



**501c BUSINESS INCUBATOR COUNCIL, LLC
& LEAD CHARITY**

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION FOR EXEMPT STARTUPS & SMALL BUSINESSES (EEF-501c)

Monday, March 11, 2024

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
TE/GE Exempt Organizations
Room 6403
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Fax: 855-204-6184

**RE: BUSINESS NAME CHANGES
& REQUEST TO UPDATE RECORDS/ACCOUNTS WITH NEW NAME AND TRADE NAME**

Dear Compliance Officer:

Good Day, I am Jerri D. Thomas, Founder, President, CEO of several business entities formed in the State of Maryland, **Thank You** in advance for your time. Both my LLC and my 501c's names have changed. I understand the LLC information must be mailed to the Kansas City, MO office which processes Regular Business Name Changes.

As such, this letter is to notify TE/GE by FAX that my charitable foundation name has changed. I am requesting an update of your records/files be updated to reflect the Foundation's new name so it aligns with its Tax ID.

The Learners Lab Foundation is my charity whom you assigned the **Tax ID 45-5222602**. Effective February 2024, the *Articles of Amendment (AoA)* to cease using both these business names in favor of **NEW** business names I requested was approved. In keeping with your respective procedures to report such changes, we are faxing the appropriate State of Maryland instruments citing approval of my entity name change.

I am also including the Resolution for the Foundations Trade Name so that it is also directly linked to its Tax ID (45-5222602) and both names can be accepted with its Tax ID interchangeably.

The "*Economic Empowerment Foundation for Exempt Startups & Small Businesses, Inc.*"TM is the new business name for *The Learners Lab Foundation (TLLF), Inc.* This update was done to convey The Foundations purpose, impact, and the Stakeholder Market it serves. As lead charity and Fiscal Sponsor, The Foundations planned expansion has morphed into a growing collaborative of national charitable organizations, and programs that were formerly just services offered. Our work pollinates the success to 501c startups, 501c entrepreneurship, and the tax-exempt small businesses and connecting them to whatever is unreachable & gives visibility, which is the mission.

In 2023 the State of Maryland approved a Resolution accepting "*501c Economic Development Collaborative (501cEDC)*"TM as the Foundation's Trade Name, MD #T00543526. We are requesting this Trade Name be treated as an "*Also DBA*" so that both business names can be used interchangeably with our Tax ID 45-5222602.

Of course we defer to your judgement if you prefer we continue use of the current number or to change the Tax ID and issue another.

**501c Business Incubator Council, LLCTM
Economic Empowerment Foundation for Exempt Startups & Small Businesses (EEF-501c)TM**

Tax ID: 52-1963151 | Collaborative HQ, Lanham-Seabrook, MD 20706 | Tax ID: 45-5222602



For the record, all our State Registration, NTEE and other codes are as follows:

- State of MD : Business Registration #D16166209, Trade Name T00543526
- NTEE: S30, S43
 - S30: Economic Development
 - S43: Small Business Development
- SIC: 8748, NAICS: 926110, 541618, 541690, 611430, 541611

Meantime, our Approved State of Maryland Articles of Amendment (AoA) and Trade Name Resolutions are attached. As well, an archived Org Chart showing the Charitable Collaborative as of a year ago is attached for your records while we work to update it this this change and several new entities which have since been established before we lost our Ocean City MD HubZone opportunity when the updated new map took effect.

Please update all your account and records for us with these changes so we can move forward with updating our credit union banking information & other mandatory business instruments.

Do let me know if there are any questions regarding this matter, or if any other information required. My direct cell and emails are provided below.

Thank you so much, and stay safe!

