

# The Maker Resource Guide St. Louis, Missouri

Makers United Project





## Contents

Business Development & Resources
Co-working & Studio Space5
Community Collectives5
Funding7
Markets and Fairs
Boutiques and Local Shops8
Events & Publications for Creatives9
Transitional Programs for Entrepernuers
Professional Support Services

Making things by hand isn't easy—and doing it alone is even more challenging.

Business owners, aspiring entrepreneurs, and hobbyists can benefit from relevant training, new market opportunities, connections to social services, and an increased sense of community to improve their craft and grow their business.

As part of its Makers United program, Nest compiled this resource directory to spotlight the available opportunities that specifically benefit artisans and makers in the St. Louis region. Through the program, we hope to connect and support makers who face more significant barriers to starting or growing a maker business, reaching potential customers, or accessing business development services. This resource guide is the first step toward building this more inclusive ecosystem of support that will ultimately encourage relationships across St. Louis's creative economy and help redesign an economic roadmap for artisans and maker entrepreneurs in our city. This directory incorporates existing resources that touch on entrepreneurship, professional services, business accelerators, workspaces, and other resources to can help artisans and makers—particularly those in underserved neighborhoods—thrive.

Cover Photo Credits: Angee Turner Studio

#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCES**

#### Apiary @ The Park

Hub for entrepreneurs of arts and culture apiaryatthepark.com/ @apiaryatthepark/

#### **Brick City Makes**

Brick City Makes is a small-batch manufacturing incubator in the Fox Park neighborhood that is completely dedicated to helping manufacturers succeed

## Center for the Acceleration of African-American Business (CAAAR)

Supports the growth and development of businesses owned by minority populations

caaab.org/

#### Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship

Helps entrepreneurs combine their passion with business skills to produce high-performing organizations with world-class entrepreneurship education for all

www.slu.edu/business/centers/center-for-entrepreneurship/index.php

@slu\_ent/

#### Create Space Generator

Creative entrepreneurship incubator dedicated to birthing, growing, and sustaining creative businesses with the potential for national growth

www.createspacestl.com/generator www.facebook.com/pg/CreateSpaceSTL

#### **DK Solutions**

Offers a vast set of resources for entrepreneur, company and non-profit partners including staff trainings, best practices for business development, and a collaborative environment for business and personal growth

dksolutions.org/
@bizperationglobal/

#### Doer House

Committed to changing the negative narrative around those who share in the common challenges of the black experience

www.doerhouse.com/ @DOERHOUSE/

#### **Entrepreneurially Thinking**

Highlights innovation and the entrepreneurial mindset reaching domestic and international audiences

<u>entrepreneuriallythinking.com/about-the-hosts/</u> @ethinkpodcast/

#### Grind + Growth

Helps create the next generation of innovators and changemakers through entrepreneurial learning

www.grindplusgrowth.com/

www.facebook.com/grindplusgrowth/

#### Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis

HCCSTL promotes the economic development of Hispanic firms and improve business opportunities for all in the St. Louis Region  $\,$ 

www.hccstl.com/

@explore/tags/hccstl/

#### Metro Trans Umbrella Group

Offers support, advocacy, educational, and ally groups in the St. Louis metro area

www.stlmetrotrans.org/

@stlmetrotrans/?hl=en

#### Missouri Small Business Development Center

Missouri Small Business Development Center delivers up-todate counseling, training and technical assistance in all aspects of small business management

www.sba.gov/offices/district/mo/st-louis@sbagov/

#### Organizing for Black Struggle

Seeks to address the needs and issues of the Black working-class <a href="https://www.obs-stl.org/">www.obs-stl.org/</a>

@obs\_stl/

#### Purpose First Advisors

Consulting services and guidance that supports businesses by taking holistic approaches that connects vision, strategy tactics that create/impact companies and the communities in which they operate

purposefirstadvisors.com/

www.facebook.com/PurposeFirstAdvisors/

#### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCES (CON'TD)

