

# BOOST 2022

*Supporting Innovative Emerging  
Entrepreneurs in Sustainability*

[delta-institute.org/boost](https://delta-institute.org/boost)



**KAPLAN  
INSTITUTE at  
ILLINOIS TECH**

*3137 S Federal St  
Chicago, IL 60616*

**OCT  
27  
2022**

*6pm-8pm CT*



**JOIN US IN  
PERSON OR  
ONLINE**

# For more than one decade, BOOST has

been a platform to showcase and support innovative, early-stage start-ups and emerging entrepreneurs with ideas that promote sustainability, climate action, and environmental justice.

Please join us the evening of Thursday, October 27, 2022, from 6pm-8pm CT, in supporting and celebrating the work and ideas of our region's emerging entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Left: Octavia Hooks won BOOST in 2015 for her start-up, Octavia's Natural Hair Care Experience. Cover, top: Jannice Newson won BOOST in 2019 for her start-up, Lillian Augusta. Cover, middle: Urban Canopy won BOOST in 2013. Cover, bottom: Greenprint Partners (formerly known as Fresh Coast Capital) won BOOST in 2014.

# How does BOOST work?

**01.**



## Entrepreneurs Pitch

Four or five social entrepreneurs pitch their ideas in front of a live audience (both in-person and virtual).

**02.**



## You Vote

Supporters cast their votes for their favorite entrepreneurs.

**03.**



## Funding awarded

After the vote is tallied, we award grants to the entrepreneurs with the most votes to further develop their start-up.





# Chicago Tool Library

*2021 Winner*

Tessa Vierk founded Chicago Tool Library to provide equitable access to tools, equipment, and information to allow all Chicagoans to learn, share, and create.

*(Left: Photo by Terrence Antonio James / Chicago Tribune)*

## PAST WINNERS

# tinyshop

*2021 Winner*

Christine Sorich founded tinyshop as an organic, zero waste grocer with 100% returnable packaging. This circular system offers Chicagoans a convenient, low impact shopping experience to shift away from our current disposable culture.

*(Right: Photo by Rudy Rubio)*







## Zumwalt Acres

### *2020 Winner*

Gavi and Remi Welbel founded Zumwalt Acres as a regenerative agriculture community working to develop a model of land stewardship in Illinois that is ecologically sustainable, socially responsible, and rooted in Jewish values.

*(Left: Photo by Zumwalt Acres)*

## PAST WINNERS

## Block Bins

### *2019 Winner*

Dan Christianson founded Block Bins to provide food scrap recycling bins to Chicago residents so that neighbors can share bins to reduce cost and clutter.

*(Right: Photo by Delta Institute)*







## Lillian Augusta

*2019 Winner*

Jannice Newson co-founded Lillian Augusta to produce plant-based braiding hair that eliminates the discomfort associated with synthetic braiding hair and is 100% biodegradable. Lillian Augusta revolutionizes Black hair care by providing "hair without harm."

*(Left: Photo courtesy of Joshua Johr and Lillian Augusta)*

## PAST WINNERS

## Kitchenet

*2018 Winner*

Trista Li founded Kitchenet to improve access to fresh fruits. She developed a "dual impact" model to build a better food system, sharing that "One-third of the delivery proceeds go to fund the free delivery of fresh food in food deserts."

*(Right: Photo by Delta Institute)*





# Join us in person or from your couch

We are pleased to present our first hybrid event for BOOST 2022. Guests who wish to join us in person can meet this year's finalists while enjoying drinks and refreshments (included with the cost of your registration). Guests who prefer to join us from the comfort of their homes, you can watch the full event live over Zoom. Either way, you'd still be able to join in the fun and cast your vote for your favorite entrepreneurs.

Visit [delta-institute.org/boost](https://delta-institute.org/boost) to learn more about our COVID-19 disclosure for this event.



## VENUE

### KAPLAN INSTITUTE AT ILLINOIS TECH

3137 S Federal St, Chicago, IL 60616



Left: The team at Chicago Eco-House won BOOST in 2017; their work has developed into a new business, Southside Blooms, a farm-to-vase florist on the South Side of Chicago, providing unique and fashion-forward arrangements, while maintaining an uncompromising dedication to both the environment and our surrounding communities.