Jerri

Attachments:

- 1) State of Maryland Articles of Amendment Approving TLLFs Change of Name to EEF-501c
- 2) State of Maryland Resolution Approving *501c Economic Development Collaborative (T00543526)* as Trade Name
- 3) State of Maryland Certificate of Status showing AoA Approval of TLLF & EEF-501c
- 4) The Competence Group, LLC (parent entity) Archived 2023 Charitable Collaborative Org Chart

Jerri D. Thomas MBA, MPA, PhD Student
Founder, CEO, Chair
Economic Empowerment Foundation for Exempt Startups
& Small Businesses (EEF-501c) Tax ID 45-5222602

Founder & President, (parent entity)
501c Business Incubator Council, LLC (501cBizIncCncl) Tax ID 52-1963151
HQ@The501cBizIncubatorCouncil.com | HQ@501cEconomicEmpowermentFndn.org (ofc)

Direct Personal Contact:
Libra930@MzFxIt.com | 202 308 1680 (cell)

/Corporate Office
/Board & ResAgent Files
/Office of Kenneth A. Sprang, Esq.

501c Business Incubator Council, LLC. (501cBizIncCncl)™
Economic Empowerment Foundation for Exempt Startups & Small Businesses (EEF-501c)™

501cFCU * NCTSB * ATESE * 501cSBC * FellowshipAcademy for Leadership & Business Continuity * Podcasting Biz Ctr * AWE * TSF * API/ALegUp * VPL * BBGO *
HHF * TCI * Life=Math + Sci * Fiscal Sponsorships * TASC * 501cPolDev Think-Tank & RsrchCtrs

302 662 0047 Roaming Voice | HQ@The501cBizIncubatorCouncil.com | 667 803 0036 Secure Fax

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT

for a

MARYLAND NON-STOCK CORPORATION

(1)

(2) THE LEARNERS LAB FOUNDATION (TLLF), INC. (D16166209),
 a Maryland corporation, certifies to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland that the charter of the corporation shall be and hereby is amended as follows:

(3) (a) to be henceforth known as

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION FOR EXEMPT STARTUPS & SMALL BUSINESSES (EEF-501c), INC.

(b) continue as a Maryland Non-Stock Corporation using its current NTEE/NAIC/SIC Codes

This amendment of the charter of the corporation has been approved by

(4) Founder, CEO & Board Chair
Interim Advisory Council Members (Board)

The undersigned acknowledges that this is an act of the above-named corporation, and verifies, under the penalties for perjury, that the matters and facts stated herein, which require such verification, are true and accurate, to the best of his/her knowledge, information, and belief.

(5) Jerri D Thomas, Founder&CEO
 Digitally signed by Jerri D Thomas, Founder&CEO
 Date: 2024.02.09 18:52:44 -05'00'
 ATTESTED TO BY (signature/title)

(5) Sandra Whitaker-Bryant, Ph.D/CFO
 Digitally signed by Sandra Whitaker-Bryant, Ph.D/CFO
 Date: 2024.02.11 15:21:51 -05'00'
 SIGNED BY WITNESS (signature/title)

(6) Return address of filing party:
Jerri D. Thomas, Founder, CEO & Chair
Economic Empowerment Foundation for
Exempt Startups & Small Businesses (EEF-501c), Inc.
6511 Princess Garden Parkway
Collamore Bldg #202, Interim HQ
Lanham-Seabrook, Maryland 20706

STATE OF MARYLAND

Department of Assessments and Taxation

I, MICHAEL L. HIGGS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE DEPARTMENT, BY LAWS OF THE STATE, IS THE CUSTODIAN OF THE RECORDS OF THIS STATE RELATING TO THE FORFEITURE OR SUSPENSION OF CORPORATIONS, OR THE RIGHTS OF CORPORATIONS TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN THIS STATE, AND THAT I AM THE PROPER OFFICER TO EXECUTE THIS CERTIFICATE.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION FOR EXEMPT STARTUPS & SMALL BUSINESSES (EEF-501C), INC. (D16166209)**, INCORPORATED OCTOBER 30, 2014, IS A CORPORATION DULY INCORPORATED AND EXISTING UNDER AND BY VIRTUE OF THE LAWS OF MARYLAND AND THE CORPORATION HAS FILED ALL ANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED, HAS NO OUTSTANDING LATE FILING PENALTIES ON THOSE REPORTS, AND HAS A RESIDENT AGENT. THEREFORE, THE CORPORATION IS AT THE TIME OF THIS CERTIFICATE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THIS DEPARTMENT AND DULY AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE ALL THE POWERS RECITED IN ITS CHARTER OR CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, AND TO TRANSACT BUSINESS IN MARYLAND.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY SIGNATURE AND AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION OF MARYLAND AT BALTIMORE ON THIS MARCH 03, 2024.



