

# SME GROWTH FORUM

YOUR GROWTH ACCELERATOR

## BIOGRAPHY

### Alexander Bandar

Founder & CEO, Columbus Idea Foundry

- ▶ Dr. Alexander Bandar is an engineer by training, and an entrepreneur by accident. Having worked ten years in the field of manufacturing software, with clients from GE to Apple to the Defense Department, he now directs the Columbus Idea Foundry - one of the world's largest community workshops, or "makerspaces", which he began as a passion and is now his full-time career. Recently relocated to a 60,000 sf factory in Columbus OH, the Columbus Idea Foundry houses tools from blacksmithing to 3D printing, teaches classes on design and fabrication, and then sells memberships to anyone who wishes to use the workshop as if it were their own. With hundreds of members and growing rapidly (of whom approximately one third are entrepreneurs), the Columbus Idea Foundry is one of the most active makerspaces on the planet (having come in first in 3 out of 4 international competitions on "making", and sponsoring the world's winningest FTC high school robotics team), and is quickly finding a place in the creative, educational, technological and business ecosystems of Central Ohio and beyond. From Los Angeles to Barcelona, Dr. Bandar speaks and consults regularly about the "Democratization of Opportunity", has presented multiple TEDx talks on the subject, and delivered the Cultural Heritage presentation on behalf of the City of Columbus at the Intelligent Community Forum in Manhattan in 2014. (Columbus won the title of most intelligent community in the world in 2015).