

Project D4 – Clustering the Social Economy

Collaboration, Innovation & Organizational Learning: An Exploration of Non-profit Clusters and Shared Spaces

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Context



Purpose



To understand the role of organizational cluster models in strengthening and supporting the social economy.

Clusters & Cluster Theory



- Economic geography and economic development
- active channels for business transactions, dialogue and communications
- generate specialized skills, new knowledge, innovations, opportunities for cooperation, tailored infrastructure and specialized support



Emerging Trends: Beyond Industrial Districts



Industrial Ecology



Eco-industrial Parks

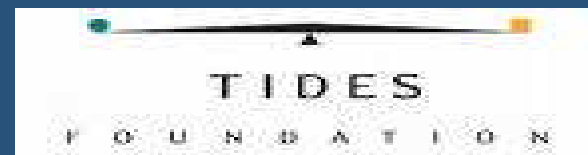
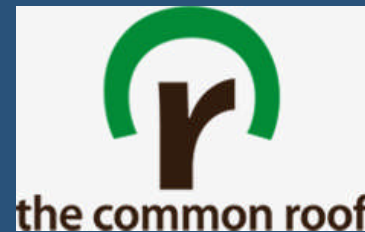


Clustering the Social Economy

Multi-tenant Non-profit Centres



- Multiple tenant organizations (non-profits and social enterprises)
- Clustered on a physical site
- Provide affordable, stable work environments,
- Build capacity and support missions of tenant organizations
- **BEYOND CO-LOCATION**



Moving Beyond Co-location

Possibilities & Opportunities



- Collaboration
- Social Innovation
- Learning Communities

Trends & Gaps



- Emerging models - 'beyond co-location'
- Knowledge of non-profit cluster models is sparse.
- Explicit need (practitioners and academics) for research to better understand these organizational models.
- Further research into inter-organizational dynamics (collaboration & learning communities) and the conditions for emergence of social innovation.

Outcomes & Future Directions



- Presentation at 2009 ANSER Conference
- Significant interest in the research report (practitioners, non-profits, municipal government, Non-profit Centres Network and Tides)
- City of Edmonton – contract (modeling and feasibility)
- Case Study Research (?)