Discover what’s NEXT.
NEXT Studios empowers innovation and entrepreneurship in organizations, communities, and startup founders.

Thanks to our clients, we offer complementary entrepreneurial support to underserved founder communities per our Benefit Corporation (B Corp) charter.

Our passion is helping everyone discover what’s next.

Our mission is business transformation, community impact, and economic development through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Our vision is a world made better by innovation and entrepreneurship for all.

Certified B Corporations are leaders in the global movement for an inclusive, equitable, and regenerative economy.

B Corp Certification is a designation that a business is meeting high standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency on factors from employee benefits and charitable giving to supply chain practices and input materials.
A culture of innovation is absolutely required today to attract and retain people, especially young people. According to a recent Ernst and Young survey, 69% of American workers would leave their current role for a position at a company considered an innovation leader.

Jobs of the future demand all of the skills associated with entrepreneurship: design thinking, agile mindset, creative confidence, and inclusive leadership.

**NEXT Innovation** can help your organization master the immense change underway as we move toward the digital economy. We work on your side of the table, an integral part of who you are, arm-in-arm with your team as innovators-in-residence to move beyond incremental improvement into sustaining, disruptive, and radical innovation.

We’ve been leaders in large corporations and small startups alike, and draw from the innovators toolkit to help your team advance your innovation performance.
Our NEXT Discovery Workshop helps entrepreneurs gain confidence in their ideas, their business plans, and themselves.

Creating new businesses is a key determinant of the future of any community, according to the Kauffman Foundation, as nearly all new job roles are created by startup companies less than five years old. However, getting support for converting an idea into a business model is the first of many challenges founders face.

**NEXT Discovery Workshop** is an proven accelerator program that helps turn the ideas of prospective entrepreneurs into viable startups, and it’s specifically designed for diverse communities.

It begins with an Innovator Callout to identify prospective founders, followed by an intense workshop that employs the Lean Canvas model to identify solutions the founders can offer to customers, key metrics, and competitive advantages.

Then, armed with the core of a business plan, ongoing cohort meetups help them understand various methods of financing their startup, as well as the creation of pitch decks and other business strategies. The result is new startups, confident founders, and new jobs in the community.
Discovery Workshop cohorts impact communities and spur economic development by creating new startups and entrepreneurs.

Hundreds of founders from across America have already taken the first steps toward turning their ideas into new startups through the NEXT Discovery Workshop accelerator, and we can help your community do the same, either through direct management of cohorts and events, or through putting your own brand on the program through “white box” licensing and mentor training.

After sourcing participants through callout events, a three-part, eighteen module accelerator helps founders build a business model from their idea.

Ongoing cohort support meetings help founders share their business model with stakeholders.

Discovery Workshop is flexible: cohorts can be face-to-face, virtual, or hybrid, and can accommodate founders in local communities or ones spread across the country.
The NEXT Community Impact Fund provides philanthropically sourced venture capital to underserved and first-time founders.

When you make a gift to charity, you benefit the community, and when you invest in a successful company, you see financial returns. But there’s a new kind of venture fund that generates both an impact on our community and the potential for financial returns that sustain an ecosystem over the long term.

The NEXT Community Impact Fund uses philanthropically sourced funds to make equity investments in startup companies in order to address “inequitable equity” in communities that traditional venture capital system has underserved.

Because it’s a real venture fund, there is an expectation of a return from investments, which creates a discipline in the founder that grants or gifts don’t produce.

But because the fund is sourced from donors, if there is a return, it goes back into the fund to be reinvested again and again. The fund is also at liberty to invest in underserved founders earlier in the process than traditional capital, opening a pathway for everyone, regardless of means, to participate in the startup economy.

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**It's a true venture fund.**
It makes equity investments, expects a return, and executes reviews of company business models and financial performance on behalf of investors in the fund. This creates a discipline that prepares founders for future investors.

**It employs philanthropically donated money.**
The source of funds are donors: individuals, foundations, or other grant makers. Because of this, the funds are completely “de-risked,” which frees the fund to make investments in founders that traditional venture funds avoid.

**It creates gravity for angel investors.**
Instead of working to understand each individual founder or company on their own, the fund provides the due diligence that reduces the risk for the angel to participate with “side car” or followup investments.

**It’s “evergreen.”**
If there are any returns on investments, since they can’t go back to the donor, they are redeposited in the fund to be reinvested again and again. This can create a long-term capital base over generations to the benefit of all.
We are working for the convergence of economic development, philanthropic community impact, and entrepreneurship.

Economic development, philanthropic community impact, and entrepreneurship have historically been substantially separate concepts, but now there is a small but growing group of leaders who increasingly believe that these three things may be the same thing. We believe all communities, be they geographical or affinity-based, should pursue this convergence’s potential to create new solutions to old problems.

The intersection of entrepreneurship and economic development is called **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development**, which can create a conducive environment for the establishment, growth, and success of entrepreneurial ventures - a powerful driver of job creation and economic growth.

The intersection of entrepreneurship and community impact is called **Entrepreneurial Philanthropy**, which can create sustainable solutions to social challenges by leveraging their business acumen, networks, and resources - like the NEXT Community Impact Fund.

The intersection of economic development and community impact is called **Inclusive Economic Development**, which can improve the well-being of communities through targeted equitable initiatives that address the needs and aspirations of the community. Results have shown that it is a net attractor of talent, startups, and existing businesses.

If you’re seeking the benefits of this convergence in your community, we can help.
Here’s how NEXT can help you.

If your organization needs to transition deliberately to the digital economy, consider adding the NEXT Innovation team to your team. While we help you, you’ll also be giving back to underserved founders in your community through our B-Corp mission.

If you are a community leader seeking to creating more new startups, consider sponsoring a NEXT Discovery Workshop cohort to help prospective entrepreneurs shape their ideas into business models and launch new startup companies.

If you are a philanthropic or economic development organization exploring community impact through entrepreneurship, consider partnering with us to accelerate the convergence through initiatives like the NEXT Community Impact Fund.

Together we’ll discover what’s NEXT.