



SIMBA is expanding!

Our staff team is growing.

In our last newsletter in December 2023, we told you all about our leadership changes at SIMBA, welcoming our new [Executive Director Robin Haynes](#) (hit that link to learn more about her). We also added a new staff member, [Faisal Aldakhail](#). Both Robin and Faisal first worked with SIMBA in the spring of 2023 on our Small Business Innovation Fund grant outreach canvassing team, adding more than 800 locally-owned, independent businesses to our flagship program, [the Live Local INW directory and marketplace](#).

Faisal is an immigrant from Saudi Arabia with an MBA from Gonzaga University who is providing a mix of direct business assistance on topics like business plans, financial forecasts, and marketing, as well as doing outreach in the community.

Faisal is heavily involved in the Garland Neighborhood's activities, and he's happy to help with all things SIMBA and Live Local! You'll regularly find Robin & Faisal at SIMBA's new office in the Symons Block building (upstairs from SIMBA Member Emma Rue's, below). Schedule a time to visit us at 7 S. Howard St., Ste. 104, Spokane, WA 99201.

More importantly, [SIMBA is hiring another Business Services Associate](#) to provide business assistance and support our communications efforts. Is that person you or someone you know?



Our Board is growing, too.

In November, SIMBA also welcomed it's newest [Board Member, Jeff Ferguson](#). Jeff, pictured above, is a member of the Spokane Tribe and full-time freelance photographer and videographer. In his photography work, he finds inspiration from both the urban and rural areas of the Inland Northwest and his Native heritage. Jeff has a wealth of leadership experience, and we're thrilled to have him join us.



SIMBA's event calendar is filling up.

SIMBA is offering several free business seminars in the next couple of weeks, and our community calendar is filled with SIMBA member and Live Local INW Directory Business participant activities. Don't miss out on the following:

- [Downtown Business Owners & Naloxone - All You Need to Know](#)**, January 20, 2024 at noon, Downtown Spokane Central Library Event Room B. This event is free to attend (in person only). Learn the impacts and availability of this lifesaving medication (commonly known as Narcan) and how addiction impacts our local businesses. We are grateful for our presenters from the Washington Poison Center for this event.
- [How, When, and Where to Hire \(Without Breaking the Bank\)](#)**, February 6, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., Downtown Spokane Central Library Event Room B. This event is all free to attend and is geared to any business that thinks they want (or need) to expand their staff in 2024. This is great info for your first or your next hire, featuring our friend's [King's Dream Business Consulting](#). Please show our west side friends a warm welcome. This event is in person and on Zoom ([Zoom link on our community calendar](#)).
- SIMBA Board Meeting & Annual Report**, February 21, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at [SIMBA Member Business People's Waffle](#). This event is free to attend, but is for SIMBA members only. Join SIMBA Board and staff to hear all the good things we did in 2023, including obtaining [new contracts to provide Washington State Labor and Industries \(L&I\) support to businesses with 50 or fewer employees in Eastern Washington](#). Not sure if your membership is current? We're happy to help if you email: info@spokaneindependent.org.

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: Numerica Credit Union

SIMBA is thrilled to welcome Numerica Credit Union as a Strengthening Member. Numerica got its start in 1937, and since that time it has focused on enhancing lives, fulfilling dreams, and building communities - the same things SIMBA strives to do. Numerica is a not-for-profit, member owned credit union offering incredible service (including reduced fees and better rates), as well as investing in our local community. Numerica's staff and leadership support our community by volunteering, donating, leading, sponsoring, and investing. One of those major community investments is the Numerica CARES for Kids program, where Numerica makes measurable, lasting impacts on vulnerable youth and families through grants and additional support. SIMBA uses Numerica for all of its banking needs, and we hope you'll consider doing the same.



NUMERICA[®]

CREDIT UNION

Sustaining Member Welcome: Delivery Pullman



Delivery Pullman is your alternative to national delivery services for all your Pullman-area food delivery needs. Owned by SIMBA Member Frank Contreras, Delivery Pullman has offered better rates and better service than its competitors since 2020!

Supporting Member Mentions: New Beginnings, LLC; Emma Rue's; and River City Kitchen



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.