# BOOST attendees typically ...

- Are primarily emerging professionals in their 20s-40s;
- Are engaged members of their local communities;
- Support brands that give back to social causes, especially environmental organizations;
- Represent an inclusive community; and
- Purchase from brands that promote sustainability as well as a healthy, active lifestyle.

Below: Jana Kinsman won BOOST in 2016 for her startup, Bike-A-Bee, which promotes urban beekeeping in community gardens, schools, farms, and other shared, visible spaces.







## **200+ GUESTS**

Hundreds of supporters attend BOOST annually. For 2022, we expect up to 300 guests to join us both in person and online.

### **SPONSOR VISIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES ➡**

## **2,500+ SUBSCRIBERS**

We share updates about our BOOST event, including recognition of all sponsors in our monthly e-newsletter.

## **10,500+ FOLLOWERS**

Sponsors contributing at least \$1,000 received featured sponsor recognition posts on our social media channels.

# Named Award Sponsorship

**\$5,000**

- As one of BOOST's Named Award Sponsors, you can name one of the BOOST 2022 Awards after your business, foundation, or other special intention. This exclusive sponsorship is only available to the first two sponsors who pledge their support
- Share your organization's story with our supporters during optional remarks during the presentation
- Featured Sponsor interview posted on Delta Institute's blog
- Your logo and name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, and in Delta's e-newsletter (2,500 subscribers)
- Featured sponsor social media post (10,500 followers)
- Two "BOOST Winner Entrepreneur Gift Packages"
- Five registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)

*Delta Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations and sponsorships are tax-deductible.*

## Platinum Sponsor

**\$3,000**

- Share your organization's story with our supporters during optional remarks during the presentation
- Featured Sponsor interview posted on Delta Institute's blog
- Your logo/name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, and in Delta's e-newsletter (2,500 subscribers)
- Featured sponsor social media post (10,500 followers)
- One "BOOST Winner Entrepreneur Gift Package"
- Five registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)

## Green Sponsor

**\$1,000**

- Your logo/name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, and in Delta's e-newsletter (2,500 subscribers)
- Featured sponsor social media post (10,500 followers)
- Two registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)

## Gold Sponsor

**\$2,000**

- Featured Sponsor interview posted on Delta Institute's blog
- Your logo/name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, and in Delta's e-newsletter (2,500 subscribers)
- Featured sponsor social media post (10,500 followers)
- Five registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)

## Blue Sponsor

**\$500**

- Your name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, and in Delta's e-newsletter (2,500 subscribers)
- Two registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)





### **Our Mission.**

Delta Institute works with communities throughout the Midwest to solve complex environmental challenges.

### **Our Vision**

We address Midwestern environmental, economic, and climate challenges today, so that our home and region are more resilient, equitable, and innovative tomorrow.



Delta Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, a recognition received by fewer than 1% of all nonprofits nationally.

## **BOARD OFFICERS**

Sanjiv Sinha, PE, PhD, Board Chair  
*Senior Vice President, Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT)*

Vanessa Roanhorse, Vice Chair and Governance and Nominating Committee Chair  
*CEO, Roanhorse Consulting, LLC*

Allison Hannon Holly, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair  
*Director of Strategy US East, Pattern Energy Group*

Lindsey Sullivan, J.D., Secretary  
*57 Stars, LLC*

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Jaré Akchin  
*Vice President for Jewish Community Impact, Third Plateau*

Karl Analo, J.D.  
*Senior Associate, FordHarrison LLP*

Ashley Bakelmun  
*Managing Director, RW Ventures, LLC*

Jon Cheffings, Development Committee Co-Chair  
*EVP, Strategy, SCC&M*

Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda  
*Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago*

Jessie Deelo  
*Founder, Deelo Consulting Services*

David Fording, CFA  
*Partner and Portfolio Manager, William Blair*

David Freed  
*Chief Information Officer, MSI Express, Inc.*

Niharika Hanglem, Development Committee Co-Chair  
*Program Director, Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at Illinois Institute of Technology*

Mike Harrington, LEED GA  
*Assistant Director, Tishman Environment and Design Center, New School*

Kevin Kalus  
*Market Executive, Illinois Middle Market, JP Morgan Chase*

Ann McCabe  
*Principal and US Program Director, Regulatory Assistance Project*

David South  
*Clean Energy/Sustainability Advisor*

Ethelbert Williams  
*Head of eCommerce, Johnson & Johnson Consumer Health*

# BOOST is organized by the Delta Emerging Leaders

The Delta Emerging Leaders (DELs) volunteer as the associate board of Delta Institute to create programming that engages emerging leaders to advance innovation and sustainability in Chicago. BOOST is a project of the DELs that supports Delta Institute and local entrepreneurs in sustainability.



