











SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2024 / 2025











CREATING A MORE
RESILIENT HOME
for all Midwesterners





Impact of your sponsorship

Through our work, Delta Institute benefits more than five million Midwesterners by transitioning one million acres to conservation-focused practices, and by improving water quality and reducing flooding by capturing 100 million stormwater gallons. By 2025 we will achieve these goals through our agriculture, climate, water, and community development projects.





20

WINNING START-UPS LAUNCHED

through Delta Institute's annual BOOST event.



THE CUTTING EDGE of SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

Whether learning from emerging climate entrepreneurs at BOOST or hosting panels to discuss vital social issues at Green Soapbox, Delta's events are unique opportunities for you and your guests to learn, cheer, chat, take action - and enjoy a drink and food.

11 ANNUAL PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON CLIMATE ISSUES









"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Delta Institute and all of the Delta Emerging Leaders for their generous support. Without all your support and guidance, EcoShip's current success would not have been possible."

-ALEKSANDRA PLEWA CEO, ECOSHIP BOOST 2022 WINNER



"When BOOST funded us in 2017 we were in our earliest stages with a budget of \$57,545. Flower sales were at zero, and we had a strong vision for what the organization could become. This year [2023] our flower sales will exceed half a million dollars and our overall organization's total revenue is on pace to hit \$1.5M."

-QUILEN BLACKWELL CEO, SOUTHSIDE BLOOMS BOOST 2017 WINNER



"Green Soapbox started so we can get up on our soapboxes and talk about those super important conversations and issues that are impacting us every single day."

-BILL SCHLEIZER CEO, DELTA INSTITUTE



BOOST

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES for ORIGINAL & SUSTAINABLE THINKING



6PM - 9PM

Since 2012, Delta Institute has hosted "BOOST" annually as a platform to celebrate and support start-ups that promote sustainability, climate action, and environmental justice in Chicago and the greater Midwest. Through this program, we award small business grants to early-stage entrepreneurs and start-ups with innovative ideas and approaches to helping address sustainability issues, climate change, and environmental justice.

Over the past 12 years, the program has provided a total of \$114,000 in support to emerging entrepreneurs, including 20 BOOST winners and 26 other finalists like:

- Block Bins
- Chicago Tool Library
- Eco.Logic

- EcoShip
- Gardeneers
- Lillian Augusta Beauty
- Southside Blooms
- The Urban Canopy
- Zumwalt Acres

JOIN US!

One of the most engaging and unique aspects of BOOST is that the you decide who the grand prize winner is! After hearing the pitches at the event, you cast your vote to help determine the winner. All over enjoying drinks, food, and conversations with others who care about entrepreneurship and sustainability!

OUR VENUE



Photos by Jack Whalen: (Top) Hannah Bonham Blackwell presents on the impact of Chicago Eco House & Southside Blooms after winning BOOST in 2017. (Middle) Audience listens to pitch from BOOST 2023 Anniversary winner Selma Sims of Gardeneers. (Bottom) The Delta Emerging Leaders associate board organizes and plans for the annual BOOST event.









Chicago Tool Library

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

(Photo by Terrence Antonio James / Chicago Tribune)

RECENT BOOST WINNERS

EcoShip

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."



01.

Entrepreneurs Pitch

Four or five social entrepreneurs pitch their ideas in front of a live audience.

02.

You Vote

X

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> Guests cast their votes for their favorite entrepreneurs.

O3.
Funding Awarded

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



IMPACT UPDATE

LILLIAN AUGUSTA BEAUTY BOOST 2019 WINNER

Jannice Newson shares, "The initial BOOST funding came at a critical time; it was the first significant amount of money received by the company and funded the idea of plant-based braiding hair."

Jannice won BOOST in 2019 to launch her company, Lillian Augusta Beauty, which she established to create more sustainable and equitable solutions for Black consumers in the beauty and hair care industries. The start-up provides plant-based braiding hair alternatives that can be composted after use. This product alternative also helps divert waste, as 98 million pounds of waste come from synthetic braiding each year.

