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Collaborative resource center for women of color to open in San Bernardino

By LOREN MEZA Reporter Redlands Community News
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The BBOP building in San Bernardino.

Courtesy photo

The Black and Brown Opportunities for Profit Center (BBOP) is a project of the Time for Change Foundation that is a “first-of-its-kind economic hub” providing resources and support for women to become entrepreneurs and develop their businesses with the goal of achieving financial stability.

Targeted to open next month, the center is at 599 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.

The center is intended to house an ecosystem of mentors and peers for women entrepreneurs where they can support and acquire increased access to capital. The center is 10,000 square feet, has 14 offices, a cafeteria, shared workspaces, a childcare center and will be open 16 hours a day. Each space is designed for a purpose as explained in an interview with Kim Carter, the founder of Time for Change Foundation.

There will be a fast-pitch room with venture capitalists and a one on one room for signing the deals. Also there will be a room where legal guidance is available to review contracts and ensure the women are getting what they worked for.

Carter said certainly, “There are so many opportunities in San Bernardino that have yet to be tapped into.”

Carter is the founder and an ambassador of Time for Change Foundation since 2002 and a graduate from the University of Redlands.

The mission of the nonprofit is to empower disenfranchised low-income individuals and their families through programs that create self-sufficiency, housing opportunities and build prosperous communities.

There are 19 locations for this organization throughout southern and northern California.



To learn more and help support Black and Brown Opportunities

For the BBOP (Bee-Bop) Carter explained, Time for Change Foundation leads the effort, however the primary investor in BBOP is the Silicon Valley Family Community Foundation. Carter sees their investment as a sign of hope and belief in the actuality of future prosperity for the program intended to serve all of the Inland Empire.

The BBOP also has a virtual learning program already active called the Build Program. The Build Program is a hybrid training course for strategies and education on how to grow a business and advance products and services by women.

Organizers launched their first academy early because it was ready to go and participants that had already signed up were eager to begin. The academy’s first class was made up of 45 women and the first 29 who completed the course received a surprise \$500 investment from the Time for Change Foundation.

The BBOP emerged as the pandemic highlighted the working difficulties for women who were deemed “essential workers.” The work during the pandemic was demanding of women and exacerbated the population of brown and black minorities, calling Kim Carter and Executive

Director Vanessa Perez to create a better opportunity for them.

“We are not just consumers, we are creators,” Carter said.

Carter has recently had her own life story depicted in a film about empowering women titled “Tell it Like a Woman.” The film features seven stories directed by women worldwide and sees Jeniffer Hudson portraying Kim Carter as she overcame adversity to become the civil servant she is today.