FORWARD

Birmingham Enterprise Community

BEC

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What is Birmingham Enterprise Community?

Birmingham Enterprise Community is a Midlands based social enterprise supporting emerging entrepreneurs and changemakers from across the region.

It empowers it's community through a range of initiatives, training, support and access to resources and networks in order to help them to build the skills, knowledge and connections they need.

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Consolidating FORWARD Accelerator as one of the leading accelerator programmes in the region.

Providing end-to-end support to be able to support emerging entrepreneurs from idea to scale.

Creating inclusive initiatives to widen participation amongst groups usually less represented

Attract talent from beyond the region to establish their businesses in here. Both across the UK and internationally.

We have created a new model that builds on our existing work but transforms the support we offer in order to include initiatives to increase participation from groups usually underrepresented in entrepreneurship including Female Founders, Founders with disabilities & Founders from ethnic backgrounds. This will ensure that we play our part in making starting a business open to anyone.

Furthermore, by increasing the range of support on offer we are able to create a world-class range of services capable of attracting talented emerging entrepreneurs from across the globe and bring them to the Midlands to become part of an exciting community of changemakers and future leaders.

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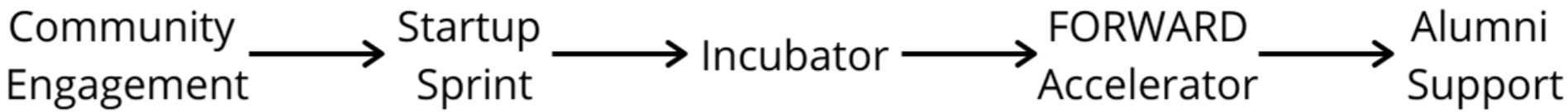
BEC 2.0

In order to support these entrepreneurs from idea to scale we've created staged programmes which support them at each step in their entrepreneurial journey - providing them with the specific support



Community Engagement	Startup Sprint	The Proving Ground Incubator	FORWARD Accelerator	Alumni Support
Events & initiatives to provide networking opportunities & insight into what the entrepreneurial journey is all about.	1-month long programme for individuals ready to start a business or who have recently started to take them through the fundamentals of starting a new business.	An on-going programme offering support to startups developing and testing their MVP (the first version of their product or service).	6 months of intensive support for scale ups - rapidly growing businesses. F2 - Apr 20 - Oct 20 F3 - Nov 20 - May 21	Various support services for the businesses that have been through our programmes to help them with the ongoing development of their businesses.

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COVID19 Response

During the current time we have shifted all our programmes, events and resources to be accessible virtually.

Birmingham Enterprise Community approach the lockdown and pandemic challenges by:

Maintaining the engagement with the community through a series of events and free virtual support.

All programmes including Startup Sprint & FORWARD are providing full levels of support even through virtual operation.

Identify startups and entrepreneurs immediate needs and provide support accordingly.

