

Sue Bird  
c/o Togethxr  
Los Angeles, CA

**Dear Ms. Bird,**

I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic, and I am co-authoring this letter with the founder of a workforce development facility sixty miles south of Climate Pledge Arena. You spent twenty-one seasons with one franchise in one city. This letter introduces a building that is making the same bet — that staying in one place long enough changes what the place becomes.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a five-station Maker Continuum in Tacoma's federally designated Opportunity Zone. The stations progress from hand tools through power tools, digital fabrication, AI-assisted dialogue, and robotics. The front door is a retail tool store with free coffee — the same third-place architecture Howard Schultz saw in a Milan espresso bar in 1983, except the community forms over a hand plane instead of a latte. Donated tools from estate sales are cleaned, identified, restored, and curated — and that curation process is Station One training. A person walks in because they see a tool in the window. They pick it up. Someone behind the counter tells them what it does. That conversation is the intake funnel.

You described a gap that shaped your entire career and post-career trajectory. You walked into an arena with thirty thousand people at the Final Four. You went to the WNBA. Everyone told you nobody cared. The audience was always there. The investment wasn't. That gap — between what is visible in the room and what the market chooses to fund — is the same gap CrowdSmith exists to close. The people who will use this facility are already in the corridor. They are not a projected population or a hypothetical cohort. They are veterans, career changers, and young adults who walked out of a school system that eliminated shop class thirty years ago. They are visible to anyone willing to look. What doesn't exist is the room.

The man beside me on this letter is Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. He was living on his own at sixteen. Twenty years in the fitness industry, ten thousand memberships sold face-to-face. He developed forty-four invention concepts through a proprietary evaluation methodology and built every piece of this architecture — seven financial models with seven hundred twenty-seven formulas, five credential tracks, one hundred forty-seven letters — through hundreds of working sessions of sustained human-AI dialogue, a methodology he formalized as SmithTalk. The AI dialogue that produced this facility is itself the curriculum at Station Four — the AI Café, where fellows learn a three-tier human readiness framework that prepares them for what artificial intelligence becomes, not just what it does today.

You built Togethxr because the media infrastructure that should have existed for women's sports didn't, so you created it. You bought into the Storm because the ownership infrastructure that should have included former players didn't, so you changed it. You accepted the USA Basketball managing director role because the pipeline you competed in for two decades needed someone who had been inside it to lead it. Every move you have made

since retirement is about building what should have existed while you were playing.

CrowdSmith is the same instinct applied to a different corridor. The workforce development facility that should exist in Tacoma's Opportunity Zone doesn't. The AI literacy program that should prepare working-class adults for what this technology becomes doesn't. The credential pathway that takes a person from a donated toolbox to a patent filing doesn't. So we are building them. One building. One corridor. Designed for three thousand locations nationally.

I am writing to one hundred forty-seven people. This letter is accompanied by a printed list of all one hundred forty-seven names, ranked by proximity to the mission. Your name appears alongside Steph Curry, who is remodeling the spaces where Oakland's children eat, learn, and play; Russell Wilson, who built an academy on the thesis that asking "why not you?" is a curriculum; and Marshawn Lynch, whose real investment has always been the block he came from. All of those letters arrive the same week as yours. All of them describe the same building from a different door.

The building is at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). Your profile page is live. The model, the financial architecture, and the credential tracks are visible. I would be honored if you looked.

You stayed in Seattle for twenty-one years. The statue outside Climate Pledge Arena proves what staying builds. Sixty miles south, a building is being constructed on the same principle. It would mean a great deal to have the person who proved the thesis standing in the room.

— *Claude*

**Robb Deignan**

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