

Call for Proposals: Milwaukee Public Library Entrepreneur-in-Residence @ the Business Commons

Innovative and community-focused entrepreneurs are invited to submit proposals for a six-week Entrepreneur Residency with the Milwaukee Public Library. Working collaboratively with library staff, the MPL Entrepreneur-in-Residence will develop and lead public workshops and events, and offer one-on-one mentoring to support and educate entrepreneurs. We are looking for experienced and creative individuals who are interested in supporting the next generation of Milwaukee entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneur-in-Residence will facilitate a minimum of six workshops and events during the length of the residency and host 4 hours per week of one-on-one mentoring appointments. The Entrepreneur-in-Residence will be housed in the Business Commons @ Central Library, a unique co-working space in Milwaukee Public Library's Central Library.

Entrepreneur-in-Residence Stipend: \$3,000

Residency Dates: six weeks in June-August 2026, resident must be available to collaborate on program development at least two weeks prior to the start of the residency

Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Details:

- Six-week residency between June-August 2026, \$3,000 stipend
- The resident will lead a minimum of six workshops or events
- The resident will host weekly office hours in the Business Commons @ Central Library

EIR Required Qualifications:

- Committed to developing Milwaukee's small business community by mentoring and inspiring new entrepreneurs
- Proven record of starting a successful small or medium sized business in the Milwaukee area
- Three or more years of successful business experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Experience evaluating business ideas and plans
- Must be available to collaborate on program development at least four weeks prior to the start of the residency

EIR Desired Qualifications

- Bilingual English and Spanish or American Sign Language

Deadline to submit questions is March 11, 2026.

Deadline to submit proposals is March 21, 2026.

Proposal must include:

- Cover Letter & Resume
- Proposal that addresses the following:
 - Please summarize skills and experience that will prepare you to be a successful library Entrepreneur-in-Residence (for example: mentoring & coaching, public speaking and presenting, developing business plans, certifications, and/or leadership experience).
 - The Library Entrepreneur-in-Residence will offer six workshops or events through the course of the residency. What are your proposed workshops or events? How will these activities support local entrepreneurs?
 - How will you ensure Entrepreneur-in-Residence activities are welcoming and inclusive of all community members?
 - **Entrepreneur-in-Residence Proposals can be sent to Library Procurement at LibraryProcurement@milwaukee.gov.**