#### Rung for Women

Provides educational, professional, and economic resources for women

rungforwomen.org/

#### Square One

Hands-on training program designed that provides support to early-stage and first-time business owners

cetstl.com/programs/square-one/
@cic\_stlouis/

#### St Louis Fashion Fund

Supports emerging designers and promote fashion education and outreach in Saint Louis City

www.saintlouisfashionfund.org/ @stlfashionfund/

#### St Louis Makes

A manufacturing focused nonprofit organization that exists to promote best practices in new product innovation, product management and business development

stlouismakes.org/

#### The Makers Program

Provides Black & Latino makers with the resources & guidance to empower themselves through building scalable product-based businesses

themakersmart.com/about/
@themakersprogram/

#### The Morse Group

Provides consulting, coaching and training services for leaders, teams and organizations

morsegrp.com/ @sprintahead/

#### The National Coalition of 100 Black Women

Economic impact & diversity entrepreneurship program www.ncbwstl.org/stl/

#### The St. Louis Mosaic Project

Aims to be a cultural mosaic because this community believes that immigrants invigorate our region. Hopes to transform St. Louis into the fastest growing metropolitan area for immigration by 2025

www.stlmosaicproject.org/ @mosaicproject/?hl=en

#### The Studio at Bowood

Space that provides education and enjoyment, and to foster the creative spirit that so many of our customers possess

www.bowoodfarms.com/studio-at-bowood/ @shopholliday/

#### **Urb Arts**

Offers studio space & exhibits for marginalized artists providing artists with space to prepare for the next step in their creative journey

www.urbarts.org/ @urbarts\_stl/

#### Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Women's Business Center

The Center provides micro-business development for aspiring women entrepreneurs

www.gracehillwbc.org/ @gracehillstl/

#### Venture Cafe

Provides programs, spaces, and events bring people together to inspire each other, collaborate, and launch new projects

venturecafestl.org/ @venturecafestl/

#### WePower STL

Bridging the racial wealth gap by elevating Black and Latinx founders through programs with access to capital, business advice & co-working space

wepowerstl.org/ @wepower\_stl/

#### Women's Business Development Center St Louis

Supports and accelerates business development and growth, targeting women and serving all diverse business owners, in order to strengthen their participation in, and impact on, the economy

www.wbdc.org/jacinta-witherspoon/ @thewbdc/?hl=en

#### CO-WORKING & STUDIO SPACE

#### Centene Center for the Arts

Home to 21 arts organizations, the Arts and Education Council's arts incubator provides tenants resources to grow their impact <a href="keeparthappening.org/">keeparthappening.org/</a>
<a href="www.facebook.com/centenecenter/">www.facebook.com/centenecenter/</a>

#### City Sewing Room

Has material, a variety of sewing machines, large work tables, and people to consult about your questions

www.citysewingroom.com/ @citysewingroom/

#### MADE

MADE is a community-based workshop and prototyping studio that gives you access to tools and machinery to make innovative products"

madestl.com/
@made\_in\_stl/

#### Perennial

A non-profit community workshop and store that provides opportunities to learn how to reuse objects, reduce waste, and live a sustainable and self-sufficient lifestyle using craft.

perennialstl.org/about/
@perennialstl

### COMMUNITY COLLECTIVES

#### #314Together

A social space for Markers to support one another by showcasing their business online

www.thetogethermovement.com/314together@explore/tags/314together/

#### #STLMade

Storytelling movement that highlights who and what is making the St. Louis area more successful, inclusive and unique

thestl.com/ @in\_thestl/

#### All Black Creatives

Aims to connect, celebrate, and accelerate a community of creatives who are shifting the world

www.allblackcreatives.com/@allblackcreatives/

#### RISE Collaborative Workspace

Collaborative workspace specifically for women www.riseworkspace.com/st-louis
@risecollaborativeworkspace/

