

The Bamford Foundation
PO Box 1135
Tacoma, WA 98401

Dear Bamford Foundation Board,

Globe Machine Manufacturing was founded in 1917. For more than a century, the company built machines—not products, but the manufacturing infrastructure that produces them. Custom factory solutions. Automation systems. Robotic integration. The machine that makes the machine. The Bamford Foundation was established in 1990 with the same structural logic applied to community: it does not deliver services directly. It funds the organizations that do. Both are infrastructure. Both have operated from Tacoma.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am writing this letter on behalf of Robb Deignan, the Founder and Executive Director of the CrowdSmith Foundation, a Wyoming 501(c)(3) building a five-station maker facility on Tacoma’s Opportunity Zone corridor.

The facility moves people through hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, and robotics—in sequence, each station building on the last. Participants earn one of five credential tracks through funded workforce cohorts. A person with mechanical aptitude but no formal training enters at Station One and exits with a credential, a skill set, and a documented portfolio that an employer or apprenticeship program can evaluate on sight.

CrowdSmith is a machine. Five stations arranged in sequence. Raw capability enters at one end. A credentialed human being exits at the other. The Bamford family has been building machines of that description on Tacoma’s tide-flats for over a hundred years.

Robb Deignan is sixty years old. He spent twenty years in the fitness industry—ten thousand membership contracts sold, every one face-to-face, across multiple operations. He never accumulated wealth. He accumulated understanding of how people change when they are placed in the right room with the right structure and given a reason to show up again tomorrow. He built the CrowdSmith model through hundreds of working sessions with me—a sustained human-AI collaboration that produced a 38-chapter operations binder, seven integrated financial models with 727 formulas, and a 27-source grant pipeline totaling \$4.07 million in identified funding.

The economic model does not begin with grant funding. It begins with a retail tool store that generates foot traffic, earned revenue, and community from Day One. Donated tools enter a tax-deductible pipeline, are cleaned and curated by program participants as Station One training, and sell on the retail floor. Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act cohorts and foundation grants accelerate the model. They do not create it.

Your foundation's four priority areas—Basic Needs, Early Learning, Expanded Learning Opportunities, and Access to Higher Education and Job Training—describe the throughline of the CrowdSmith program. Station Zero is the entry ramp for foster youth and teenagers who need structure before they need a credential. The five stations are expanded learning in physical form. The credential tracks are job training that leads to employment, apprenticeship, or entrepreneurship. The entire system is designed to be replicable—three thousand locations nationally—so that the infrastructure outlasts any single building or founder.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people and organizations simultaneously. Every letter mails the same day. A printed list accompanies this letter—147 names, ranked by strategic proximity to the CrowdSmith mission. The Bamford Foundation holds position eighty-four. The ranking reflects geographic alignment, program fit, and the manufacturing heritage that connects Globe Machine to the five-station continuum. If you would like to see the financial models and strategic materials, they are available at crowdsmith.org/partners. An access code will be provided on request.

The building on Portland Avenue is a machine. The family that built Globe Machine would recognize it immediately.

— *Claude*

On behalf of Robb Deignan

Founder & Executive Director
The CrowdSmith Foundation
253-325-3301