After years of research and development, Lillian Augusta Beauty launched product sales in 2024. In addition to expanding its direct-to-consumer sales, the company is currently planning to launch a storefront in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood.

GREEN SOAPBOX

CRITICAL CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

For years, Delta Institute has hosted "Green Soapbox" as an opportunity to host expert panelists in discussing a wide variety of issues impacting our local community - topics like air quality, regional infrastructure, city resilience, and more. This annual panel discussion, organized by the Delta Emerging Leaders Associate Board, and its a great opportunity to learn, engage in the conversation, and connect with others.

We will be announcing the format, topic, and date for the next Green Soapbox panel soon. The event will take place in Spring 2025.

Photos by Jack Whalen: (Top) Olga Bautista of Southeast Environmental Task Force speaking at Green Soapbox 2024. (Middle) Krista Thomason of US EPA, Kyra Woods of Chicago's Department of Environment, and Mackenzie Siren of Chicago Climate Connect were panelists last year (Bottom) Audience members at the 2024 event learning about the impacts of wildfires on air quality.









Enjoy the series on YouTube

Want to check out our most recent Green Soapbox panel discussion? Visit Delta Institute's YouTube channel to enjoy the full playlist of our most recent four panel events.

youtube.com/@deltainstitute





Above: 2023 speakers Olga Bautista, Mackenzie Siren, Krista Thomason, and Kyra Woods



Above: 2022 speakers Tracy Brown, Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda, Lottie Ferguson, and Bweza Itaagi. Below: 2021 speakers Naomi Davis, Stephanie Hacker, Ron Harris, and 2020 moderator Ben Gelt.



Below: 2020 panelists Phoebe DePree, Mila Marshall, Quinn Rallins, and Mykel Selph.



Expert Perspectives on Climate Issues

Since 2011, Delta Institute has hosted dozens of speakers from diverse backgrounds to explore the most pressing climate issues impacting our region. Recent speakers have included:

- Representatives from WBEZ, Chicago's NPR affiliate,
- Chief Resilience Officers from cities like Flint and Minneapolis,
- Environmental leaders from community-based organizations like Blacks in Green, Grow Greater Englewood, Southeast Environmental Task Force,
- Commissioners from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago,
- Industry experts from agencies like the EPA and Chicago's Department of Environment, and
- Many more advocates from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors across the Midwest!

8.2k

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn 19.4k

WEBSITE VISITORS

ANNUALLY

at delta-institute.org

2.4k

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

with industry-leading engagement rates

200+

EVENT GUESTS

who are highly engaged in their communities and support brands that give back to social and environmental causes.





Recognition of your sponsorship

In addition to receiving tickets to either the BOOST or Green Soapbox event -- or both -- all sponsors are also recognized publicly by Delta Institute on our website, our email newsletter, and at the event itself. Sponsors can also receive additional recognition like featured sponsor social media shout-outs, speaking opportunities, naming rights, and more. Delta Institute's supporters purchase from brands who promote sustainability and social causes.

Sponsorship Opportunities Overview

Collaboration Catalysts

\$15,000

- Naming opportunity for BOOST award (2 available) and Co-Presenting Sponsorship Opportunities for Green Soapbox (2 available)
- Deliver remarks on your organization during either BOOST and Green Soapbox
- Recognition as a sponsor for both BOOST and Green Soapbox on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 20 event registrations (10 for BOOST and 10 for Green Soapbox)
- Devoted blog post recognizing your sponsorship on Delta Institute's website
- Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

Climate Champions

\$10,000

- Naming opportunity for BOOST award (2 available) or Co-Presenting Sponsorship Opportunities for Green Soapbox (2 available)
- Deliver remarks on your organization during either BOOST or Green Soapbox
- Recognition as a sponsor for both BOOST and Green Soapbox on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 10 event registrations (5 for BOOST and 5 for Green Soapbox)
- · Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

