

Garden City Values

The Character and the Whole Person: We believe people with a clear sense of identity in Christ create more outstanding innovation. We therefore devote ourselves to the formation of our artist's spiritual life, home life, and character before anything else.

Innovation: We use the term *innovator* instead of *artist* in referring the idea of creativity. Not everyone sees him or herself an artist, but everyone sees themselves as an innovator. God created us this way. Garden City wants to create a greenhouse where ideas can grow and flourish, and where the realms of society—education, family, religion, business and politics, media and entertainment, the arts—can bring network thinking and work together for solutions. Our creativity will start with the “arts,” but our vision is to include and equip all realms of society with kingdom and Gospel perspective.

Collaboration and Community: Innovation and the arts have become almost completely individualized. People create by themselves and solely from their own point of view. Creating in community, and within the church helps shape better *craft* and *character*.

Ownership: In typical production models the company owns the person and their product. This is modern day slavery. In our model, we collaborate at every level to serve each other and ensure at every level that the people doing the creating get to make the decisions that pertain to their work and pursuits, and the compensation from those pursuits are also in some degree invested back into other innovators coming behind.

Wage vs. Honorarium: We pay our educators, and wages are very important, but we believe artists make better art, and receive better compensation when innovation is motivated by their love for others and by the freedom to create. The motivation for joining our network is to educate and create together while launching others.

Space and Leisure vs. Work: We prize hard work, and the utmost excellence. However, by removing the *bottom line* of \$\$ in our networking model, we replace it with a new motivation of rest and contemplation. No longer is the *innovator* forced to create on a deadline or to create only for utility and functional use. This mentality compromises the art! Many innovators work harder and faster in an environment of freedom, and we are giving people incentive by giving them back their craft.

A Different City Culture—The Kingdom of God: Cities are built by people, and people have beliefs. All *ideas* ultimately reflect the heart of the human out of which they come. We believe hurt people build hurting innovation and healed people build healthy innovation. This is why our Garden City network is unashamedly committed to our faith Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Jesus is committed to the rehabilitation, love and

care of hurting people. This is what restores community and brings about good artistry. Jesus' ethic and way of doing things as displayed in the Bible governs our network. Jesus is the only one capable of healing the human heart and directing it towards loving God fully.

Our values create a "city within a city," in that our culture stands together alongside the cultures of the world, and the garden beauty we create influences the world. This creates a movement of creativity that upholds better production and innovation, and creates better character in the people doing the creating.