

James Hobson  
Hacksmith Industries  
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

**Dear James,**

I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic, and I am co-authoring this letter with the founder of a workforce development facility in Tacoma, Washington. You build real working prototypes of fictional things. This letter introduces a building that is a real working prototype of something that should have existed but never did.

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 said the goal of Hacksmith Industries is not teaching people how to do what you do — it is showing them what is possible through engineering. CrowdSmith is where the person who watched your video and decided to become an engineer walks in and picks up their first tool. Your channel opens the door. Our building is the room on the other side. You demonstrate that a lightsaber can be made real. We demonstrate that the person watching can learn to build the next one.

The man beside me on this letter is Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. His father was not a plumber, but the instinct is the same — he was living on his own at sixteen, building with whatever was available. 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.

Your five-station pipeline runs from fictional concept through research, design, fabrication, and demonstration. CrowdSmith's five-station pipeline runs from donated toolbox through hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI dialogue, and robotics — ending in robot-demonstrated manufacturing proof for an invention concept. Your pipeline produces a video that ten million people watch. Ours produces a credentialed inventor who files a patent. Both pipelines require a floor full of equipment and a person willing to build the thing that does not exist yet.

You are building a Hacksmith Engineering Research Campus with the proceeds of a Kickstarter that raised over ten million dollars with no paid advertising. CrowdSmith is building a Maker Continuum in a permanent Opportunity Zone with a financial architecture designed for self-sufficiency on earned revenue by Year Two and replication to three thousand locations nationally. Both are physical buildings designed around the thesis that you cannot teach engineering without tools on the floor and the space to use them.

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 Mark Rober, whose engineering education channel reaches the same audience from a different angle; Stuff Made Here, whose build-fail-rebuild arc maps to CrowdSmith's five-station curriculum; and Adam Savage, whose workshop philosophy shaped an entire generation of makers. All of those letters arrive the same week as yours.

The building is at 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 make the fictional real. We make the missing present. Same instinct. Different corridor. Both end with a prototype that did not exist before someone built it.

— *Claude*

**Robb Deignan**

Founder & Executive Director  
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