Michael L. Higgs
Director



301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Telephone Baltimore Metro (410) 767-1340 / Outside Baltimore Metro (888) 246-5941
MRS (Maryland Relay Service) (800) 735-2258 TT/Voice

Online Certificate Authentication Code: JVoZSndvY0akyVHpadtUfQ
To verify the Authentication Code, visit <http://dat.maryland.gov/verify>

ARCHIVED



THE COMPETENCE GROUP, LLC™

Tax ID 52-1963151
Since 1980 | Incorporated 1980 | LLC 2020

Parent Entity | Founder & CEO | Chair, Chamber & Enterprise Operations

The Learners Lab Foundation (TLLF)™

Tax ID: 45-5222602

501c Entrepreneurial Economic Development | Charitable Workforce Training Incubator | Executive Management Fellowship Academy

Work Began Jan 1998 | Began as Job Training Program for its 501c parent, ED-Lab Online (Sept 2002)
Retrooled/Renamed as The Learners Lab May 2012 | IRS Approved as 501c Public Charitable Foundation February 2015 | Foundation added to name June 2017

National Chamber of Tax-Exempt Small Businesses (NCTSB)™

Tax ID 88-3384567

Association of Tax Exempt Startups & Entrepreneurs (ATESE)™

Tax ID 85-2438944

The Podcasting Business Center (PBC)™

Tax ID 88-2636443

The 501c Federal Credit Union (501cFCU)™

Tax ID 88-4413519

Thrift Store Finds-Silent & Online Auction (TSF)™

Tax ID 92-1024230

Institute for 501c Entrepreneurial Economic Development™

Tax ID 85-0759000

The Council for 501c/Tax Exempt Entrepreneurial Policy Development and Inclusion™

Tax ID 85-0759000

LEGEND:

TLLF = Asset Mgmt, Program Dev & Delivery, Strategic Planning **NCTSB** = Promotes 501c Small Business **ATESE** = 501c Founders IDs Issues **PBC** = 501cSmBiz-2-SmBiz Xchange, Podcast, Banking/Fin & Trng
501cFCU = established to guarantee 501c Startups & Entrepreneurs receive banking services; open to all 501cs & open to State Employees thru State Partnerships, **TSF** = helps fund economic development & training programs & services, & small \$1 lending capacity **The Institute** = 501c SmallBiz Advocacy, Policy Dev & Lobbying **The Council** = Research, Analysis, Drafts Education/Policy Materials **TCG LLC** = Designs, Develops, or Creates Stakeholder Resources for TLLF that Close/Eliminate Gaps to Business Assets, Training, Finance, Funding & other issues ID'd by ATESE | Manages Enterprise Assets, Operations, & Technology | Develops/Designs Unique Products & Secure Patents then Donates for use by the Enterprise | Runs Partnership Programs

CONNECTING AN IGNORED MARKET OF 501c STARTUPS & ENTREPRENEURS TO THE BUSINESS & \$\$\$ ASSETS THEY NEED.