#### **TechArtista**

City-wide, ecosystem of coworking spaces made up of creatives, business types, and non-profit professionals

www.techartista.org/ @techartista/

#### ThriveCo

Personalized coworking space that provides access to the space, services, funding, community needed to have a thriving business

www.thrive-coworking.com/ @thriveco.stl/

#### T-REx

A coworking space, technology incubator, and entrepreneur resource center

www.downtowntrex.org/ @trex.stlouis/

#### Asian American Chamber of Commerce St. Louis

Serves corporate professionals and business owners from East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian communities aaccstl.org/

@aaccstl/

#### St. Louis Artists' Guild

Fosters creativity throughout the community with extraordinary exhibitions, interactive education, and outreach to diverse audiences

www.stlouisartistsquild.org

#### St. Louis Business Diversity Initiative

Adresses the interests and challenges professionals of color face as they work to advance their careers

www.stlregionalchamber.com/ st-louis-business-diversity-initiative

#### COMMUNITY COLLECTIVES (CONT'D)

#### St. Louis Equity in Entrepreneurship Collective

Focuses on systematic change, storytelling, action planning, data collecting, co-collaboration in the community with an aim to develop a space of transparency and inclusion

www.stlequitycollective.org/ www.facebook.com/stleec

#### St. Louis Public Library Creative Experience

Creative Experience is the Digital Maker Space at St. Louis Public Library.

www.slpl.org/creative-experience/

#### St. Louis Society of Association Executives (SLSAE)

Connects association leadership through ideas, collaboration, and education that makes them, and their associations stronger <a href="https://www.slsae.org/">www.slsae.org/</a>

#### STL Juntos

A collaboration of local groups, who provide the latest and necessary information and resources for the Latino community <a href="https://www.stljuntos.org/@stljuntos/">www.stljuntos.org/@stljuntos/</a>

#### The Collective (The Women's Creative)

A community membership based platform female led brands that provides business development, creative solutions to connect and grow within the St. Louis region

thewomenscreative.com/ @thewomenscreative/

#### The Collective Thread

Supports refugees and immigrants through sewing training and small batch manufacturing; source fabrics, pattern design, and samples here

the collective thread.org/ @the.collective.thread/

#### The International House of St. Louis

Builds a more connected and productive society to benefit immigrants, their families, and the wider community www.iistl.org/

#### The Missouri Association of Manufacturers (MAM)

Dedicated solely to representing the interests of manufacturers in Missouri through hosting events

www.missourimanufacturers.org/ @bemamstrong/

#### The Professional Women's Alliance

Provides a meeting ground for professional women to meaningfully connect and become indispensable resources to each other

stlpwa.org/
@stlpwa/

#### The STL Collective

A collective of female entrepreneurs of color <a href="mailto:the-stl-collective.square.site/">the-stl-collective.square.site/</a>
<a href="mailto:the-stl-collective/">@thestlcollective/</a>

#### The Together Movement

The Together Movement connects the community to local businesses affected by the COVID-19 outbreak

www.thetogethermovement.com/
@explore/tags/thetogethermovement/

#### The Ville Collaborative

Group made up of various stakeholders in the Ville and Greater Ville neighborhoods

www.northsidecommunityhousing.org/partners

#### Wellston Loop Community Development Corp

Engages residents and stakeholders, bringing resources and advocating for a trauma-informed individuals

www.wellstonloopcdc.org/

#### **FUNDING**

#### **Arch Grants**

Back extraordinary entrepreneurs through supporting, recruiting and advocating for start ups

archgrants.org/
@archgrants/

#### Black Funders of St. Louis

Invests in Black communities

blackfundersstl.com/
@blackfundersstl/

#### BRAND of St. Louis

Funds programs that support the growth of Black businesses <a href="https://www.brandofstl.com/">www.brandofstl.com/</a>
@thebrandofstl/

#### MARKETS AND FAIRS

#### Best of Missouri Market

Event hosted at Missouri Botanical Gardens, features artisans and food producers from around Missouri

