will procure sponsorship, grants, and equipment donations to fund the development and operation of the Compton Innovation Center provided that CUSD rent the venue to Hacker Fund at no cost. Professional memberships for the general public will be offered via discounted admission fees/subscriptions in order to introduce a pathway to sustainability for the center. Students of CUSD will receive free admission. See the preliminary budget with estimates:

Year 1

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
	150,000	Corporate Sponsorship
	30,000	Grants
	20,000	Individual Donors
	15,000	Admission Fees (General Public)
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,000</b>	
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>
Labor	150,000	Events/Program Staff, Instructors, etc.
Event Supplies	10,000	Compton tech events & hackathons
Educational Content	10,000	Technical workshops, entrepreneurship curriculum, etc.
Makerspace	15,000	3D printers, virtual reality equipment, electronics stations, etc.
Insurance	10,000	General Liability, Equipment Liability, etc.
Administrative Expenses	20,000	Administrative support services including accounting, legal, human resources, etc.
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,000</b>	
<b>Net</b>	<b>0</b>	

We project an estimated total of 9 months to launch this projects, with includes fundraising & hardware acquisition for 6 months, educational content development for 2 months, and operational preparation for 1 month.