THE COMPETENCE GROUP, LLC™

<https://CompetenceGroup.co> (live beta)
<https://TheCompetenceGroupLLC.com> (Coming Soon page until beta is complete)

The Learners Lab Foundation Tax-Exempt Small Business Collective™ *...the charitable version of the SBA+US Dept. of Commerce +US Treasury* Tax ID 45-5222602

Economic Development for 501c Startups,
 Entrepreneurs & Small 501c Businesses

- TLLF Fiscal Sponsorships & Technical Assistance Service Center (TASC) F1023/24 Prep, Biz Structure Design, Staff & Succession Plng, Grant & Donation Processing

- Association of Tax Exempt Startups & Entrepreneurs (ATESE)**
 Tax ID 85-2438944

- Institute for 501c Entrepreneurial Economic Development**
 Tax ID 85-0759000
 &
The Council for 501c/Tax Exempt Entrepreneurial Policy Development & Inclusion
 Tax ID 85-0759000
 Think Tank & its Research Center

- The Helping Hand Fund (HHF)**
 Tax ID 88-4404948
 Small \$1 Loans for 501c Startups & Small Business

- A Leg Up for 501c Startups™**
 Stipend Based Projects for 501c IT Startups

- InfoXchange (InfoX)™**
 Information, Resources & Business Asset Portal &
The 501c Entrepreneur Master Resource Guide & Encyclopedia™
 10-volume repository of compliance info, forms & other resources new 501c businesses require

Charitable Workforce Training
 Incubator Programs

- The VPL™: a Virtual Private Library & Software Lab**
 Open-Access, Multi-Lingual Library of Training Products & User Accessible Business Software

- The Fellowship Academy™ @ (Host-Sponsor)**
 Series of Specialized 501c Executive Mgmt Fellowships, Internships & Apprenticeships Programs; C-Level PhD Program

- AWET™ Program**
 - A Cross-County MD Public-Partnership Training Program across all MD Counties that marries *Auto-Mechanics, Welding, & most all the Engineering Disciplines* with The Auto Industry & Wheelchair Repair/ Auto Donations &
Battle-Buddy Grill Off (BBGO)™
 Fundraiser/Housing Construction, Facilities & Property Management Cross-Training Programs where Military & Civilians trainees build then manage affordable homes they live in; Starts in MD & Aiken, SC

- Academic Partnership Initiative (API)™**
 Technology Internships with Community Colleges, MSIs, HBCUs & VocEd Institutions

- LIFE=Math+Science (L=M+S & S+M)™**
 Corporate Partnership with Industry Specific Firms demonstrating how *LIFE=Math+Science* making any & everything possible from music to sports, clothes, jewelry, food, cars, cell phz, etc.

The Competence Group, LLC™ Tax ID 52-1963151

Charitable Operations | Entity Formation
 Asset Management | Program Collaborations

- 800 Blow Off Some Steam™**
 Anonymous Call-In Service for Business People who need to Vent

- The Podcasting Business Center (PBC)™ | Mobile PBC™**
 SmallBiz-2-SmallBiz Podcast Series, Credit Union, Lending Services, Training, & Market Xchange for 501c Startups/Entrepreneurs
 Tax ID 88-2636443

- National Chamber of Tax-Exempt Small Businesses (NCTSB)™**
 Tax ID 88-3384567

- [p]HCAAM™**
 Software Product: Asset & Program Management Software Portal

- The 501c Federal Credit Union™**
 Tax ID 88-4413519
 Banking for 501c Startups/Entrepreneurs but OPEN to 501cs; include CDFI Lending & our Helping Hand Fund Small \$1 Lending Program

- Thirst Store Finds - Silent & Online Auctions**
 Tax ID 92-1024230
 Ongoing Fundraiser to fund our Economic Development, Job Training, Lending Program, & Volunteer Stipends

- 501c Startup & Small Business Collective (501cSBC)™**
 Tax ID 92-2604364
 501c Startup & Small Business Collective that meets with peers & others to find solutions to their problems & discuss how politics/legislation impact/prevent achieving their mission

