



UPCOMING EVENTS  
2025 - 2026



*All event proceeds  
support our mission.*

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.





# 22

## 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.

# 12

## ANNUAL PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON CLIMATE ISSUES





SPECIAL EVENT #1

# GREEN SOAPBOX

## CRITICAL CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

*Join us this fall for dinner, drinks, and a meaningful discussion about our climate!*

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.



6:00pm - 9:00pm

**Edelman**  
111 N Canal St  
Chicago, IL 60606



*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](https://youtube.com/@deltainstitute)





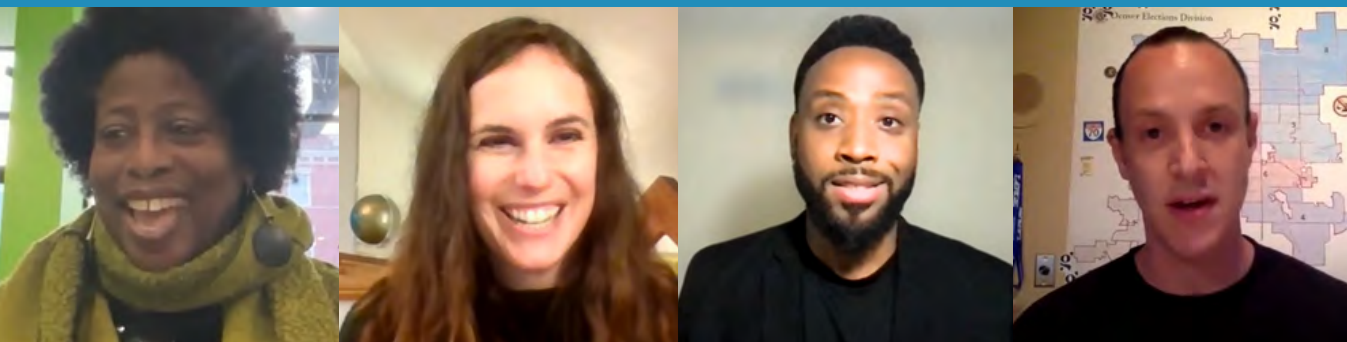
Above: Spring 2025 panelists Rimjhim Agrawal, Alisa Bhachu, Tomás de'Medici, and Beatriz Ponce de León



Above: 2024 speakers Olga Bautista, Mackenzie Siren, Krista Thomason, and Kyra Woods



Above: 2023 speakers Tracy Brown, Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda, Lottie Ferguson, and Bweza Itaagi.  
Below: 2022 speakers Naomi Davis, Stephanie Hacker, Ron Harris, and 2020 moderator Ben Gelt.



## *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,
- The Deputy Mayor of Chicago,
- Chief Resilience Officers from cities like Flint and Minneapolis,
- Leaders from community-based organizations like Blacks in Green, Chicago Refugee Coalition, 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!



# BOOST

## BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES *for* ORIGINAL & SUSTAINABLE THINKING

SPRING 2026

CHICAGO

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 13 years, the program has provided a total of \$136,000 in support to emerging entrepreneurs, including 22 BOOST winners and 28 other finalists like:

- Block Bins
- Chicago Tool Library
- Eco.Logic
- EcoShip
- Gardeneers
- Lillian Augusta Beauty
- Snail Catalog
- Southside Blooms
- The Urban Canopy

### 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!



*Photos: (Top) Hannah Bonham Blackwell presents on the impact of Chicago Eco House & Southside Blooms after winning BOOST in 2017. (Middle) Candid Hues tableting at BOOST 2024. (Bottom) Guests enjoying BOOST 2024 event over refreshments.*



## *Snail Catalog*

Gillian Jackson's small business is "a new print & fabrication studio that lends a helping hand to artists, small businesses, and nonprofits seeking environmentally-focused signage. The company is working toward offering 100% PVC-free products to limit the spread of microplastics and create a take-back and recycling program for release liners.

## 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."



HOW DOES BOOST WORK?

## 01. *Entrepreneurs Pitch*

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

## 02. *You Vote*

Guests cast their votes for their favorite entrepreneurs.

