



Miller Center

for Social Entrepreneurship

Name of social enterprise: Innovation Works

Mission statement: to reduce Baltimore's neighborhood and racial wealth divide by teaching and accompanying members of disinvested communities to build and own successful social enterprises that create sustainable neighborhood economies and result in better family living, more resilient communities, and a safer, more vibrant city.

Webpage: <https://www.iwbmore.org/>

Headquarters: Baltimore USA

Location of research: Baltimore USA

Background: Innovation Works is a domestic US social enterprise accelerator, and a strategic partner of Miller Center. It facilitates mutually beneficial cooperation among neighborhoods, entrepreneurs, social innovation assets, and investors with the common goal of building sustainable neighborhood economies in Baltimore. In collaboration, Innovation Works and Miller Center are revising and contextualizing Miller Center's GSBI® methodology to better serve urban American social enterprises. This action research project embeds fellows with Innovation Works, and builds upon prior years of collaboration.

The challenge: Describe and analyze the delivery of Miller Center's methodology by Innovation Works in Baltimore, and develop written materials to support the scaling and export of this partnership to other domestic US urban communities.

Action research products needed:

1. Assess and make recommendations for continuous improvement for the ongoing contextualization of Miller Center's methodology by Innovation Works to Baltimore's needs. This will include a description and analysis of the role and contribution of Ignite Hubs, and standardization of terms, concepts, and curriculum.
2. In preparation for scaling and securing major funding, thoroughly document how Innovation Works delivers its incubation and acceleration programs.

Student skills needed: ethnography and social science interview techniques, program description and analysis, excellent writing skills.

Keywords: social entrepreneurship, social enterprise acceleration, urban American poverty.