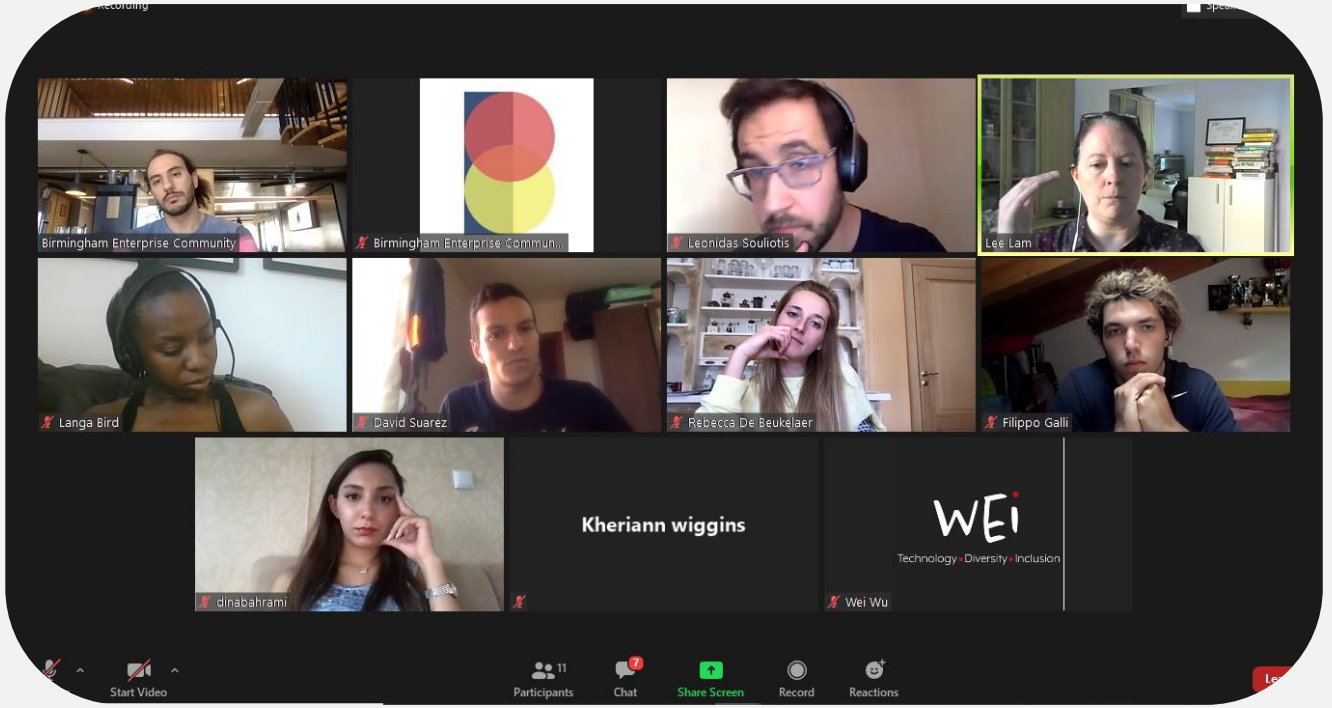
Provide scholarships to the less represented entrepreneurs and businesses.

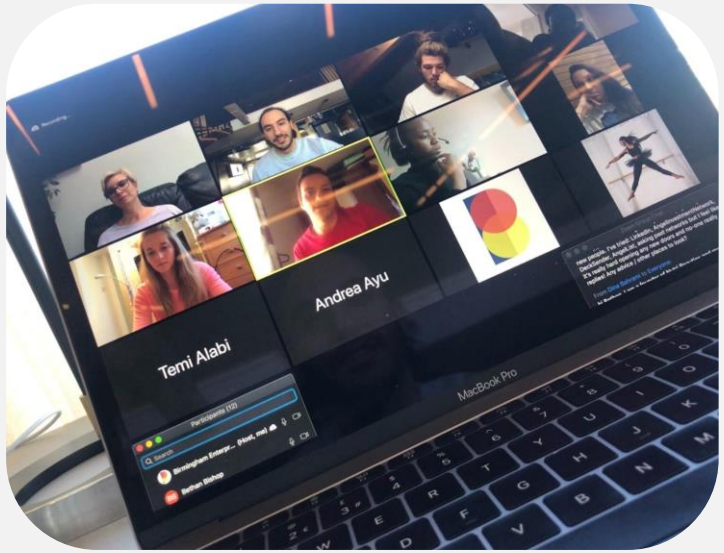
Keep ongoing communications with partners in the ecosystem.

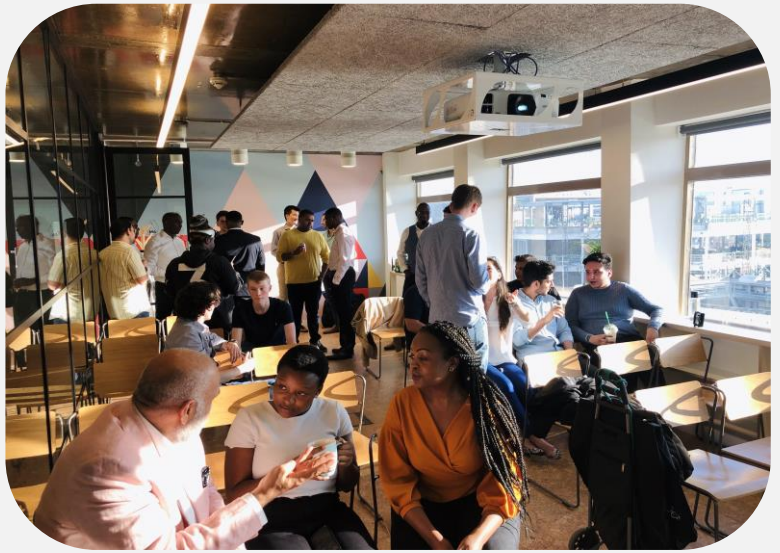
Utilize our resources and when possible share resources with our partners for more efficient operations.

