The purpose of this guide is to establish and impart a consistent standard for modern-day usage of the word *coworking* and its variants in the context of the shared work space industry.

**Coworking is not hyphenated.**

This includes variants, such as *cowork* and *coworker*, when used in the same context.

**Correct usage:** A new coworking space is opening down the street.

**Incorrect usage:** A new co-working space is opening down the street.

*Note:* Your spell check, auto-correct, or style book may suggest hyphenated variants, such as *co-work*, *co-worker*, or *co-working*. These hyphenated variants are generic in meaning, however, and should not be used in the context of the shared work space industry.

**Coworking should not be enclosed in quotation marks.**

These are called *scare quotes*. They imply that a word is being used in a novel, non-standard, or ironic way. They can also signal a writer's dissatisfaction or unfamiliarity with the quoted word.

**Correct usage:** Membership in coworking spaces is more popular than ever.

**Incorrect usage:** Membership in “coworking” spaces is more popular than ever.

**Coworking is a mass noun, a gerund, and a noun modifier.**

Mass nouns lack a plural form in ordinary usage. Hence, *coworkings* is not a word.

**Usage as mass noun:** I was tired of my home office and decided to give coworking a try.

**Usage as gerund:** I've been coworking for almost a year now.

**Usage as noun modifier:** I don't plan to leave my coworking space any time soon.

**Cowork is a verb and an acceptable noun modifier, but not a noun.**

**Usage as verb:** People who cowork tend to prefer community over isolation.

**Incorrect usage as noun:** This will be the third cowork to open in our city.

*Note:* While it is colloquially acceptable to use *cowork* as a noun modifier, as in *cowork space* or *cowork membership*, *coworking* is the preferred and more widely used modifier.