



Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance

Building a resilient local economy throughout the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene region.

SIMBA Community Honored With Group Health Learning Grant

"The [Group Health Foundation](#) is committed to bringing about true equity in Washington: real change that transforms the balance of power in our state and beyond."

Our mission has always been about organizing to improve both the degree and distribution of local ownership opportunities in our regional economy.

We do this to create the shared wealth and community power needed to finally exert decisive influence over the policies, institutions, and structures that determine the conditions of our daily interconnected lives.



Whether it is through our Business Against Bigotry work, the [BECIN Coalition](#) or our [Live Local campaign](#), we have been working diligently over the last five years to help create a healthy local and independent business community that supports community objectives instead of standing in opposition to them. With this important investment in our mission, we will be able to better engage our networks in creating a shared agenda for how we'd like to collectively advance our mission.

We are hosting a [Fall Friends and Members Mixer and Forum on November 4th](#) to hear directly from you. While we have done much to support our members in their individual values-aligned causes, it is time to discern our shared strategy for transformation as the growing multi-racial, multi-issue business and community member alliance that we are:

Count me in!

Creating equitable systemic change in our economy is not possible without you! Click on ["Count me in!"](#) to RSVP for our Fall networking reunion, and to pledge your involvement in helping SIMBA to build the unique, thriving, sustainable and inclusive community we all know is possible!

SIMBA Members Reunite



Some leadership team members revisited Business Against Bigotry and Live Local INW supporter Rick Hastings tasting room at [Liberty Cider](#) on Washington to celebrate the completion of Jonathan Teeters's work to conduct a nine month listening campaign among independent small business owners in rural communities throughout the Palouse on behalf of SIMBA.

This work was completed in partnership with the Washington State Dept. of Commerce and the Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship. A report with findings will be published on our website soon.

Check out our new [Live Local Palouse Marketplace here!](#)



SIMBA friends returned to Supporting members [Footehills Farm](#) for our second annual pilgrimage to their Fall Harvest Festival after a multi-year hiatus through the pandemic. After 11 years of successful organic permaculture farming, Torie and Thom are selling their property due to climate change disruptions to their growing season and to be closer to family on the west side.

Meanwhile aspiring cofounders Taylor Birdtail and Chrystal Gonzalez are dreaming up creative ways that urban people can learn the practice and craft of traditional Native arts and cultural knowledge. Stay tuned for how to follow this exciting emerging project!

Meet Our Members

One benefit of being a SIMBA business member is that we introduce your business to the wider SIMBA network. In SIMBA's Roar newsletter, you get to meet new SIMBA member businesses each month.

Strengthening Member Spotlight: Share Farm

Share Farm has been a valued SIMBA Strengthening member since 2018. Pre-pandemic they took advantage of personal program design consultation, pitch prep support that lead to significant startup funding, free product testing services offered by individual SIMBA member volunteers, earned media opportunities and a variety of other Strengthening tier business membership benefits.



Vince speaks about collaboration at a SIMBA media event at First Ave. Coffee in 2019.

*"I just want to thank you for always being there for us over the years."
- Vince Peak, Share Farm Co-Founder, July 2022*

Share Farm has learned a lot through their successful meal kit delivery programs that grew through the pandemic. Identifying a disconnect between what small-scale growers could independently produce and the volumes required by institutional food buyers, Share Farm is proposing a new order aggregator system and palletizing service for minority-owned producers. Learn more about what is new at Share Farm [here](#).



Sustaining Member Renewal: North Monroe Business District



Thanks to [Gesa Credit Union](#) sponsoring the [Live Local INW campaign](#) through 2022, SIMBA staff were able to write a proposal to the City of Spokane to support the Live Local Coalition receiving funds to buy up the [North Monroe Business District's](#) annual Small Business Saturday street festivities on November 26th this year. Mark your calendars!

Did you know? All eligible entities that are a part of SIMBA member business associations receive 20% off their own SIMBA business memberships. We currently have five NMBD businesses taking advantage of this dual deal!

Supporting Member Mentions



Honoring a Small Business Equity Champion



We are still trying to come to terms with the great loss of community wide role model, [BECIN cofounder](#) and [Black-owned small business advocate](#) Sandra Williams.

Always advocating for the overlooked, underestimated or mistreated, Sandy led from behind and lifted everyone up in the process. Her vision to create the Carl Maxey Center will live on as just one of the many immeasurably powerful ways her legacy will continue to grow and thrive in our world.

Please join us in supporting all the people and communities most deeply impacted by this immeasurable loss. Together we can live up to Sandy's desire to create love, respect and collective autonomy.

Contribute to the Carl Maxey Center

Upcoming Events

Annual SIMBA Fall Board Retreat - Nov. 15th, all day work party with team building activities at a member-owned property in Liberty Lake. All current members are welcome to attend. RSVP to mariah@spokaneindependent.org for details.

SIMBA Fall Friends and Members Mixer + Strategy Forum - Nov. 4th
Friday 11/4 from 5-7:30pm at Haystack Heights Cohousing in East Central, Spokane. Must RSVP in advance and complete priorities survey at button below to attend. Free entertainment and refreshments provided!

Count me in!

Live Local INW Small Business Saturday Celebration on North Monroe - Nov. 26th
Stay tuned for more on special deals, giveaways and festivities supported by the City of Spokane and Gesa Credit Union.



Spokane Independent Metro Business Alliance, PO Box 40344, Spokane, WA 99220-0344

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