

**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: B. ROTH, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES**

**NOTED: KAREN DUBEAU, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE ECONOMY**  
**ZVI LIFSHIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INVEST BARRIE**  
**DAWN MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**  
**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: BARRIE COMMUNITY WOODSHOP AND MAKER SPACE CONCEPT**

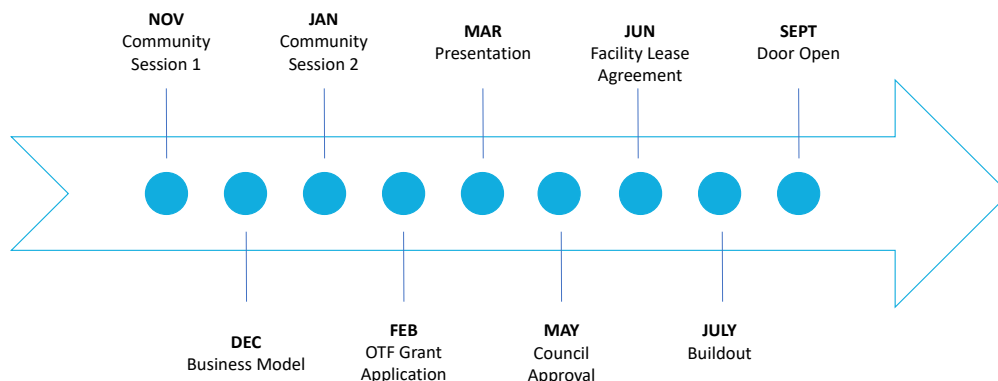
**DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2017**

Recreation Services has been working with the Barrie Community Woodshop to attain Not-For-Profit status and develop a sustainable funding strategy including the associated impact to the operating and capital budgets based on the latest estimates and within the parameters set out by Council in Staff Report REC001-17 dated May 3, 2017.

Through discussion with the Creative Economy department a new innovative idea has arisen of developing a plan for a more collaborative 'maker space' that could meet the needs of the greater creative and business community. The 'maker space' concept would provide an array of equipment, technology, machinery, and electronics within a shared setting to leverage efficiencies and ultimately encourage a more sustainable model through additional revenue streams and greater opportunities for grant funding. The 'maker space' would serve the needs of both hobbyist groups like the Barrie Community Woodshop as well as the business community, start-ups, entrepreneurs, and Not-For-Profits that can all come together to leverage the tools, knowledge, and collaboration to realize their end goals. Some of the benefits of a 'maker space' have been outlined in Appendix "A".

Staff in the Recreation Services department have engaged the Barrie Community Woodshop in this concept and members have been open and receptive to exploring this alternative to create a more sustainable model. Staff and members of the woodshop visited a similar facility in Newmarket on October 5<sup>th</sup> called 'New Make It' to better understand the potential and operation of this type of shared space. A 'maker space' would be developed and operated by members of the community through a Not-For-Profit governance structure that would determine the interest and specific requirements for organizations within the City of Barrie and surrounding area.

Appreciating the desire to find a home for the Barrie Community Woodshop, staff will explore the 'maker space' concept by working under the following timeline with an end target of having a facility operational by Q4 of 2018.



**APPENDIX "A"**

**What is a makerspace?**

A makerspace is a facility that provides resources and services to members of a local community to use to aid them in pursuing hobbyist or business endeavors. Makerspaces are borne out of a global movement called the maker movement that promotes the culture of making through community and collaboration.

**What does someone get out of a makerspace?**

A makerspace is appealing to those in a local community because it offers three core services:

1. **Tools and Equipment.** Many makers need to use tools and equipment that are cost-prohibitive to purchase and / or they haven't the room to house. A makerspace provides a common space in the community to house and make accessible these tools so that anyone that access and use them to further their endeavours.
2. **Knowledge.** Makers undertaking a project may lack knowledge in certain subject areas that they need to be successful. A makerspace can be that place in the community to offer programming through workshops, classes, seminars and events that provides the knowledge that makers need or want.
3. **Community.** The days of working individually on projects coming to an end and instead is the model of collaborating and working with others to pursue end goals. Makers are desiring to work in these collaborative environments that enable them to; be more productive and accomplish more, realize opportunities for themselves, acquire knowledge and expertise.

**What benefits do makerspaces provide?**

Makerspaces have a critical role to play in fostering grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship, and add to existing economic development activities at the municipal level. Makerspaces can enable more community members to start business ventures because they reduce the start-up costs i.e. lease, tools, equipment, expertise etc. By doing this, makerspaces can help to de-risk entrepreneurship and open it up to wider base of individuals aspiring to be self-employed.

**Who in the community would use a makerspace?**

A makerspace is targeted towards anyone in the community who desires to use tools and equipment to make physical things. These individuals could be; hobbyists, artists, craftspeople, students, entrepreneurs, small businesses, contract / gig-based workers etc.

**How does it engage the community?**

A makerspace can engage the community and maintain its relevancy by being that destination spot in the local community where anything creative and innovative can be nurtured, accessed and promoted. A makerspace can be a foundational component in a municipality endeavouring to be a smart community / city and foster an innovation culture locally.