

Startup Port Manifesto:

“In order to have a properly growing and scalable startup ecosystem, the following pieces of the puzzle are required”

- Invest in **“intellectual capital”**
- Real-world business, and startup educational programs to **develop proper local talent**
- Platforms created to pull together collaboration from **service providers** that can and want to help startups during their early stages
- Providing **“shared services” solutions** to startups in order to reduce the cost of development and launch
- Experienced, real-world/real-life, mentors and advisors **from the “trenches”** (that have started and run businesses) with **proper skill-sets to help** startups to scale their businesses
- Corporations willing to learn from and **collaborate, partner with startups**
- Instill business views and mentality of making startups **collaborate with each other**
- Support of and from the Universities and Academia only in **providing resources for research and evidence based tools**
- **Micro-loan type of seed funding** for selected and vetted startups **in support of family and friends** seed investments to accelerate traction
- **Early-stage investors willing** to take a risk on the new startups
- Incubators, accelerators, and co-working **spaces fostering collaboration**
- Startup support ecosystems should not be a one way revenue models, they should **reinvest their money back into the local startup ecosystem**
- **Successful local startup “exits”** must be created to for startups that have profited from their local ecosystem support
- Most importantly **“one template”** or imitation **is not a solution** for all, each startup ecosystem must be tailored to the local needs.

Hal Tezcan
Co-Founder and Managing Director
Startup Port
Chicago