



Continuum of Leadership Builds Community

SIMBA recruits new board members and grows talented team of staff

At our August members meeting SIMBA celebrated the end of our outgoing Board President Julie Watts's three year term of service. Julie played a pivotal role in brokering [SIMBA's Small Business Saturday partnership with Gesa Credit Union](#) and supporting personnel during a time of intense contracting activity.

"I invest in SIMBA because we bring people together and grow opportunity for better businesses now and in the future. It is rewarding to see this effort continue to grow!"



-Julie Watts, Past SIMBA Board President and owner of Watts Law Firm, PLLC

SIMBA also welcomed David Borelli, Co-Owner of [Mountain Top Mentality](#) to SIMBA's Board of Directors. David and his partner Helmet Noel are the masterminds behind a local, lifestyle brand that has benefited from several SIMBA services, including the Live Local INW Marketplace, the Local Frequency payment app, and receiving a Live Local marketing grant, giving them a first-hand understanding of the value SIMBA provides to the local microenterprise business community. If you haven't downloaded the Local Frequency app, Mountain Top Mentality is running a promo this month you do not want to miss.

WATCH OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE TEAM BIOS COMING SOON! →



David Borelli (L) and Kathy Thamm (R), two new Board members beginning 3 year terms.

In September, Kathy Thamm, [former Executive Director of Community-Minded Enterprises](#) and Co-Owner of [Shotgun Studios](#) in Peaceful Valley, joined our leadership team as well. Kathy brings with her decades of invaluable experience in nonprofit organization and Federal contracting management.

Stay tuned in our next issue to hear more details about how we've expanded our staff, adding new Outreach and Operations Director and Technical Assistance and Technology Coordinators!

SIMBA Events Heat Up with the Cooling Weather

SIMBA is offering a free Business Startup Workshop, focusing on licensing and setting up LLCs (as well as transitioning from a sole proprietorship to an LLC) in partnership with Spokane Public Library's StartUp Spokane program at the Spokane Conservation District on October 17th at [The Quarry](#). (Listen to [SCD interview SIMBA](#) on their Rocks to Roots podcast [here](#).) Join SIMBA's [business](#) or [consumer](#) Facebook group if you'd like to organize a carpool to our events.

- **Starting Your Business Workshop**, October 17th 6-7pm, Spokane Conservation District, 4422 E 8th Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99212
- **SIMBA Annual Members Meeting**, October 20th 6-7:30pm, Haystack Heights Cohousing in East Central Spokane
- **SIMBA Annual Board Retreat**, November 10th 9am-4pm, Dawn View Lodge, Liberty Lake, WA

Meet Our Members

SIMBA members have invested in making our community a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous place in which to Live Local!

Strengthening Member Spotlight: Juan Mas

Juan is a Colombian and Cuban Producer and Director, entrenched in the indie film world. He has worked all over the United States in varied budget sizes as a member of the DGA for features, mini-series, and television. He is a passionate storyteller who loves to combine a kinetic visual style with vibrant characters and the gritty truth of real life.

"What I love about Spokane is its people-creative and inspiring people from all walks of life who volunteer, who conceive, who produce events and causes-making our city so blessed."



When not on set, Juan directs and produces theater in Spokane and Seattle. He currently volunteers on SIMBA's board of Directors and serves organizations that focus on the growth of the art community and creative economy locally and across the state of Washington. But he is most proud of being a dad of three amazing young adults.

Sustaining Member Welcome: Garland Business District



The Garland Business District is led by volunteer Julie Hall, a community advocate deeply involved in the Live Local INW campaign and other efforts to establish a vibrant neighborhood walking district that ensures everyone is welcome. There are currently over 85 locally-owned businesses in the District.

Supporting Member Mentions:



Can't come to our events but still need help with your business?

If you are a [SIMBA Member](#) or a BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, Immigrant, or Refugee entrepreneur, you can request 1:1 consultation at a time that works for you. Learn more about [SIMBA's technical assistance \(TA\) services on our website](#), and note that language translation is always available upon request. Free support for qualifying non-member businesses is provided by the Department of Commerce's SBRN program.

