

YuKonstruct

(co)space

Strategic Plan

2016 - 2019

(Concise Version)

PREPARED BY:



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A SUCCESSFUL STARTUP

YuKonstruct was founded as a society in early 2014, and soon opened a makerspace under that name and then a coworking space in November 2015. The hard work and enthusiasm of a dedicated core group helped get a lot done in a short amount of time.

This strategic planning process was started to take stock of where things are at, what needs attention within the organization, and which directions to consider next. **This document is a concise version - a more detailed version is available through the Board or Executive Director.**

VISION, MISSION, AND PRINCIPLES

It's important to be clear as an organization about what it is that you do, and why you do it. Vision statements reflect what you want to achieve in the world, and mission statements reflect what you do to make that vision a reality. Further, principles tell the world what you value, what's unique about you, and the ways you intend to do your work:

Vision

To empower Yukoners to bring their ideas to life in a creative, innovative community

Mission

To provide access to communal space, quality resources, shared knowledge and a collaborative environment that helps entrepreneurs and makers.

Principles

We believe in...

- Supporting our members ideas and initiatives
- Embracing the weird in the pursuit of fun and creativity
- Fostering a culture that is welcoming, inclusive, and values diversity
- Contributing to the wider community
- The power of collaboration
- Making intentional decisions while being responsive to opportunities
- Being fiscally responsible
- Being environmentally responsible
- Transparent and effective governance where all members have a voice.
- Leading by example

The following key challenges emerged from the collective input received through focus groups and interviews. These themes shaped the overall goals for the organization in the next section:

Financial Future

The organization has been able to access a significant amount of funding to start up the makerspace and coworking spaces. The vast majority of this funding is related to economic development, which fits well with much of the organization's activities (entrepreneurship), but not all (hobbyists). This same funding is unlikely to continue in the future at the same levels, and will not support general O&M such as rent, utilities, and staff positions.

Decision-Making

The organization has strived to include members' voices in discussions and decisions that affect them, mainly through CORE (Committee on Operations, Resources, and Events) and the online forum. These approaches have been great for fostering inclusion, and have at times resulted in confusion and frustration around roles & responsibilities and decision-making processes. Some members have suggested that management models like Holacracy could support more clarity while still retaining the inclusive approach that is foundational to the organization.

Relationship of Two Spaces

Both the makerspace and coworking space provide their members with the physical space, resources, and access to knowledge to support their passions. There are obvious links between the two spaces, and some important differences as well. While (co)space members are largely entrepreneurs (and some students), YuKonstruct members are a mix of hobbyists with some people also focused on entrepreneurship.

Physical Space

The current makerspace location at 135 Industrial Road is not suitable for the long-term due to space constraints, which impact members' experience and the ability to pursue strategic partnerships. The current coworking space, while not perfect, is generally meeting its members' needs well. Housing the makerspace and coworking space in one location could really support more synergy between them, though would bring some challenges in terms of zoning, building suitability, soundproofing, etc.

The broad goals below encompass the desired future for YuKconstruct & (co)space over the next three years. **More detailed objectives are included in the full version of the plan, which is available through the Board or Executive Director.**

1. Financial Stability

The organization has reliable and diverse sources of funding that support its operating needs, including a mix of grant funding and membership fees.

2. Clear Operational Processes

The organization has developed and documented clear roles, responsibilities and decision-making processes, which include staff, volunteers, board of directors, and members.¹

3. Suitable Physical Space

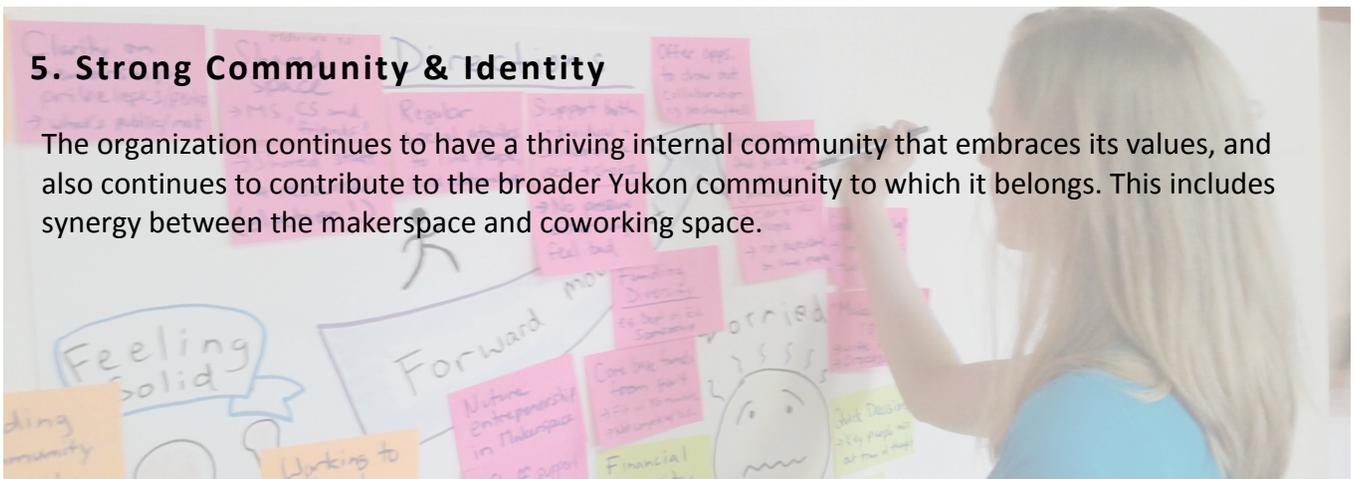
The organization has secured suitable long-term space for its operations, potentially with the makerspace and coworking space under one roof. The physical space(s) may include partner organizations with similar purposes, philosophy, and values.

4. Quality Programming

Programming in both spaces develops the knowledge and skills of members, and builds a stronger community of makers and entrepreneurs in the Yukon. Programming helps attract new members, generate revenue where possible, and help develop potential future instructors and mentors.

5. Strong Community & Identity

The organization continues to have a thriving internal community that embraces its values, and also continues to contribute to the broader Yukon community to which it belongs. This includes synergy between the makerspace and coworking space.



¹ The full version of the plan contains more details about a new approach to decision-making that was framed by the strategic planning working group.