



# MORTAR

**HQ**

**#WeAreMORTAR**





# FOR THE *Dreamers* & THE *Doers*

Founded in May of 2014, MORTAR exists to build businesses and transform cities through entrepreneurship.

For more than 12 years, we have worked diligently to assess the barriers and obstacles to success for Black and Women-owned businesses.

We then reverse-engineered those systems to develop solutions, delivering access to the tools and the resources needed to start, sustain, and scale successful businesses.





A black and white photograph of two men laughing and hugging. The man on the left has a beard and a topknot, wearing a dark t-shirt. The man on the right wears a baseball cap, glasses, and a t-shirt with a graphic. They are positioned on the left side of the slide, against a background of a red and white checkerboard pattern that transitions into a solid orange background.

# MORTAR's *Core Values*

- We do this for our *Community*
- We are *Revolutionary*
- We fight for *Equity*
- We operate with *Integrity*
- We move with *Gratitude*
- We improve through *Continuous Growth & Learning*

# THE MORTAR *Makeup*

- Academy  
(15 Week Accelerator Program)
- Alumni  
(Ongoing Mentorship & Support)
- Activation  
(BRICK Pop-up Shops)
- Access  
(Iron Chest Fund)\*

\*Total amount of funds disbursed as loans,  
grants & equity: \$1,073,000.  
Average grant amount: \$1500



## MEET OUR PARTICIPANTS

**87%**

BLACK/AFRICAN  
AMERICAN

**82%**

WOMEN

**82%**

HAVE CHILDREN AT HOME

**72%**

SINGLE OR DIVORCED

**25%**

HOUSEHOLD INCOME UNDER \$50K





THIS IS OUR **IMPACT**

**95%**

Said that MORTAR was useful  
to them and their business

**92%**

Would recommend MORTAR  
to other entrepreneurs

**67%**

Rated MORTAR  
above other Cincinnati  
organizations



# MORTAR Alumni *Tribes*

MORTAR's alumni network spans six primary industries creating a strong “Tribes” of local businesses that are equipped to meet a wide range of contracting and procurement needs.





# The Iron Chest *Fund*

Total amount of funds disbursed as  
loans, grants & equity:

OVER  
\$1.2M

Average grant amount: \$1500





# THE MORTAR BUILDING

Building revenue is up by \$10k compared to this time last year, a reflection of increased building usage.



# 2026 Cincinnati Expected Activities

- 60 participants enrolled in the MORTAR Entrepreneurship Academy, with a 90% graduation rate across cohorts (83% are Black and Women); MORTAR is sustaining one of the most diverse entrepreneurial pipelines.
- 100-150 Alumni engaged through our continued wraparound support: 1:1 coaching, segmented technical assistance, TRIBE peer mentorship, office hours, and group events (including the MORTAR x Fifth Third Financial Resilience workshops).
- 25 local entrepreneurs will be provided with pop-up retail or café residencies and quarterly markets through the BRICK program, offering real-world experience, increased exposure, and revenue-generating opportunities for small businesses.
- \$150k Iron Chest Fund capital disbursements paired with financial coaching for responsible growth.

# THE FUTURE IS OWNING YOUR *Legacy.*



We've launched our proven entrepreneurial curriculum in a flexible online format where you can grow at your own pace.

Scan the QR code to get 5 FREE chapters!