Provide students with internships to join BEC team and provide them with work experience while waiting to be back to their universities.

COVID19 Response







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[REFRAME]

The [REFRAME] series is a range of virtual workshops designed to help the community reframe the current pandemic to draw an opportunity from what is an uncertain time for the world.

With many experiencing lock-downs, working from home or decline (or complete halt) in trading we want to support them to take the time to work on their businesses and help them to become stronger when the world eventually returns to normal.

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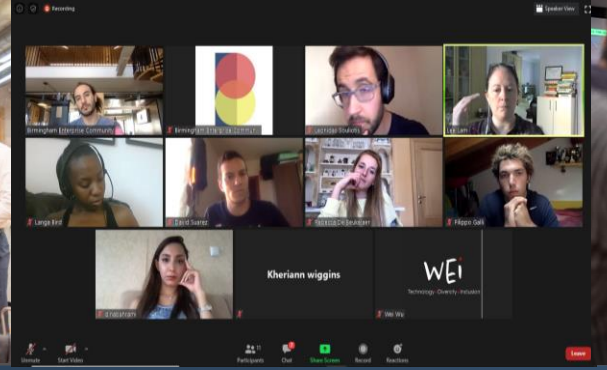
“Skills For Tomorrow”

This programme is funded by Innovate UK, and will provide the participants with the entrepreneurial skills that can be highly valuable in a range of future careers from working for an SME, large corporate or even starting a business of their own.

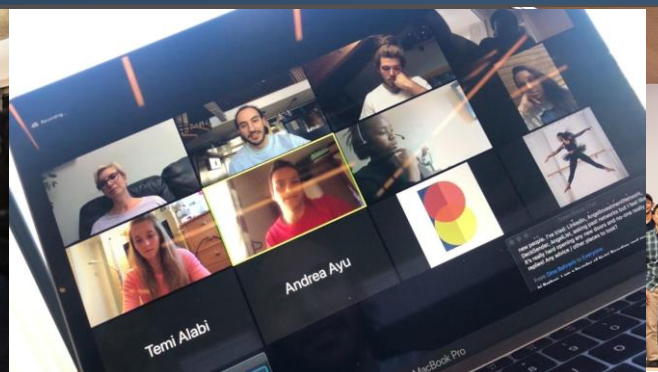
- The virtual programme will include
- live expert-led workshops,
- mentoring sessions
- and access to learning resources.

By the end of the programme participants will have build a virtual portfolio demonstrating their new skills and receive a certificate and digital badge!



During the transition period of returning to physical events and programmes, we will still offer access to events and programmes both virtually and physically so that you can access support in the way that works best for you.

If you have any questions related to this then please get in touch through hello@birminghamenterprisecommunity.co.uk and we will be more than happy to help. We remain committed to supporting you to launch your business and support you on your journey of growth.



BEC in the Community

BEC plays a huge role in developing its presence in the Midlands, with working with some of the largest businesses in the region to generate positive social impact including Birmingham Tech, Gymshark, Enterprise Nation, 7 regional universities & West Midlands Trains to name a few.

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Appendix:
Why Birmingham and the Midlands

Economic revival.

The region is seeing an economic revival with rapid growth. The West Midlands Combined Authority has one of the fastest growing economies of any Combined Authority in the country, with a GVA growth rate of 22.4% over the last five years

Innovation

Around the world, the most successful ideas emerge from places which have three critical things: world-class research institutions; a cluster of high technology firms: and major government investment. The West Midlands is home to all three.

Talent

The West Midlands is proud of its young, diverse and entrepreneurial population. Eight universities and world-class research institutions produce 55,000 graduates every year. More than 1.3 million under 25s living in the region

"Source: West Midlands Growth Company https://wmgrowth.com/invest"