KIC to close its doors in April
Need waned as economy strengthened, organization said

BY ALEJANDRA BUITRAGO
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After six years of supporting entrepreneurs, offering educational courses and running a work-space venue, the Ketchum Innovation Center is closing its doors.

“With a solid entrepreneurial spirit alive in Ketchum, KIC will be officially closing its doors on April 3, when its lease comes to an end,” the organization announced on Monday.

Several factors led to KIC’s decision to close, according to the statement, but the most important factor was that it has left Ketchum in a stronger economic state than it was six years ago.

“Local businesses and entrepreneurs have filled many of the voids KIC previously occupied such as co-working space, educational events and network opportunities,” KIC said in the announcement.

Eighteen months in, KIC began to create tension between the then KCDC board president Neil Bradshaw, now Ketchum mayor, and City Administrator Suzanne Frick, who said the organization should become more self-sufficient and not rely on city funding as its sole source of financing. According to a story published in the Idaho Mountain Express on Sept. 25, 2015, Frick wrote in a July staff report that KIC drew many questions from city staff, elected officials and residents wondering what the organization does with city tax dollars.

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