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**Courtney Hendricks named Chief Operating Officer for Knoxville
Entrepreneur Center.**
Anne Templeton returns to KEC as Maker Initiatives Director.

Knoxville, [2/9/24] – The Knoxville Entrepreneur Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Courtney Hendricks as its Chief Operating Officer.

Courtney most recently served as the Director of Maker Initiatives for KEC, where she played a pivotal role in steering The Maker City through the challenges of the post-pandemic era. Her exemplary leadership resulted in the successful strengthening of community partnerships, expansion of educational maker programming, and the creation of new connection points for makers.

In that role, Courtney demonstrated a multifaceted skill set, overseeing overall brand strategy, art direction, content creation, development of outside partnerships, social media strategy, experience design, event planning, and employee development. Her proven management and strategic abilities will prove an invaluable asset to KEC as its new COO.

Jim Biggs, Executive Director said, “Courtney has exhibited exceptional leadership in guiding The Maker City, implementing innovative strategies to realize the mission of helping makers make a living doing what they love. I am confident that her outstanding leadership and creative initiatives will bring about a positive transformation for entrepreneurs across Knoxville as she assumes her new role as Chief Operating Officer.”

Prior to her work with The Maker City, Courtney held a variety of senior creative positions, including Art Director at Design Sensory, Creative Director at Best Behavior Creative Club, and Brand Manager at Blackberry Farm.

Beyond her professional achievements, Courtney has been actively involved in the community. Currently, consulting with Makers USA on the TCAT Knoxville Makerspace Design Team, and previously serving as Programming Chair on the boards of both the American Institute of Graphic Arts and the American Advertising Federation Knoxville. Additionally, she held the positions of VP and Communications Chair for the PTO at Mead Montessori School.

The KEC team is thrilled to have Courtney serving in this new capacity. “I’m very excited to be working closer with Courtney as KEC’s new COO. I’ve admired her work with The Maker City

over the past few years, and I'm excited to see how that experience translates to KEC's programs, events, and initiatives!" adds Delaney Lawson, KEC's Programming Director. Holly Rainey, the Social Media Manager for both KEC and The Maker City says "Knoxville is lucky to have Courtney! Her leadership within The Maker City has been incredible to watch and she is sure to do great things with her new position at KEC!"

With Courtney's promotion, KEC has reappointed Anne Templeton to the position of Maker Initiatives Director. With prior experience in the role, Anne brings a wealth of experience, established community relationships, and a record of contributions to The Maker City over the years. We are thrilled to welcome her back to a role she is passionate about.

As the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center begins to set in motion a newly-released 3-year strategic vision, we are excited for this transition in leadership, and confident that it will further strengthen the organization's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in the community.

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Knoxville Entrepreneur Center is a business accelerator located in downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, dedicated to changing lives through entrepreneurship in East Tennessee. Our mission is to create a thriving entrepreneurial community that is accessible, diverse, and sustainable to make Knoxville the most founder-friendly city in America. Learn more at www.knoxec.com.