Spice Kitchen Incubator

“International Rescue Committee’s Spice Kitchen Incubator was designed for refugees and other disadvantaged community members who want to start a food business but don’t have the knowledge or means to do so. We support them through the entire process to ensure success in their endeavors.”

Sector: Food service

Description:
Salt Lake has a growing community of people from all over the world, many of whom have an entrepreneurial spirit but struggle to succeed because of language barriers, lack of opportunity or lack of business knowledge. Spice Kitchen Incubator helps those who want to set up their own culinary business by providing mentorship, technical assistance and training, grants and financial backing and an industrial kitchen for them to use.

Although the term “incubator kitchen” isn’t something you hear a lot, the concept isn’t new to the startup world. Incubator programs help startups get off the ground and grow into healthy, sustainable businesses. When refugees and immigrants come to Salt Lake, they bring with them their culture and cuisine. Using skills they already possess, like cooking, to make a living in a way that honors their culture can help these people gain confidence in themselves and their situations.

The Spice Kitchen Incubator program accepts around twenty businesses a year. There are numerous stages to the program, including preincubation, incubation and graduation, and entrepreneurs are carefully guided through each phase of learning. The combination of training, access to equipment and guidance from Spice Kitchen Incubator has enabled many business owners to succeed. “We provide market opportunities for our entrepreneurs throughout the year,” says Kate Idzorek, Spice Kitchen Incubator program manager. “Each of those opportunities has different nuances, and we make sure that the entrepreneur has the skills and capacities to take on that situation. We help them grow through those market opportunities while they also grow their own skills and confidence to access their own market opportunities.”

[Apply to] spicekitchenincubator.org/apply or email spice.kitchenincubator@rescue.org

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