



# POSNER CENTER

## FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Attachment 3 – Narrative Description of Activities

#### Overview

Mission: To build a community of innovators who grow lasting solutions to global poverty

Vision: To be the epicenter of global community empowerment

The Posner Center for International Development ([www.posnercenter.org](http://www.posnercenter.org)) brings together 60+ international development-oriented organizations in a 25,000 square-foot shared office building in Denver's Curtis Park neighborhood to enable them to exchange ideas, cut costs, and learn from the Posner Center's educational programs. Collaboration will spur innovation, boost impact, and generate new, sustainable ventures that further the charitable purpose of the Posner Center to combat poverty around the world. Through the Posner Center's efforts, Colorado's position as a top destination for globally-focused entrepreneurs and international development organizations will be solidified.

Colorado is home to hundreds of organizations focusing on international development. Their work encompasses agriculture, community development, education, energy, health, infrastructure, and microfinance, among other fields. They share similar goals, such as designing or distributing products or services that improve the quality of life for the poorest people on the planet; They serve similar populations, targeting their operations not only at the same continents, but in some cases even at the same countries; And they confront similar administrative burdens and financial challenges. Yet until the opening of the Posner Center, most of these organizations operated in isolation from one another.



The Posner Center occupies a historic, 25,000-square-foot warehouse in Denver's Curtis Park neighborhood. The "Horse Barn" was built in 1882 to house streetcars and the horses that drew them. In 2011, International Development Enterprises (iDE) founded a consortium of international-development organizations, including Engineers Without Borders-USA, Bridges to Prosperity, AfricAid,

and Elephant Energy, among others, and partnered with community-leader Denver Urban Gardens and building-owner The Denver Housing Authority to transform the site into a new home for international and community development. Renovation was completed in June 2013, and the building now houses 60+ organizations, 150 employees, hundreds of interns and volunteers, a farmers' market, a lecture hall, exhibition and meeting space, and more. At the end of 2013, iDE spun-off the building renovation project into the Posner Center for International Development non-profit organization, a newly-formed entity that will guide programming and building operations.

## **2013 Activities**

In 2013, the Posner Center completed the renovation of the Horse Barn, and formed a strong organization to operate the facility and advance its mission to build a community of innovators who grow lasting solutions to global poverty. The Posner Center's accomplishments in 2013 include:

- Service/Program Capacity: Developing a mission and vision for the Posner Center and initial programming organized by a programming committee and consisting of brown bag lunches, roundtables, a monthly sustainability series, and other tenant events held daily at the Center;
- Staff and Board Leadership: Transitioning the Greenhouse Project LLC from a project of International Development Enterprises to a new self-sustaining non-profit organization with a functioning board of directors, and hiring a full-time Executive Director and Community Animator to manage building operations and programming;
- Fiscal Health of the Organization: Completing a capital campaign to renovate the historic Horse Barn at 1031 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in Denver, and developing and implementing a budget for the Center;
- Strategic Priorities: Ensuring maximum participation by the international community in Denver via an aggressive outreach effort that resulted in 60 tenants signing one-year leases (currently 100% occupancy) and initial conversations with outside organizations, corporations, and educational institutions about future strategic partnerships;
- Learning from other Shared Spaces: Conducting numerous meetings and extensive coordination with other shared non-profit centers in Denver via the Denver Shared Space Project and the Non-profit Centers Network;
- Marketing and Branding: Circulating an RFP and selecting Peak Creative to lead the Posner Center in developing a brand and professional website, and promoting the center via our existing networks. A new logo has been approved for the Posner Center and a new website will be completed in 1Q 2014; and
- Public Outreach: Organizing a kickoff event on October 15, 2013 that drew a capacity crowd of 800 supporters to learn more about the Posner Center and our tenants' work.

## **Future Activities**

The Posner Center will continue its work to develop programming to support its tenants and the broader international community in 2014 and beyond. With the renovation of the Horse Barn completed, the Posner Center will focus on activities and programming to help our tenants grow and thrive. These activities focus on the education of our tenant organizations, with a goal of helping them increase their ability to combat poverty in communities around the world:

- Training and Professional Development: Facilitating opportunities for tenants and community partners to better their skills and knowledge and allow their organizations to increase their impact;
- Events: Reaching out to the broader international community in Colorado and beyond through speaking engagements, roundtables, conferences, and other events.
- Educational Programs: Partnering with academic institutions to facilitate connections between academia and organizations operating in developing countries worldwide;
- Community Animation: Building strong partnerships between our tenant organizations and external partners via networking opportunities and joint projects;
- Programming Infrastructure: Installing technology to improve building operations and allow for innovative educational programming that links the Posner Center with the world; and
- Programming Marketing & Communications: Completing the Posner Center's website and developing other promotional materials to provide a platform for in-person and online collaboration.