



Writing The Best Business Plan

with Keith Holtaway



Today's Agenda



Reasons for Planning

3 Planning Methods

- 1.Lean Planning Canvas
- 2.One Page Business Plan
 - 3. Traditional Planning

Finances

Resources

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Reasons for Planning









Get money
Provide direction
Create metrics
Get a lease
Create a business model that works



What is it?

A tool that supports the business development cycle

Build - Measure - Learn



#1...Customers

Target customers... early adopters... not eventual mainstream customers





#2...Opportunity/need/niche/pain...
in the marketplace





#3...Solution

The product or service you are creating



#4...Unique Value Proposition

Why is what you are selling different and worth buying?



#5...Channels

How do your early adopters get their information?



#6...Revenue Streams

Where's the money coming from?



#7...Cost Structure / Expenses

Where is the money going?



#8...Key Metrics

Retention

Revenue

Referrals



#9...Unfair Advantage

"A real unfair advantage is something that cannot be easily copied or bought"

Jason Cohen, A Smart Bear blog



9...Unfair Advantage...Examples:

Insider Info

A Dream Team

Large Network

Community

Existing Customers

SEO Rankings

Really Low COGS

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Methodology: 5 Simple Questions

Vision What are you building?

Mission Why are you building it?

Objectives What results will you measure?

Strategies What will make your company

successful over time?

Action Plans What is the work to be done?



Vision Statement

Answers the question...What are you building?

Complete your vision statement...5 minutes



Mission Statement

What is your promise to the world in 6 to 8 words

"The World Overnight"...

"Logistics"...

"Satisfaction Guaranteed or your money back"...



"People don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it"

Simon Sinek



Objectives

What results will you measure?

<u>Specific</u>

Measurable

<u>A</u>ttainable

Realistic

Timely



Objectives

8 to 9 objectives only

Increase sales from \$250k to \$425k by YE (year end) 2018

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Strategies

How will I grow and manage this business,

Formula

Verb + Noun + How + How + How

Example

Increase profit by tax planning, technology, cost management



Action Plans
What is the work to be done?

Description of work + deadline= action plan

Create product list by 4/30, finish costing by 5/15, rollout line for sale by 6/1

Traditional Plan



A Narrative 8-10 pages max

Executive Summary and the revenue & expense projections are key components

Financial projections <u>usually</u> done for 3 years...month by month

Traditional Method



Mission Statement **Business Concept** Goals Competitive Analysis Marketing Plan **Operations** Management **Executive Summary Financials**

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Financials



For Start-ups

Start-Up Expenses

Revenue Projections

Cash Flow Projections

Break-Even Analysis

Opening Day Balance Sheet

For Existing Businesses

Profit and Loss Statement
Balance Sheet

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Financing Options



Commercial Loans
Crowd Funding/sourcing
Government Guarantee Loans (SBA)
Friends and Family
Personal Savings
Credit Cards

Bank Loan



The 5 "C's" of Credit

Cash......20-30% of total loan request depending on the type of loan

Credit.....Credit Score of 680 to 700 minimum

Collateral.....To cover 100% of the loan

Character.....Your experience & who you are as an individual

Conditions... The outside factors that will be considered, such as competition and trends of similar businesses in the industry

Bank Loan



Basic Loan Package

Business Plan: 8 -10 pages of narrative and cash flow projections for 3 years month by month

Current personal financial statement

3 years of personal income tax returns

Bank loan application form(s)

Resume, (if not included in plan)

Lease (if applicable)

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Crowd Funding



Donation / Gift Format

Kickstarter

Indigogo

Gofundme

Equity Format

Upstart

Checklist to launch



- 1. Complete Business Plan
- Complete a Request for Services from the SBDC, <u>www.santacruzsbdc.org</u> to see an Advisor, free of charge
- 3. Set up your legal business structure
- 4. Secure financing
- 5. If appropriate, find a location & secure a lease
- 6. Get the necessary licenses & permits & a Fictitious Business Name
- 7. Find out about State & Federal Tax ID information
- 8. Get insurance, "key man," liability, etc.
- 9. Establish a bookkeeping system
- 10. Open bank accounts
- 11. Develop an H/R system if appropriate
- 12. Start pre-opening marketing...Facebook, Social Media, e-mail newsletters (Constant Contact etc.), website, according to marketing plan

Resources



- State of California <u>www.calgold.ca.gov</u>
- www.gobiz.ca.gov
- www.business.ca.gov
- www.opencounter.cityofsantacruz.com
- Small Business Administration: www.sba.gov
- www.santacruzscore.org
- Top Startup blogs www.topblogs.onstartups.com
- Tools for your business -www.zoho.com
- Free credit report www.annualcreditreport.com
- Legal Information www.smallbusiness.findlaw.com
- www.nolo.com

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Resources



"Art of the Start"... Guy Kawasaki "One Page Business Plan"... Jim Horan "E-Myth Revisited"... Michael Gerber "The Lean Startup"...Eric Ries "Running Lean"...Ash Maurya "Start With Why"...Simon Sinek Wired Entrepreneur Fast Company

SethGodin.com
Charlie O'Donnell...Feedblitz.com

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To request service from The Santa Cruz Small Business Development Center please fill out the short application found at www.santacruzsbdc.org (831)479-6136