



A Community-Powered Model for Inclusive Economic Growth

echo is building a new kind of entrepreneurship hub.

We are creating a third-space **community center** where entrepreneurs from historically overlooked communities—youth and adults—learn, earn, and invest in one another.

Unlike traditional coworking spaces or short-term accelerator programs, Echo begins with community as the engine, then designs sustainable revenue and reinvestment around it.

Echo's **Entrepreneurs Building Entrepreneurs (EBE) model** creates a shared ecosystem where people at different life stages build economic power together.

Tailored Learning

Cohorts, accelerators, labs, and workshops designed for every stage—from teens exploring ideas to adults growing established businesses.

Trusted Relationships

Near-peer mentorship, founder circles, and a culture where asking for help is expected.

Access to Capital

Financial capital (stipends, grants, contracts), alongside social, cultural, and human capital that unlocks opportunity.



echo's work is more than a programmatic offering. It is a strategic response to systemic gaps in the current entrepreneurial ecosystem.

By centering place, people, and peer leadership, echo is building the civic and economic infrastructure required for a more equitable future.

The Challenge

The Triangle's economic momentum is undeniable, driven by tech expansion, startup growth, and national recognition, but the benefits aren't shared equitably.

Adult entrepreneurs from marginalized communities face higher barriers to capital, fewer trusted networks, and support systems that are often transactional and short-lived. Young people from those same communities encounter high rates of economic disconnection and limited access to paid, real-world leadership and entrepreneurship pathways. The result is lost potential—for individuals, businesses, and the regional economy.

A Circular Economy of Youth and Adults

Youth support adult entrepreneurs through internships, projects, and events. Adult entrepreneurs support youth as mentors, employers, advisors, and role models. Membership fees and earned revenue are intentionally recycled back into the community as stipends, grants, and paid contracts.

This is not symbolic participation; it is sustainable, measurable, and ongoing.

Why Now

Echo is transitioning from a program-centric nonprofit to a membership-driven social enterprise. Strategic investment will anchor this community center as durable economic infrastructure for Durham and a replicable model for other communities.



Sponsorship Levels



Community Table \$500

You're powering the community center experience—a welcoming third-space where entrepreneurs (youth + adults) learn, earn, and invest in one another.

Founding Friends \$1,000

You're funding one founder's next step—turning an idea into action through practical support and early momentum (tools, coaching, and real opportunities to build).

Prosperity Partners \$2,500

You're investing in tailored learning—cohorts, accelerators, labs, and workshops designed for every stage, from teens exploring ideas to adults growing businesses.

Community Champions \$5,000

You're expanding trusted relationships + access to capital—near-peer mentorship and founder circles, plus the connectors that unlock grants, contracts, and opportunity.

Legacy Builders \$25,000

You're fueling the circular economy of youth and adults—membership and earned revenue recycled back into the community as stipends, grants, and paid contracts.

Visionary Ally \$50,000

You're anchoring durable economic infrastructure—helping scale a membership-driven social enterprise built to last in Durham and become replicable for other communities.

Giving \$5,000+ or sponsoring as a company?

We understand that many corporate gifts aren't processed through online donation links. We're happy to invoice your organization and accept payment by ACH, wire, check, or other standard methods.

To sponsor or give by invoice:

Email [Anjanette Miller \(anjanette@echo-nc.org\)](mailto:anjanette@echo-nc.org) with:

Sponsorship level (or amount), company name, billing contact, and mailing address. We'll send an invoice and W-9 within 1–2 business days.

Questions or procurement requirements?

We can provide a sponsorship agreement, EIN documentation, and any vendor setup forms your organization needs.

Prefer to talk first?

[Schedule a quick sponsorship call](#)

Preferred for corporate sponsors:

- Invoice + ACH / bank transfer
- Check (made payable to echo)
- Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) grant
- Stock / securities gift
- Matching gifts and workplace giving