## DELs Co-Chairs

Liz Alexander  
Carol Brobeck, AICP

## Programming Committee

Conner Rettig, Committee Chair  
Maria Czerwinka, Event Co-Chair  
Erin Kenney, Event Co-Chair  
Julia Buford, DELs Treasurer  
Madeline Demo  
Claire Howard  
Grace Snider

## Communications Committee

Chloe Bell, Committee Chair  
Cécile Dick-Calmès  
Sam Heidorn  
Kasia Machaj, DELs Secretary  
Peter Scruggs  
Sarah Walwema

## Outreach Committee

Hunter Federle-McCabe, Committee Chair  
Nitesh Bajaj  
Diana De La Torre  
Hyunjee Lee  
Ned McLean  
Zoe Morse  
Jerome Smith



# For more information



## Contact

Patrick T. Murphy  
Senior Lead, Development and Communications  
Delta Institute  
312-554-0900 ext. 31  
[pmurphy@delta-institute.org](mailto:pmurphy@delta-institute.org)



/DeltaGreatLakes



@DeltaGreatLakes



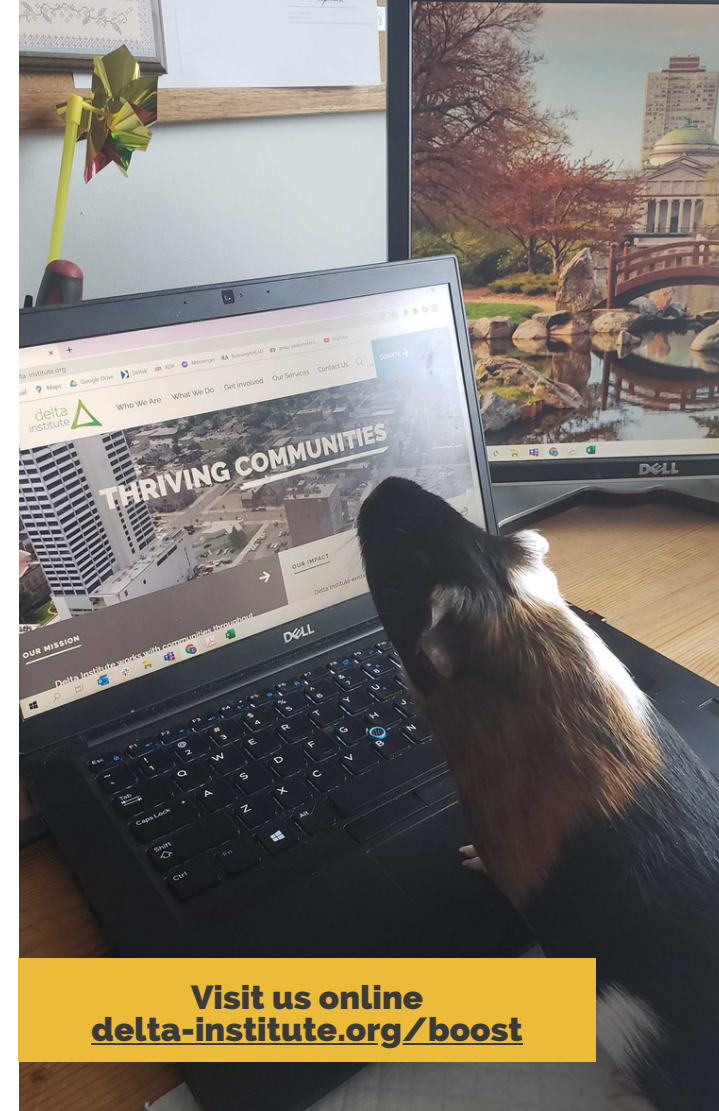
/delta-institute



@DeltaInstitute



/DeltaInstitute



*Creating a more resilient home  
for all Midwesterners.*

35 E Wacker Dr Ste 1760 | Chicago, IL 60601  
[delta-institute.org](http://delta-institute.org) | 312-554-0900