



## **L DFA New Board Member Information**

Thank you for becoming a board member of the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti LDFA. In an effort to familiarize you with the various programs and support LDFA funding provides, please review the following list of events and activities that should help you familiarize yourself with our Entrepreneur Ecosystem.

### **L DFA Funded Programs**

- **SPARK Central and East Incubators:** Consider taking a tour of the incubators and meeting some of the companies that use the facilities for their day to day operations. Any SPARK staff member would be happy to take you through the building. As an LDFA board member please consider yourself to have a standing invitation to work out of either of our incubators and observe the day to day activities first hand.
- **SPARK Boot Camp:** Held twice a year (once in spring and once in fall), it is a two day intensive event that puts between 10-15 startups through intensive validation of their proposed businesses. Attending even part of day's curriculum will be very insightful to the method of instruction we provide to early stage companies.
- **Entrepreneur Education:** Attending or simply auditing part of an educational session (i.e. Spark.ed) will give you an understanding of the types of programming LDFA funding provides to growing tech startups in our community.
- **Ann Arbor Tech Trek:** Each summer the LDFA provides funding to create a community open house type event for the general population of Ann Arbor. Attendance provides a high degree of insight into our otherwise closed door tech community. You can learn more here: <http://annarborusa.org/techtrek/>
- **Tech Homecoming:** This is a talent attraction event held on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. The target is out of town tech employees visiting for the holiday. You can learn more here: <http://annarborusa.org/Tech-Homecoming>

### **SPARK Events to Attend**

- **SPARK 101:** Each summer SPARK holds an onboarding session for its new board members. LDFA members are encouraged to attend to gain a perspective of how the overall SPARK organization functions beyond the LDFA/startup component.
- **SPARK Annual Meeting:** Held each spring, this event highlights key accomplishments and companies in our region. There is also a prominent keynote which in 2017 is Richard Florida, one of the most respected thought leaders in the field of Economic Development.

Please also consider leveraging your fellow board members, SPARK staff and other ecosystem partners to further develop your understanding of the needs and successful aspects of the work we support to grow tech companies in our region. Thank you for your time and willingness to serve and support the growth of our tech economy.