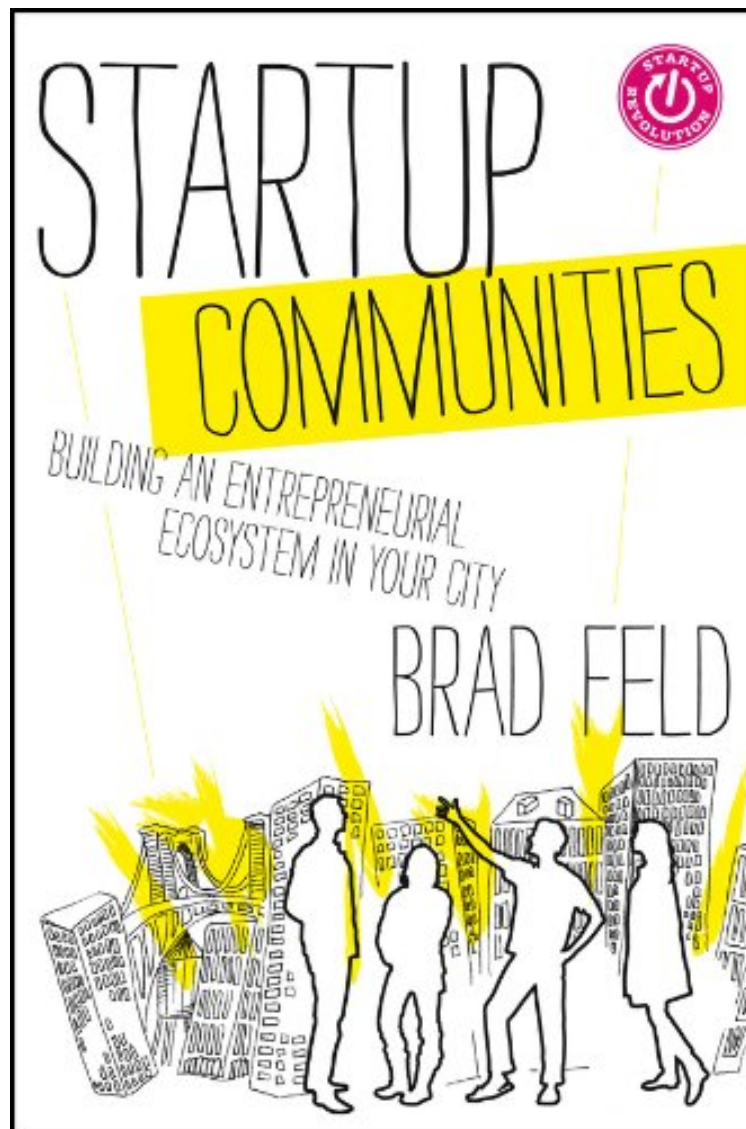


[Download pdf] Startup Communities: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Your City

# Startup Communities: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Your City

Brad Feld

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**Brad Feld : Startup Communities: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Your City** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Startup Communities: Building an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in Your City:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A "must read" for anyone wanting to build a startup community  
By Open to change? When in September 2013 I arrived in Huntsville, Alabama to help build an entrepreneurial ecosystem in a largely government contractor town focused on NASA and the defense industry, this wonderful book was my

"cookbook" on how to proceed. The morning coffee networking group was key to getting started, and HOTCoffee (Huntsville Open Tech Coffee) is going strong today, with over 60 participants every other Friday morning. Stating clear principles of inclusion and giving before you get from the outset was key to setting expectations and rules of engagement. Over the years we have seen many exciting new initiatives spawn from our original networking group, adding depth and reach to the entrepreneurial ecosystem. But alas, the book is also wise to institutional constraints, such as those imposed by universities. And beware entities that want to "own" the ecosystem. As an academic and entrepreneur, I'm aware of a variety of ways to engage the community, and I suggest that this book is a "must read" for anyone serious about building a startup community.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Extraordinary Framework for Building an Startup Ecosystem in your Community By scottbalster I found Brad's book as an extraordinary framework and tool in which to work from in building a startup community. He even took the time to meet with some entrepreneurs from our community to help and discuss the book in detail. Below is the excerpt on what we learned: "We had the fantastic opportunity to meet with Brad Feld last Friday in Boulder. The agenda was focused on startup communities and more specifically how we could apply the concepts in his book to the Loveland/Fort Collins ecosystem. Ben West, Marshall Smith, and I made the drive over to Boulder and had an opportunity to sit down and have breakfast with Brad and ask him some questions. My takeaways are below:

**On Meetups** Brad spoke about the success of the various organic meetups that occur in Boulder. He talked about the beginning of the Boulder Open Coffee Meet Up at Atlas Purveyors. A key point he made is to be consistent about having the meetings every month. He said it is easy to get discouraged when there are only a small group of people starting out at first. He advised that the focus should be on the quality of the meetup and the value that each participant is getting from the event. Furthermore, to grow the meet up he said to have each participant invite one friend each month. Without consistency of meetups, then this aspect of the ecosystem will never grow and thrive.