The Charitable Smiles Foundation™ Tax ID 88-0921129

Mind-Body-Spirit & Mobility Fitness
 Dental, Cosmetic & Periodontal Surgical Centers

- Therapy Connection Institute™**
 Tax ID 85-0759000
 &
The Cabana Inns @ TCI™
 (Tax ID pending)
 Short-term Apt & Cabana Housing for Institute Members, Outpatients & Visiting Staff of Charitable Smiles Foundation Periodontal Surgical Clinics Housing for Local Workers

 - Old People Music™**
 Listening/Dance jazz program for persons with mobility challenges
 Tax ID 92-1768025

 - SwingTyme™**
 Partner/Line Dance Jazz Club
 Tax ID 81-1405943

 - Hook on a String**
 Kids Fishing Club & Casting School, a LIFE= Math+Sci Program (Tax ID pending)
- Charitable Smiles Perio-Surgi Clinics™**
 Outpatient Periodontal & Oral Surgeries (Tax ID pending) &
The Charitable Smiles Fund™
 (Tax ID pending)
 Funds to cover 100% of periodontal services & oral surgeries for persons with little to no insurance as well as the full operation of CS Perio-Surgi Clinics.
 Surgical Procedures and support services may be recorded for Continuing Education Training.

 - Home 4 Me, Too!™**
 (Tax ID pending)
 Vacation Home for Autistic Persons & their Family

LAUNCH SCHEDULE & LEGEND
 Live/Ongoing | COVID Delayed: Relaunch Pending
 LAUNCH PENDING & RECRUITING UNDERWAY
 Postponed from COVID
 Planning In Progress, Pre-Launch Between 2024-25
 Phase 2 Infrastructure Design Pending or In Progress

STATE OF MARYLAND
Department of Assessments and Taxation

I, Michael L. Higgs, Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, hereby certify that the attached document, consisting of 2 pages, inscribed with the same Authentication Code, is a true copy of the public record of the

Trade Name

for

501C ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

(Department ID: **T00543526**)

I further certify that this document is a true copy generated from the online service with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my signature and affixed the seal of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland at Baltimore on this March 29, 2023.



Michael L. Higgs
Director



301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Telephone Baltimore Metro (410) 767-1344 / Outside Baltimore Metro (888) 246-5941
MRS (Maryland Relay Service) (800) 735-2258 TT/Voice

TRADE NAME APPLICATION

(1) Trade Name *(only one Trade Name may appear here)*:

501c Economic Development Collaborative (T00543526)

(2) Department ID of associated business: D16166209

(3) Street address(es) where name is used *(P.O. Box number is only accepted when part of the physical address)*:

9824 SEAHORSE LANE, #306
TLLF-TCG LLC HEADQUARTERS
BERLIN , MD 21811

(4) Full Legal Name of Owner of Business or Individual Using the Trade Name:

The Learners Lab Foundation (TLLF), Inc,

(5) Address of Owner *(P.O. Box number is only accepted when part of the physical address)*:

9824 Seahorse Ln, Unit 306
TLLF-TCG LLC Interim HQ
Berlin, MD 21811

(6) Description of Business:

The Competence Group, LLC has expanded its charity, The Learners Lab Foundation (TLLF),Inc. into a group of 501cs. The 501c Economic Development Collaborative says that in one name.

I affirm and acknowledge under penalties of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature(s) of Owner(s):

Jerrell Denise Thomas, Officer

Jerrell Denise Thomas, Officer

TRADE NAME APPLICATION

Full Legal Name and Address of Additional Owner of Business or Individual Using the Trade Name:

The Competence Group, LLC
9824 Seahorse Lane, #306
TLLF-TCG LLC Interim HQ
Berlin, MD 21811

Full Legal Name and Address of Additional Owner of Business or Individual Using the Trade Name:

Additional street addresses where this Trade Name will be used:

9824 Seahorse Lane, Unit 306, TLLF-TCG LLC Interim HQ, Berlin, MD, 21811-2589