BOOST 2023

A Special Anniversary Celebrating Sustainability & Entrepreneurship

October 24, 2023
Kaplan Institute at Illinois Tech

delta institute

25th Anniversary

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.

BOOST 2023 will mark 12 years of Delta Institute hosting the event as a platform to showcase and support innovative, early-stage start-ups and emerging entrepreneurs with ideas that promote sustainability, climate action, and environmental justice.

Rewilding Acres

2022 Winner

Rozina Kanchwala founded Rewilding Acres as an ecosystem restoration project that will transform commercial farmland into an agrivoltaic site that combines ecosystem restoration and organic farming to regenerate soil, sequester carbon, enhance food access, and create an experiential classroom.

PAST WINNERS

EcoShip

2022 Winner

Aleksandra Plewa founded EcoShip as "a community focused 501(c)(3) that collects gently used shipping materials from local communities and redistributes them to businesses, helping them cut costs and implement sustainable business practices."

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.

(Left: Photo by Rudy Rubio)

PAST WINNERS

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.

(Right: Photo by Terrence Antonio James / Chicago Tribune)

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

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."

A Special Anniversary Celebrating Sustainability & Entrepreneurship

BOOST, or “Building Opportunities for Original and Sustainable Thinking,” has been a longstanding program to support emerging entrepreneurs with innovative ideas to promote sustainability in their communities with innovative products and solutions. This year, as a way to launch Delta’s year-long 25th anniversary celebration, we are hosting a very special anniversary BOOST, where we will be inviting back our 20 past BOOST winners to share the impact of their work since they last won BOOST and win a larger investment. BOOST is an annual pitch-fest where the audience decides the winners of the competition.

Collectively, we plan to award a record $25,000 in funding to four exceptional BOOST winners in commemoration of Delta Institute’s 25th anniversary.

delta institute

25th Anniversary

Mission & Vision

Delta Institute works with communities throughout the Midwest to solve complex environmental challenges. We address Midwestern environmental, economic, and climate challenges today, so that our home and region are more resilient, equitable, and innovative tomorrow.

Platinum Transparency 2023

Candid.

Charity Navigator

FOUR-STAR

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

Delta Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (also known as GuideStar), a recognition received by fewer than 1% of all 1.5 million registered nonprofits nationally. We also maintain a Four-Star "Give with Confidence" rating from CharityNavigator.

In addition to supporting emerging entrepreneurs with sustainable start-ups, proceeds from the event will support Delta Institute's mission. All sponsors will be provided with a tax receipt for their records regarding the tax-deductible portion of their contribution.

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.

Pictured: Trista Li wins BOOST 2018 for her fresh fruit delivery service, KitcheNet

200+ Guests

Hundreds of supporters attend BOOST annually. For 2023, we expect up to 200+ 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.

7,700+ Followers

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

Presenting Sponsorship

$10,000

- As one of BOOST's Presenting Sponsors, you can name one of the BOOST 2023 Awards after your business, foundation, or other special intention. This exclusive sponsorship is only available to the first two sponsors who pledge their support.
- Featured Sponsor interview posted on Delta Institute's blog
- Your logo and name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, digital program book, and in Delta's e-newsletter
- Featured sponsor social media post
- 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 Sponsorship

$3,000

- Featured Sponsor interview posted on Delta Institute's blog
- Your logo/name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, digital program book, and in Delta's e-newsletter
- Featured sponsor social media post
- One "BOOST Winner Entrepreneur Gift Package"
- Five registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)

Gold Sponsorship

$2,000

- Your logo/name recognized during the event, on the event landing page, digital program book, and in Delta's e-newsletter
- Featured sponsor social media post
- Four registrations to attend the event

Green Sponsorship

$1,000

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

BOARD OFFICERS

Sanjiv Sinha, PE, PhD, Board Chair
CEO, Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC

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

Kevin Kalus, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
Market Executive - Illinois Middle Market, JPMorgan Chase

Lindsey Sullivan, J.D., Secretary
Director - Legal Affairs and Financials Operations, 57 Stars, LLC

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaré Akchin
Vice President for Jewish Community Impact, Third Plateau

Liz Alexander
Manager, Energy & Utilities; West Monroe

Karl Analo, J.D.
Counsel, Labor & Employment Counseling & Litigation; Abbott

Ashley Bakelmun
Managing Director, RW Ventures, LLC

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

Jessie Deelo
Founder, Deelo Consulting Services

Madeline "Maddie" Demo, MBA, MPH, GSP
Senior EH&S Manager, Oldcastle Infrastructure

Lottie Ferguson
Vice President of Development and Donor Services, Community Foundation of Greater Flint

David Fording, CFA
Partner and Portfolio Manager, William Blair

Bradley Grams
Acting Division Director, US EPA

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

Mike Harrington, LEED GA
Director, Sustainability Engagement; Tishman Environment and Design Center, New School

David South
Clean Energy/Sustainability Advisor, South Ventures, LLC

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.

