

Hack The Central District Helps Entrepreneurs Turn Ideas Into Businesses

By Patience Idegwu
Special to The Medium

From coding and design workshops to Hololens demos, a device that allows you to be placed in a virtual world, Hack the Central District Cultural Innovation Center Conference (Hack the CD) helps bridge the digital divide in the Black community and aim to provide information and resources to entrepreneurs.

Hack the CD is an annual conference that is designed to develop and showcase new concepts in technology, entrepreneurship, and design from African Americans in the Central District of Seattle and abroad. The two-day conference features a one-day entrepreneurial boot camp and a community jam session.

According to David Harris, founder of Hack the CD, the first year of Hack the CD was an experiment to see if the Black

community really wanted innovation resources. Now in its 3rd year, the experiment has proven that it is essential to the Black community.

“Over a hundred people showed up for the first event, and 10 new businesses were launched in 2014,” said Harris. “We knew that we had to continue doing it. The next year people came with existing ideas, new ideas, or they came just to get help.”

The conference invites creative people from all ages and from different backgrounds to showcase new concepts of design, entrepreneurship, and technology. The event is designed to encourage collaboration and sharing of ideas and help develop one’s idea. The conference began with its Entrepreneurial Boot Camp, which offered resources for students and startups to create new or help develop existing businesses. The



Hack the CD participants get a chance to develop and showcase new concepts in technology, design and entrepreneurship.

boot camp featured workshops on coding, websites, marketing, legal and more. The boot camp also included community focused hacking sessions, networking sessions, and featured speakers like Paul Wright who presented on a business called EveryBlock. Wright utilizes his understanding of the community and its needs in order to make discoveries about technologies and how they can impact the lives of others.

“I believe in confident discovery and always questioning what other people are doing,” said Wright. “We take technology, we question the needs of that technology, and then we use our findings and put it into a platform and take it forward.”

During the networking session, Yoli Chisholm, a marketing expert, was able to have one-on-one sessions about an incubator that she founded called the Wells

Project. The Wells Project helps bring business ideas to life during a 12-month period. Chisholm’s main focus is to reach out to women and minorities.

The second day of Hack the CD was the community jam session. It consisted of a competition for businesses to present projects they worked on during the boot camp. The jam session also had several hardware demos from prominent companies in Seattle and abroad.

One of the demos presented during the session was a painting from Perri Rhoden. Rhoden started painting and building her portfolio while in college. Her artwork is abstract, and she generally tries to project a sensual motion, emphasizing the body of a woman.

“A part of the process of my paintings is seeing images on social media and articulating music into the canvas, organically figuring

out the flow,” said Rhoden.

During the jam session, Rhoden was able to network with other participants and get advice on how to use digital marketing to make her branding and marketing better for her website.

Rhoden said Hack the CD gives her “great resources and access to business professionals that I would not have been able to meet on a daily basis.”

The evening ended with multiple business proposal/idea presentations. Two of those presentations, through the use of technology, were made from Haiti and Ethiopia.

With the help of the sponsors, as well as all the volunteers and directors of this event, the Seattle community was able to create a supportive space for entrepreneurs. Hack the Central District has a good foundation and it is definitely building every year.

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Superior Court of Washington
County of King

In re: Sahra A. Aba Sheikh
Petitioner,
And
Abulhaq Nuradin Ali
Respondent
No. 16-3-01650-6SEA

Order for Service of Summons by Publication
(If Required by Local Practice) (ORPUB)

I. Basis

The court has considered Sahra A. Aba Sheikh (moving party)’s motion and declaration requesting that the summons in this matter be served by publication.

II. Findings

Based on the representations made in the declaration, the court **Finds** that the summons in this matter may be served on Abdulhaq Nuradin Ali (nonmoving party) by publication in accordance with RCW 4.28.100.

III. Order

It is Ordered that the summons in this matter may be served on the nonmoving party by publication in conformity with RCW 4.28.100.

Dates: 5/20/2016

Judge/Commissioner

Presented by: Sahra A. Aba Sheikh

Signature of Moving Party or Lawyer/WSBA No.

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