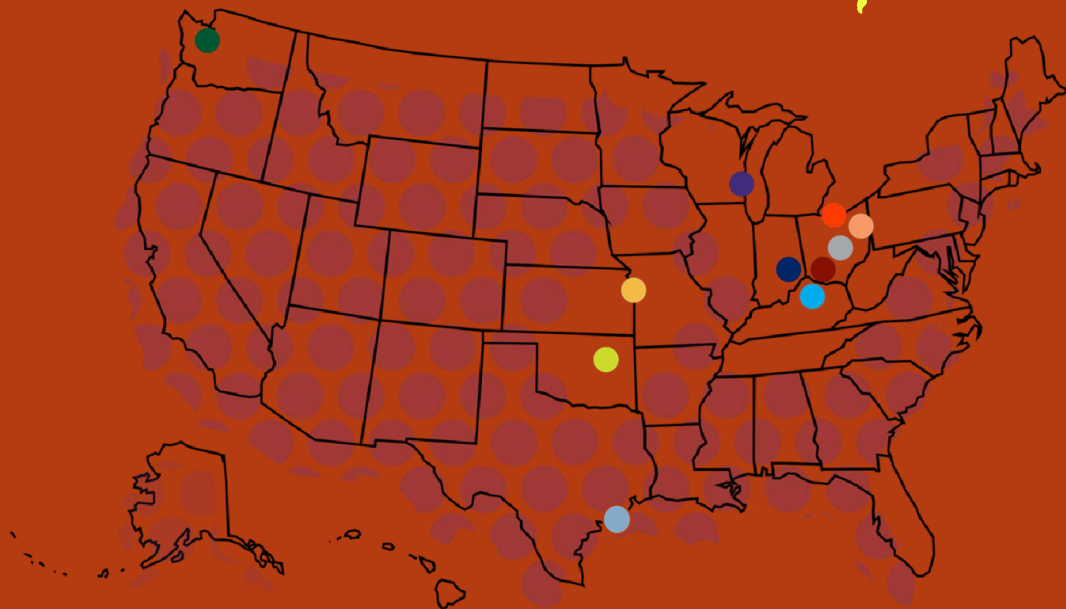


**MORTAR**  
MASTERS  
ONLINE



# MORTAR IS

## *On The Map*



**MORTAR**  
HQ

The MORTAR infrastructure is a formula; a “liquid” that takes the shape of whatever container it’s poured into.

As the local anchor partner and funder work together to provide the viable “container”, we collaboratively come together to create a winning combination. In this relationship, we need each other for this to work!

Though the formula *can* effectively change the local landscape of entrepreneurship, without a container that has the cultural & historical context of the local infrastructure, it’s just a well intentioned puddle on the floor.

# A FEW STATS

## *Our reach across the nation*

Over 1,000 entrepreneurs, 11 cities, and 80+ cohorts

### *Active Cities*

Cincinnati, OH: 531 graduates, 46 cohorts

Akron, OH: 169 graduates, 13 cohorts

Milwaukee, WI: 108 graduates, 9 cohorts

Cleveland, OH: 63 graduates, 4 cohorts

Galveston, TX: 42 graduates, 5 cohorts

Columbus, OH: 30 graduates, 3 cohorts

### *Legacy Cities*

Kansas City, MO: 56 graduates, 4 cohorts

Tulsa, OK: 34 graduates, 5 cohorts

Indianapolis, IN: 34 graduates, 3 cohorts

Covington, KY: 16 graduates, 3 cohorts

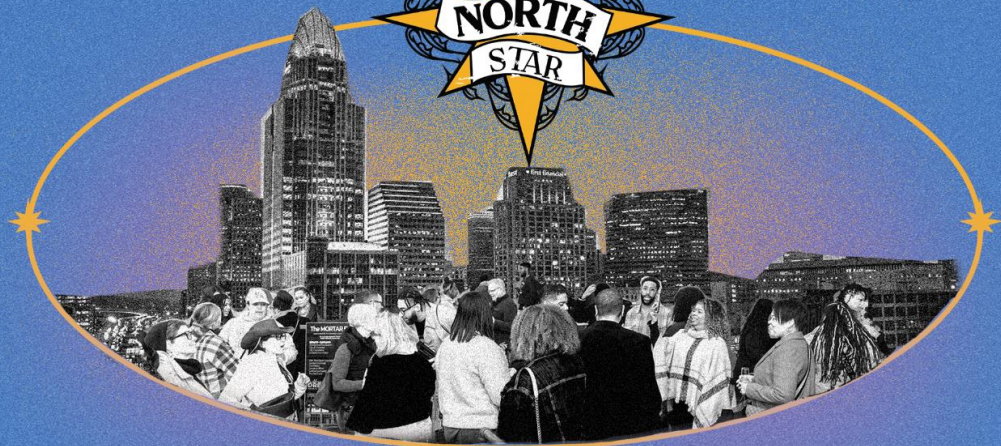
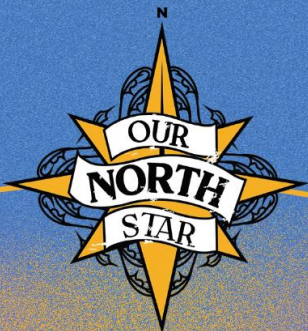
Seattle, WA: 12 graduates, 1 cohort



# MORTAR Community *Activations*

You're Invited To  
MORTAR's First  
Convening

Entrepreneurs  
and ESOs coming  
together to find  
"Our North Star"



DESTINATION  
**CINCINNATI** \* OCTOBER  
**8TH-10TH**



SAVE THE DATE

*Homecoming* *October*  
*Vol. 4* *10*





# FORWARD *Together*

Every morning, we wake up ready to fight for the dreamers and doers - but we don't do it alone.

MORTAR partners with national funders, local organizations, stakeholders, influencers, and entrepreneurs to customize the MORTAR experience to best fit the needs (and fill potential gaps) of local entrepreneurial ecosystems.

By doing this, we not only ensure that MORTAR organizational standards are upheld, but also that minoritized entrepreneurs are receiving the highest-quality programming and service.

NIGHTLY  
NEWS  
WITH LESTER HOLT

People

FAST  
COMPANY

SPECTRUM  
NEWS

Inc. ESSENCE

# MORTAR

HQ

# THANK YOU!

#WeAreMORTAR