Nitesh Bajaj
Asset Manager, Amp Americas

Chloe Bell
Environmental Attorney, Greater Chicago Legal Clinic, Inc.

Carol Brobeck, AICP
Outreach Committee Chair and Liaison to the Governance and Nominating Committee
Senior Associate; Teska Associates, Inc.

Julia Buford
Graduate Student UC Berkeley

Lizbeth Carrazco
Associate, MUSE Community + Design

Mackenzie Castle
Current 3L at Chicago-Kent College of Law

Diana De La Torre
Project Manager, Municipal Technical Assistance and Consulting; Elevate

Cécile Dick-Calmès
Inbound Marketing Manager, Daifuku Wynright

Stephen Dynako
Impact Partner, Raise Green

Hunter Federle-McCabe, MBA, MS
Supply Chain & Delivery Supervisor, McMaster-Carr

Paige Graham
Senior Vice President, Social Impact & Sustainability; Edelman

Maya Kelly
Business Operations Manager, Urban Rivers

Erin Kenney
BOOST Committee Chair
Senior Associate, Mass Economics

Delaney Klundt
Project Manager, Choose Chicago

Haroula Kyriacou
Engagement Lead, Spaulding Ridge

Phuong Lee
Intersectional Environmentalist

Hyunjee Lee
Senior Digital Marketing Account Manager, DEPT

Kasia Machaj
DELs Secretary
Senior Market Solutions and Education Associate

Gabby Petrelli
Program Coordinator; FishChoice, Inc.

Conner Rettig
Illinois Shines Equity Eligible Contractors Sector Strategist

Peter Scruggs
Green Soapbox Committee Chair
Sustainability Coordinator, Live Nation Entertainment

Grace Snider
DELs Chair
Business Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Tess Teodoro
Manager of Green Chemistry

Ashvin Vegliandla
Lead Data Analyst (Business Intelligence and Data Science), Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Jack Whalen
Adjunct faculty, Harold Washington College

Micaela Wu
Strategic Communications Coordinator, The Global Foodbanking Network

For more information

Patrick T. Murphy
Director, Donor Stewardship
Delta Institute
312-554-0900 ext. 31
pmurphy@delta-institute.org

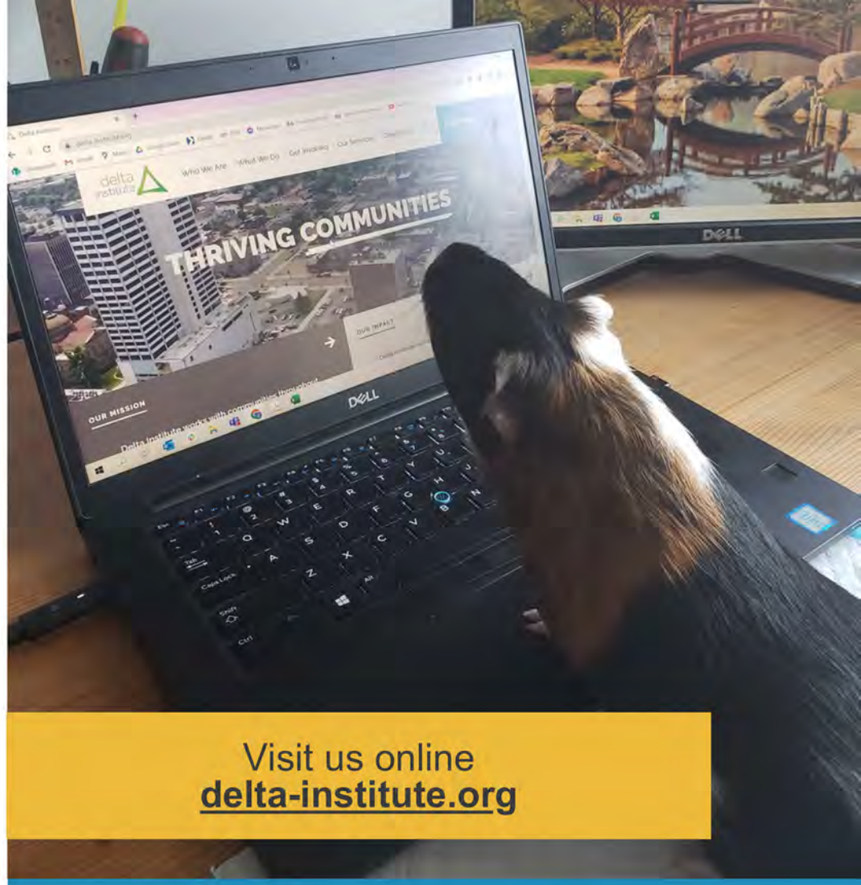
/DeltaGreatLakes

@deltainstitute

/delta-institute

@deltainstitute

@deltainstitute



Visit us online
delta-institute.org

delta institute

35 E Wacker Dr Ste 1760
Chicago, IL 60601

delta-institute.org | 312-554-0900