



**Kim Plank**

Kim Plank is the General Manager of the Cambridge Innovation Center (or CIC) St. Louis, and has recently taken on the responsibility of being the Midwest Regional Director for Venture Café Global's Captain of Innovation program. CIC is located in the Cortex Innovation Community and is home to approximately 280 entrepreneurs, innovators, startup companies, corporate innovation departments, and service providers for startups. At CIC entrepreneurs can connect to programming, venture capital and other innovative minds, and grow in a thriving community that supports their needs in a professional and hi-tech arena. Venture Café is one of the programs under the CIC roof, and is the largest, weekly gathering of entrepreneurs globally, attracting an average of 525 people every Thursday evening.

Kim came to CIC as a seasoned economic developer from the St. Louis Regional Chamber, where she recruited businesses to the St. Louis Region as the Director of Health Science and Services & Biosciences. Her position also allowed her to work with startups in the health science and bioscience spaces. Prior to her role at the Chamber, Kim served as the Executive Director of Urban K-Life, a Christian sports and mentorship ministry serving teens in the comprehensive public high schools of North St. Louis, with mentors and athletic coaches.

Kim launched her entrepreneurial career working in her family's motorcycle business in Southeastern Ohio. She assisted other Philadelphia entrepreneurs in opening a mystery shopping business, developing a focus group facility and an advertising specialties company. After moving to St. Louis, she opened Runaround Sue, a domestic cleaning company and KpWired Designs, a jewelry design company, donating profits to single moms in North St. Louis. Kim continues her work with women and teens in North St. Louis to create pathways to entrepreneurship and workforce development that will allow for sustainable employment opportunities. She is also active in networking together young leaders and pastors to carry out efforts for racial and economic reconciliation and restoration in St. Louis.