**Our Action Items:**

1. Ben West is likely going to lead a monthly Javascript Meetup and get assistance from Marshall. The plan would be to hold the meetings at DazBog, The Coffee Tree, and possibly at The Armory in Loveland.
2. I plan to lead through my work with EmployTown a "Skills Bootcamp" once a month to hold discussions on the key skills that job seekers and top performers need to have.
3. Hold "Office Hours" at either DazBog, The Coffee Tree, or The Armory in Loveland once a month to help local job seekers, employees, or managers with specific questions that they may have.
4. Partner with local business leaders to offer a "Open Forum" for questions and answers on a variety of interesting topics that are happening locally.

**On Finding Space For The Startup Community** We were concerned about finding the space to hold meetups and other informal events. Brad said this is actually easy. He said to begin hanging out at local coffee shops. As more entrepreneurs and people begin hanging out, the coffee shops will get the benefit of increased business with community members buying food and coffee. As the meet ups increase in size, a smart coffee shop will gladly welcome the trickle down in business to them. For larger events, he said adopt local businesses products as the preferred products of the startup community and they will have to notice. He mentioned his adage-- "Give before you get".

**Our Action Items**

1. Otterbox will be the official technology case for the Fort Collins/Loveland Startup Community.
2. Grimm Brothers and New Belgium Beer will be the beer of choice and served at events in the Fort Collins/Loveland Startup Community.
3. We will continue this same pattern for other businesses in the startup community as needed and applicable.

**On Relationships with Other Entrepreneurs/Members of the Startup Community** Brad laid out numerous case studies as reasons to avoid transactional relationships. He advised to give your time, money (when you can), and effort without any kind of expectations. Conversely, if you can't do something the other community members should hold no grudge against that person. That way there is not a culture of indebtedness. ultimately, this will lead to the strengthening of the community and the entrepreneurial fabric in the community. Additionally, he differentiated neighborhoods and cities. He encouraged us to understand this difference. I was re-assured by this since many of the creative people that we currently know work and live near the Downtown Loveland district.

**Our Action Items**

1. Marshall, Ben, and I are currently helping each other with our various projects. Marshall and Ben are already introducing me to their contacts. We will continue to build on this to build our network of entrepreneurs and others that want to be leaders/participants in the startup community in Fort Collins/Loveland.
2. Support over community members to give them the best chance at success. Over the long term, more startups and businesses will have success and that will bring in more customers, more employees, and grow the startup community and the entire ecosystem will reap the benefits of this. Eventually, there will be anchor startups that can be pillars to host events and provide further guidance to the rest of the startup community.
3. Work harder than ever at supporting other startups in the community as much as our own.

These are some of my initial thoughts. I hope to expand in a few weeks on other ideas that I have. Of course, I welcome feedback and suggestions from the Fort Collins/Loveland community and from other communities regarding what has worked and what has stalled. Finally, we would like to extend a huge thank you for Brad Feld for taking time to talk to us and being so gracious in sharing his knowledge and insight in order to help propel us and our startup community.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If there is one book about startup communities you should read, this is it By Sang Shin Literally felt like I had all these ideas floating in my head, and then a la Tetris, a massive alignment occurred and everything just clicked and cleared when I read this book. Woomp. The book is an easy read - it discusses concepts and frameworks without getting too academic

and uses real world stories to illustrate them. I especially enjoyed the "guest passages" from contributors which added a different dimension to the narrative. I can't say that I'm an expert in building startup communities, but as someone who co-founded a startup and who is trying to help stand-up a startup community in a new place, this book is great compass. Remember, this is not a zero sum game!

An essential guide to building supportive entrepreneurial communities "Startup communities" are popping up everywhere, from cities like Boulder to Boston and even in countries such as Iceland. These types of entrepreneurial ecosystems are driving innovation and small business energy. Startup Communities documents the buzz, strategy, long-term perspective, and dynamics of building communities of entrepreneurs who can feed off of each other's talent, creativity, and support. Based on more than twenty years of Boulder-based entrepreneur turned-venture capitalist Brad Feld's experience in the field as well as contributions from other innovative startup communities this reliable resource skillfully explores what it takes to create an entrepreneurial community in any city, at any time. Along the way, it offers valuable insights into increasing the breadth and depth of the entrepreneurial ecosystem by multiplying connections among entrepreneurs and mentors, improving access to entrepreneurial education, and much more. Details the four critical principles needed to form a sustainable startup community Perfect for entrepreneurs and venture capitalists seeking fresh ideas and new opportunities Written by Brad Feld, a thought-leader in this field who has been an early-stage investor and successful entrepreneur for more than twenty years Engaging and informative, this practical guide not only shows you how startup communities work, but it also shows you how to make them work anywhere in the world.