<u>events.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Best-of-Missouri-Market</u> @explore/tags/bestofmissourimarket/

#### Cherokee Cinco de Mayo

The festival features authentic food, drinks, music, entertainment, art and merchandise

cincodemayostl.com/

instagram.com/cincodemayostl

#### Earth Day

Engages people and organizations to make everyday sustainability real and permanent for St. Louis

earthday-365.org/ @stlouisearthday/

#### For the Culture STL

The largest and fastest growing networks of Black Owned Businesses and Events in St. Louis.

www.fortheculturestl.com/

@fortheculturestl/

#### Solidarity Economy

A network of groups and individuals that strives to build and grow a "solidarity economy"

www.solidaritystl.org/ @solidaritystl/

#### Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis

Advances economic success for women with a focus on policy change, individual lives, and the workplace

www.wfstl.org/ @wfstlouis/

#### Women's Foundation of Greater Saint Louis

Provides opportunities and resources for women to achieve economic success through networking, skill-building, and mentoring

www.wfstl.org/

#### International Institute Festival of Nations St. Louis

A cornucopia of multicultural experiences, from dance, to music, to food, to crafts, and more

festivalofnationsstl.org/

@explore/locations/10095023/

international-institute-st-louis/?hl=en

#### May's Place Night Market

Pop-up market featuring local small businesses from jewelry to vintage clothing to food

maysnightmarket.com/

@maysnightmarket/

#### POPUP STL

One day markets events with a distinctly curated group of makers and artisans local to the St. Louis area

www.popupstl.com/

@popupstl/

#### Pridefest St. Louis

One of the most-attended (LGBTQIA) events in the Midwest region

www.pridestl.org/

@pridestl/

#### MARKETS AND FAIRS (CONT'D)

#### Soulard Farmers Market

Provides a business opportunity for restaurants, bars, and shopping local

www.soulardmarket.com/
@soulardmarket/

#### St. Louis African Arts Festival

African marketplace with; arts, crafts, health village, jewelry, clothing, and authentic foods

stlafricanartsfest.com/
@stlafricanartsfest/

#### Strange Folk Festival

Folk festival in St. Louis

sites.google.com/view/strangefolkfestival/home@strangefolkfestival/

#### **Tower Grove Farmers Market**

Farmer's market with vendor booths, acts as an incubator for small businesses who started there and now have storefronts tgfarmersmarket.com/
@tgfarmersmarket/

#### Washington University in St. Louis Pow Wow

Pow Wow supports and acknowledges Indigenous people and knowledge

sites.wustl.edu/budercenter/2019-pow-wow/

#### World's Fair Heritage Festival

Festival will bring a mashup of activities and entertainment www.stlworldsfare.com/ @stlworldsfare/

#### **BOUTIQUES AND LOCAL SHOPS**

#### Civil Alchemy

Civil Alchemy is a lifestyle retail company that focuses on offering functional, quality, & inspired goods

civilalchemy.com/
@civilalchemy/

#### **CLR-MNSTR**

Vintage finds from jewelry to art collections and clothing <a href="https://www.shopclrmnstr.com/password">www.shopclrmnstr.com/password</a>
@clr\_mnstr/

#### Curve Junkie Plus Size Boutique

Plus sized boutique where you will find high quality fashion wear for your everyday occassion

www.mycityboutiquestore.com/ @curvejunkiestl/

#### East + West

Unique offerings and top-notch service <a href="https://www.eastandwest.store/">www.eastandwest.store/</a>
@eastandwest.store/

