

## Amanda Chocko

As Director of the SURGE, Amanda manages our startup programming and connects entrepreneurs to people and resources that help them to launch and grow successful businesses. She has been a leader in the West Michigan startup community for over a decade with experience in business incubator and accelerator management, program development and event planning.



Prior to working at SURGE, Amanda spent 8 years at Start Garden where she helped to launch 5X5 Night and the Seamless IOT commercialization program. Over the years she has built relationships with startup communities around the state and has helped to organize 11 Grand Rapids Startup Weekends. No stranger to Lakeshore Advantage, Amanda was director of entrepreneurial development from 2006 to 2010 (she is happy to be back)

Amanda received a degree in business management from Davenport University and is a certified Nutritional Therapy Practitioner. An entrepreneur at heart, she has launched a number of her own ventures which include a salon; dating service, events and training company, and most recently, a nutritional therapy practice called “The Feeling Groovy Project”.

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