

Bike Kitchen Partnership

Partnering with a local bicycle shop is key to the success of San Diego's Bike Kitchen. They found it best to have a professional mechanic on hand for each Bike Kitchen event to provide patrons with guidance, best practices, and service (when needed). Additionally, a shop partnership is vital in ordering tools. If your partner is willing and a licensed vendor, they can acquire tools, ready-packed tool kits, consumables, and stands at a significant discount. San Diego pays their mechanic \$175 for a two-hour "walk-up" session. Your library might require insurance, business tax certificates, and other waivers in order to pay invoices. This should be discussed with a partnership organization ahead of time. Proper insurance can often cost upwards of \$600 per year.

"Volunteers are a great resource but reliance upon them can be dangerous to your program. I encourage paying a professional from the grant budget to be on hand at every event. Bicycle repair can become tricky. Volunteers take days off, and they are often self-taught. Having a proven professional on hand will ensure patrons get the help and guidance they need." Robert Surratt

Professional mechanic and Bike Kitchen partner, Kate Cowper, is on-hand during San Diego's Bike Kitchen programs, guiding patrons performing DIY (Do-It-Yourself) service on their bicycles. This assures smart and accurate workflow for inexperienced users, intermediate tinkerers, and even seasoned experts. In 2017, Kate was featured by the San Diego Union Tribune for her work in the community and she continues to give as the Bike Kitchen expands service to branch libraries. <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/lifestyle/people/sd-me-one-cowper-20170224-story.html> She has shown dedication to helping community members of all backgrounds become empowered via education and can-do attitude.