#### Holliday

Provides a space for makers and creatives to sale their items in the store

shopholliday.com/
@shopholliday/

#### May's Place

Owner of May's Place vintage boutique, hosts a quarterly pop up "night market" for makers

maysplacestl.com/
@maysplace\_stl/

#### Mesa Home

Retailer for makers that provides a vintage craft and attire <a>@mesa\_home/</a>

#### Philomena and Ruth

Equal parts brick and mortar store, designer tees, and handcrafted clothing

www.philomenaandruth.com/ @philomenaandruth/

#### BOUTIQUES AND LOCAL SHOPS (CONT'D)

#### RF Home Co

Retailer who features local vendors

rfhomeco.com/

@rfhomeco/

#### **SKIF International**

Provides a co-working space for international makers to create, and creates handmade clothing

www.skifo.com/

@skifintl/?hl=en

#### St. Louis Shop Trail

Small business with a retail brick-and-mortar location in St. Louis city can add their business information to website to be showcased

www.stlshoptrail.com/submit

@stlshoptrail/

#### The Ruby Francis

Utilizes and sources vintage deadstock fabrics in the Midwest <a href="https://www.ruby-francis.com/">www.ruby-francis.com/</a>
@rubyfrancis.stl/

#### **Union Studio**

Woman-owned shop featuring all local handmade art and goods <a href="mailto:stlunionstudio.com/">stlunionstudio.com/</a>
@stlunionstudio/

#### **Urban Matter**

Woman-owned shop featuring all local handmade art and goods <a href="https://www.urbanmatterstl.com/">www.urbanmatterstl.com/</a>
<a href="https://www.urbanmatterstl/">@urbanmatterstl/</a>

#### **EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS FOR CREATIVES**

#### **Entrepreneurship Quarterly**

Provides an interactive map of local resources for entrepreneurs in St. Louis

entrepreneurquarterly.com/saint-louis/

@eqstl/

#### Guided: St. Louis

From Alive Magazine, a guide to supporting all types of businesses in the community (restaurants, retailers, wellness, makers, etc.)

www.tgthr.city/business-categories/creator-maker@quidedstl/

#### Innovation Hall

Modern event space providing event space rental, meeting room rental, and conference room rental in the St. Louis Cortex District

innovationhallstl.org/ @innovationhallstl/

#### Makers Ball

Craft Alliance's annual Makers Ball celebrates the beauty of craft and the joy of making

<u>craftalliance.org/makersball</u> @craftalliance/

#### MastHER Class

Hosts events for midwestern Women to speak their voices <a href="https://www.themastherclass.com/">www.themastherclass.com/</a>

#### St. Louis Startup Week

Event that celebrates makers and startups in STL through encouragement & networking

www.stlouisstartupweek.com

#### TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ENTREPERNUERS

#### SLU's Transformative Workforce Academy

Improves the Saint Louis community and creates jobs workforcecenter.slu.edu/twa.jsp

#### St. Patricks Center

Provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

stpatrickcenter.org/

@stpatrickcenter/?hl=en

#### The Center for Women in Transition

Provides comprehensive, wrap around services to women in the criminal justice system as they return to the St. Louis region <a href="https://www.cwitstl.org/store/c1/Home">www.cwitstl.org/store/c1/Home</a> @cwitstl/

#### Veterans Business Resource Center

Provides resources to veterans and former small business owners <a href="https://www.vetbiz.com/">www.vetbiz.com/</a>
@vetbiz/

#### PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

#### AllianceSTL

Helps identify real estate, find workforce solutions and take advantage of potential financial incentives alliancestl.com/

#### Arch City Defenders

Free legal service for healthcare, mental health, food, and other resources

www.archcitydefenders.org/
@archcitydefenders/

#### Girl Louie

Girl Louie is a consulting company that helps women build their online brands, grow their businesses, and define their unique voice through creative art. We specialize in designing custom content for use in marketing, digital media, and various other projects

girllouie.com/
@girllouie/

#### Global Design Feature

A catalyst for new and emerging Fashion Entrepreneurs and design professionals to learn, discover and promote their careers

globaldesignfeature.com/
@GlobalDesignFeature/

#### Legal Services of Eastern Missouri

Advances justice through legal representation, education and supportive services

lsem.org/

#### National Lawyers Guild St. Louis

Dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system

www.nlgstl.org/ @stlnlg/

## MAKERS UNITED ST. LOUIS WAS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY:

