



**TOP:** Creative Startups co-founder Alice Loy gives a lecture on the importance of diversity in entrepreneurship; **BOTTOM:** New book released by Creative Startups founders Alice Loy and Tom Aageson

## CREATIVE STARTUPS

The Creative Startups Accelerator was launched in 2014 with seed funding from NM EPSCoR and now is located in three sites domestically (Albuquerque; Winston-Salem, NC; Baltimore, MD) and internationally in Kuwait and Malaysia. They have graduated 65 startups from 7 international Accelerator cohorts, and 40 startups from the New Mexico Accelerator program. Creative Startups has close to 100 local and international mentors and experts. To date, the startup companies that participated in the Accelerator have raised \$11 million in private investment, generated \$10 million in new revenues, and created over 160 new jobs in New Mexico and 210 jobs globally. Seventy percent of these startups are women- or minority-owned. Additional accomplishments can be viewed in their [2018 Impact Report](#).

In 2017, Creative Startups launched their new Creative Startups LABS program to address the needs of early stage startups and entrepreneurs and prepare them for a full Accelerator program. Sixteen New Mexico-based startups participated in the inaugural LABS cohort. The LABS program will be expanded in 2018 with the development of “Libraries as Launchpads” in six public libraries throughout New Mexico. This program will connect entrepreneurs in rural and tribal communities to the educational resources needed to expand their businesses.