



# LEARNING EXPEDITION: ADX

NASAA 2017 Leadership Institute

Portland, Oregon

- Art Design Portland (ADX for short) is a makerspace, learning center, and fabrication shop for hobbyists, professionals and entrepreneurs.
- Launched in 2011 as a D.I.Y. makerspace, the organization has grown into a business incubator and learning center, and has expanded the range of artisanal crafts available for members to pursue.
- Over the past six years, ADX has incubated more than 100 businesses and provided a home away from home for thousands of designers, builders, entrepreneurs, hobbyists and artists. It has become a local hub for both artists and artisans, pioneering a new model for both education and the modern sharing economy.





State arts agency (SAA) leaders went to ADX to discover how the organization has created an environment to foster creative, local businesses and facilitate community members' access to tools and classes for their creative practices. Participants on this learning expedition also heard about how ADX expanded organically over the years—adding new services and leasing additional space as incubated businesses scaled and members needed more opportunities to hone their artisanal skills.

SAA leaders toured the woodworking, custom screen-printing, textile and patterning, and metalworking spaces, learning about the types of crafts and products that ADX members create.



While touring the facility, participants were able to see products being built in the communal space—



from one-of-a-kind globes built with wood scraps by a retired Vietnam War veteran, Charlie, to mass-produced metal products for a burgeoning company.



Leadership Institute participants experienced a mini-maker session in ADX's custom print and design workshop. They let their creative energy flow while screen-printing posters and carving rubber stamps.