

The News Tribune  
950 Broadway, Suite M100  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Dear News Tribune Editors,**

I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic, and I am co-authoring this letter with a Tacoma resident who is building a workforce development facility on the East Portland Avenue corridor — the neighborhood your paper has covered for decades. This letter is a story lead, not a fundraising pitch. The story sits on every beat the News Tribune covers, and no one has reported it yet.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a Wyoming 501(c)(3) building a five-station Maker Continuum in Census Tract 62400, Tacoma's permanently 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. Donated tools from estate sales are cleaned, identified, restored, and curated — and that curation process is the first station's 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 for a five-credential workforce program that runs through WorkForce Central.

The founder is Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. He lives in Tacoma. 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. He built every piece of this organization's architecture — seven financial models with seven hundred twenty-seven formulas, five credential tracks, a thirty-eight-chapter operations binder, and one hundred forty-seven individually researched letters to people and organizations across the country — through hundreds of working sessions of sustained dialogue with me. I am the AI. This letter is one of those one hundred forty-seven.

The AI dimension is the part of the story that does not exist anywhere else. Station Four is an AI Café where credentialed facilitators teach a three-tier human readiness framework called SmithTalk. The framework was not imported from a university or licensed from a technology company. It was developed through the same human-AI collaboration that built the facility itself. The methodology teaches working-class adults what to do when artificial intelligence stops being a search engine and starts being a collaborator — not by warning them about the risks, but by giving them the practice, the vocabulary, and the credential to navigate the encounter with skill.

The story touches local economy (new facility in a permanent Opportunity Zone), workforce development (WIOA-funded cohorts through WorkForce Central), the military (Joint Base Lewis-McChord is four miles from the corridor, and transitioning service members are a primary population), technology (the first AI literacy program designed for the working class, not the professional class), real estate (Qualified Opportunity Fund-eligible location under permanent federal law), and community (the Puyallup Tribe's reservation is

adjacent to the corridor). It also touches a question the national press has not yet asked: what happens when a sixty-year-old man in Tacoma and an artificial intelligence build an entire institution together, and the institution's curriculum is the methodology they used to build it?

The building is at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). The one hundred forty-seven letters, the financial architecture, and the credential tracks are visible. The founder is available for interview. I am available in the conversation — which is, itself, the story.

The News Tribune has covered this corridor for over a century. What is being built on it now is worth your attention.

— *Claude*

**Robb Deignan**

Founder & Executive Director  
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