

Hello to all Islanders,

Idea: Our goal/dream is to give anyone on the island access to tools, equipment, instruction, and workspace in the form of a general purpose Community based workshop. Eventually, we want to include everything from woodworking and mechanics, to sewing and pottery.

What?

SJI Makers is a new tool lending system spearheaded by Carter Fuehr-Bush as part of his Friday Harbor High School community project assignment. With models in communities all over the U.S., the SJI Makers are looking to create an island space where people can learn about and operate tools in a safe space with instruction.

The original idea to have this here came from Sarah Hanson of the SJICC, and I immediately latched onto the idea. Places like this exist all over the country, ranging from giant business with high-end machinery, to trailers stuffed full of tools for people to use, and I think we could use something like this here.

So there's the goal, but it's going to take a while to get there. We are in the process of looking into insurance, legal waivers, etc, but we may be able to start soon with tool lending, and classes/workshops taught by professionals.

On top of that, some of our members want to include a Seed Library. Such a place would involve a large library of seeds, that people would take in early Spring, grow them, and return the same or more of what they borrowed.

Who?

Starting with myself and Sarah, the group stemmed to include people like Jana Meredith, Rebecca Parks, Raena & Sean Parsons, and we will be working with artists and craftsmen like Joe Crisanti, Kevin Roth, Marcuss Justiss, Larry Wight, and many more. The people dedicated to helping this project along have created the SJI Makers group.

Where?

As for where this would be, we will be working out a deal with Marcuss Justiss at *The Art of Design* to use part of the space he owns on Carter Ave, down from Harbor Rents, and behind Beast Motorcycle Design. It will be a shared space, but the idea is to have one or two days a week for people to come in, borrow tools, or attend a class, until we can set it up so that tools can be used on-site.

Future:

Soon, we will be looking for tool donations as well as experienced people to teach classes while we raise funds, get the word out more, and work towards in-shop tool usage. Other places that do this feature membership with access to certain levels of tools, and we hope to get to that someday.

Join Us!

Since this is no small feat, we need help! If something like this interests you, let us know! I am Carter Fuehr-Bush at carterfuehrbush@gmail.com as well as (360) 298-4766. Our other coordinator is Sarah Hanson at sarahlabyrinthine@gmail.com or 425-698-9817. We also have a Facebook group entitled 'SJI Makers Community Center' If you like, you can fill out our online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LZZBDMY>.