

The Power of Cooperative Ownership

Increasingly, successful businesses are transitioning to cooperative ownership. The power of this model rests in its ability to provide shared responsibility for the success of a business, increased longevity, workforce loyalty, as well as a solid exit strategy for owners seeking to retire.

On October 4th, in partnership with Project Equity, we are inviting speakers to share their stories. Kirk Vartan, who co-owns of A Slice of New York pizza restaurant with his wife, Margeurite Lee, will be speaking from the selling owner's perspective. Alison Lingane, co-founder of Project Equity, an Oakland-based nonprofit focused on transitioning businesses to the cooperative model, will take us through the process of converting a company, including tax advantages, governance structures and key benefits. We are confirming an existing member of a cooperative business to present on the benefits of being a worker-owner.

Attendees will enjoy a powerful learning experience and gain insight into the high-level process of converting a business to the cooperative model. This event will appeal to existing business owners and employees that wish to examine a transition as well as those that may be thinking of starting or expanding a business and have interest in strengthening their model.

There are major upsides to expanding employee ownership across all sectors, visit project-equity.org to learn more.

Event Details

October, 4, 2016 • 6:30 - 8:30pm

Cooperative Center FCU, lobby • 2001 Ashby Ave. Berkeley, CA

Visit project-equity.org/events-and-webinars to RSVP

Our Presenters

Alison Lingane, Co-Founder, Project Equity

Alison started her career in community-based work, designing and leading micro-enterprise programs for urban youth Inspired to gain skills to bring programs to scale and create real opportunity for people, she left to go to business school and earned her B.A. from Harvard University and her MBA from the Haas School of Business. In 2014 Alison and Hilary Lingane founded Project Equity. They provide targeted training to help business owners figure out if employee ownership is a good fit, and support businesses in making the transition. There are major upsides to expanding employee ownership across all sectors, visit project-equity.org to learn more.

Kirk Vartan, Co-Owner, A Slice of New York

After moving to San Jose in 1998, Kirk quickly came to miss the Northeast pizza he grew up with. In 2006, he left hi-tech and together he and his wife created A Slice of New York, a small pizza shop celebrating its 10 year anniversary this September. Employee ownership was something Kirk and Marguerite wanted from day one and as the business grew and added a second location, an empowered workforce emerged. In April of 2016 Kirk and Margeurite joined Project Equity's Cooperative Business Incubator and started the process, "We want to lead by example and show the strength of an empowered workforce to the South Bay."



Owners of A Slice of New York



Crew of A Slice of New York