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Library Hosts Business Bootcamp for Entrepreneurs

MCPL’s Square One Small Business Services Offers Free Tech Workshops

Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library’s Square One Small Business Services division, in partnership with the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Platte County Economic Development Council, is offering local entrepreneurs the chance to expand their tech knowledge and network with other Kansas City business professionals during their Small Business Bootcamp: Usable Technology on Friday, January 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Celebration Station in Zona Rosa (8690 N Dixson Ave., Kansas City, Mo., 64153, located inside The Grove).

“Technology plays an essential role in our everyday life,” said Amy Fisher, who leads the Library’s Square One Small Business Services division. “This bootcamp will give attendees the chance to become more familiar with the latest technology and learn how it impacts their business as well as how they can use it to their advantage.”

The bootcamp will kick off with coffee and networking, followed by a keynote speech at 9 a.m. and tech-focused seminars led by local experts. The keynote speech will be delivered by Burton Kelso, owner of Integral, a local tech support company, who will share his story of how he became KC’s “go-to IT guy.”

“My vision is to remove the frustrations and complexity of technology and open people up to a world of new ideas, experiences, and opportunities,” said Kelso. “I love technology, and I want to make technology fun and simple for everyone.”

Following the keynote address, attendees will have the chance to enjoy two educational seminars:

- **Using Technology to Communicate with Your Customers** with Santina Cessor, Owner of Threads Studio
- **How to Effectively Work with Technology Professionals** with Ben Rodriguez, CEO of IT Nachos

“The Platte County EDC focuses on business growth,” said Alicia Stephens, Executive Director of the Platte County Economic Development Council. “The Small Business Bootcamp provides an opportunity to make connections, learn about factors impacting business and how best to grow. The program is one more tool to retain, improve, and grow our business base. The PCEDC is eager to be a partner.”
Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for networking. Complimentary coffee and snacks will be provided. **Registration is required for this event at mymcpl.org/SquareOne.** This program is funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

“The Northland Chamber, in collaboration with the Platte County EDC and the Clay County EDC, is excited to provide this opportunity to aspiring entrepreneurs in the Northland,” said Sheila Tracy, President of the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**Additional upcoming Square One programs include:**

- Facebook Advertising for Small Businesses and Organizations on February 6
- The Business of Wine with Kevin Hodge on February 9
- Simple Steps to Starting Your Business on February 13

Learn more about Square One and register for these programs at mymcl.org/SquareOne.

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**Access Your World**

*Mid-Continent Public Library* is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**Square One Small Business Services** at Mid-Continent Public Library supports local entrepreneurs through access to information, programs, and opportunities during regular library business hours. Small business specialists are available to meet with business owners by appointment. For more information about Square One Small Business Services, contact a business specialist at squareone@mymcpl.org or visit mymcpl.org/SquareOne.