

Media release

10 May 2016

Portland comes to the Blue Mountains

A global expert in the Maker Space phenomenon sweeping the world is heading to the Blue Mountains thanks to a partnership between Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE) and Scenic World. Matt Preston, Communications Director at ADX from Portland, Oregon will tour some of the leading artist studios in the Blue Mountains and talk with the local creative community about the makers movement and the maker spaces that are transforming local economies across the globe.

On Friday 13 May, Matt Preston will talk about his experience at ADX - a Makerspace, Fabrication Shop, Education Centre, Incubator and Co-working Space in Portland Oregon USA. Matt works with ADX's many small business members as they grow, innovate and perfect their products.

Following Matt's talk, Noah Checkle, Scenic World's Brand and Design Manager, will give the audience some tips about what artisans need to consider when approaching a retailer to stock their products.

"We know from ADX and similar makers spaces in Australia that these are places that bring significant economic, cultural and social benefit to communities. They help grow businesses, create jobs, stimulate collaboration and innovation, increase access to training and education and build social inclusion and capital" said BMEE CEO Jacqueline Brinkman.

BMEE is regularly approached by residents working in the creative industries seeking a collaborative maker space and / or a co-working space. BMEE recently launched a survey to measure demand, and 82.58% of respondents indicated they would pay to use a makers and / or co-working space located in the Blue Mountains.

"Thanks to a study tour coordinated by Economic Development Australia and Townsville City Council, Matt has been able to come to Australia to share his impressive knowledge about the maker movement. And thanks to our partnership with Scenic World we are delighted to be able to bring Matt to the Blue Mountains to talk with our local creative community."

Interview opportunities on Friday 13 May:

Matt Preston, Communications Director, ADX Portland
Jacqueline Brinkman, CEO, Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise

Media contact

Jacqueline Brinkman
Chief Executive Officer
0419 130 699
jacqueline@bmee.org.au