## 03. *Funding Awarded*

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



# 8.7k

*SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS*

across Facebook,  
Instagram, LinkedIn,  
Threads, and Blue Sky

# 35k

*WEBSITE USERS  
ANNUALLY*

at [delta-institute.org](https://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



Event  
Tickets



Sponsored  
social post



Speaking  
Opportunity\*



Special  
Recognition\*



Featured  
sponsor blog

*Collaboration  
Catalysts*



2

Events

20



2

Events

2

Events



\$15,000

*Climate  
Champions*



2

Events

10



1

Event

1

Event

\$10,000

*Impact  
Investors*



2

Events

10



\$5,000

*Planet  
Protectors*



2

Events

4



\$2,500

*Sustainability  
Supporters*



1

Event

2

\$1,000

\* 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.



## *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 Charity Navigator. 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*

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

### *BOARD MEMBERS*

**Jaré Akchin**, *Development Committee Chair*  
Chief Impact Officer, Third Plateau

**Liz Alexander**  
Manager, Energy & Utilities; West Monroe

**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 Aviation Administration

**Niharika Hanglem**  
Program Officer, The Duchossois Family Foundation

**Jannice Newson**  
Founder, Lillian Augusta Beauty

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. The DELs organize the Green Soapbox event annually as a way to bring attention to important climate issues impacting our local community.



### *Executive Committee*

Jess Chen, *Co-Chair*  
Joey McDarragh, *Co-Chair*  
Lucia Bosacoma  
Paige Curson  
Molly Needelman  
Anya Salnikova  
Becca Sita

### *BOOST Committee*

Anya Salnikova, *Chair*  
Chelsey Faulkner  
Ben Miller  
Humble Mohammed  
John Prisby  
Jackie Spryshak

### *Green Soapbox Committee*

Lucia Bosacoma, *Co-Chair*  
Paige Curson, *Co-Chair*  
Sam Aronson  
Linda Derhak  
Grace Snider  
Joevita Weah

### *Outreach Committee*

Molly Needelman, *Co-Chair*  
Becca Sita, *Co-Chair*  
Maya Kelly  
Manju Rupani  
Neha Thalpur  
Charlie Wolfe

*For more information*



**Patrick T. Murphy**

Director, Donor Stewardship

Delta Institute

312-554-0900 ext. 31

[pmurphy@delta-institute.org](mailto:pmurphy@delta-institute.org)



/DeltaGreatLakes



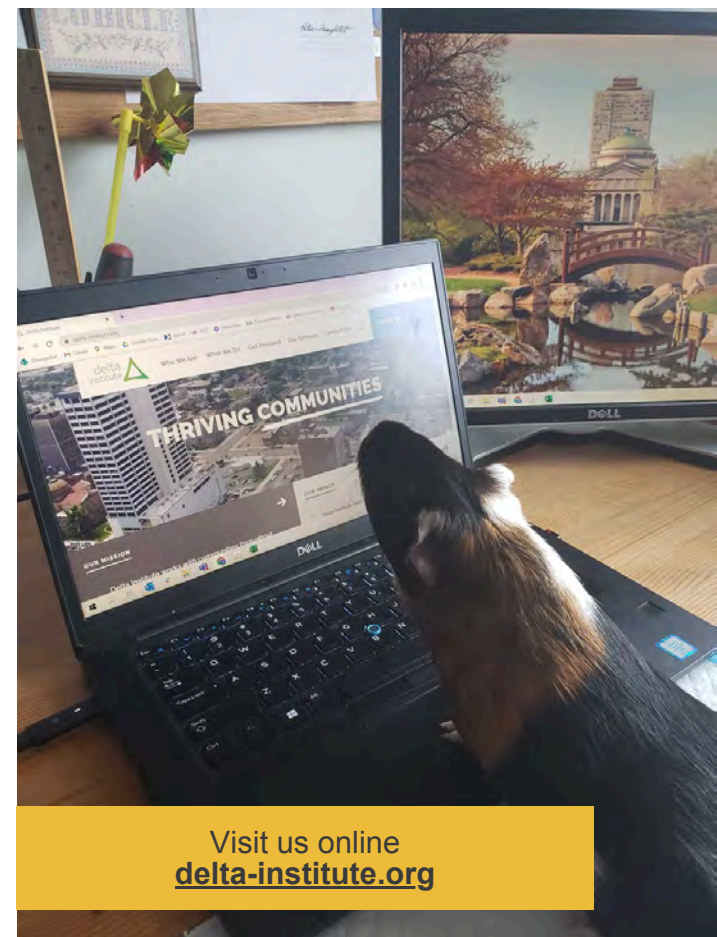
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[delta-institute.org](http://delta-institute.org)



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