BOOST 2023
A Special Anniversary Celebrating Sustainability & Entrepreneurship

October 24, 2023
Kaplan Institute at Illinois Tech
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.

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.

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.
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
- One "BOOST Winner Entrepreneur Gift Package"
- Five registrations to attend the event (virtual or in-person)

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)

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

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