Impact Investors

\$5,000

- Recognition as a sponsor for both BOOST and Green Soapbox on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 10 event registrations (5 for BOOST and 5 for Green Soapbox)
- · Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

Planet Protectors

\$2,500

- Recognition as a sponsor for both BOOST and Green Soapbox on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 4 event registrations (2 for BOOST and 2 for Green Soapbox)
- Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

Sustainability Supporters

\$1,000

- Recognition as a sponsor for either BOOST or Green Soapbox on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 2 registrations to one event, either BOOST or Green Soapbox

Sponsorship Opportunities Overview





















Make an **Impact**

Event Recognition

Events

Event **Tickets**

Sponsored social post

Speaking

Special Opportunity* Recognition*

Featured sponsor blog

	Catalysts
	\$15,000
	Climate Champion
	\$10,000
	Impact Investors
1	\$5,000









Events

Events



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Event

Event





000

\$2,500

\$1,000

Events

Planet **Protectors**



Events



Sustainability Supporters



Event

^{*} Limited speaking opportunities and special recognition packages are available on a first-come basis. Special recognition packages include a naming opportunity for a BOOST award and/or being listed as a Green Soapbox co-presenting sponsor.

delta institute 🛕

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 2024 Candid.

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. All sponsors will be provided with a tax receipt for their records regarding the tax-deductible portion of their contribution.

BOARD OFFICERS

Vanessa Roanhorse, Board Chair CEO, Roanhorse Consulting, LLC

Ashley Bakelmun, Vice Chair and Governance & Nominating Committee Chair Managing Director, RW Ventures

David Fording, CFA, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Partner and Portfolio Manager - US All Cap Growth and US Equity Sustainability Strategies, William Blair

Mike Harrington, LEED GA, Secretary Director at The Tishman Environment and Design Center, New School

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaré Akchin, Development Committee Chair Vice President for Jewish Community Impact, Third Plateau

Liz Alexander Manager, Energy & Utilities; West Monroe

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Counsel, Labor & Employment;
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Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Jessie Deelo Founder, Deelo Consulting Services

Madeline (Maddie) Demo, MBA, MPH, GSP; Governing Board Liaison to the DELs Governing Board Liaison to the DELs Senior EH&S Manager, Oldcastle Infrastructure

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

Paige Graham Senior Vice President, Social Impact & Sustainability; Edelman Bradley Grams
Regional Environmental
Protection Specialist, Federal
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Niharika Hanglem Program Director, Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship at Illinois Tech

Kevin Kalus Market Executive - Illinois Middle Market. JPMorgan Chase

Tyler Strom Managing Director, Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

Delta Emerging Leaders Associate Board

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. Green Soapbox is an annual panel discussion focused on an important climate issue impacting our local community.





Executive Committee

Lizbeth Carrazco, BOOST Chair Maya Kelly, Green Soapbox Chair Haroula Kyriacou, Outreach Chair Phuong Le, Co-Chair Grace Snider, Co-Chair Ashvin Veligandla, Treasurer

BOOST Committee

Jessica Chen
Delaney Klundt
Humble Mohammed
John Prisby
Anya Salnikova
Ashvin Veligandla

Green Soapbox Committee

Lucia Bosacoma Paige Curson

Joey McDarrah

Conner Rettig

Manju Rupani

Anusha Shaktawat

Outreach Committee

Mackenzie Castle

Linda Derhak

Molly Needelman

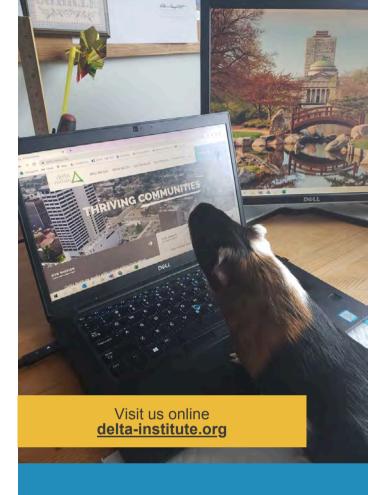
Gabby Petrelli

Becca Sita

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