



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





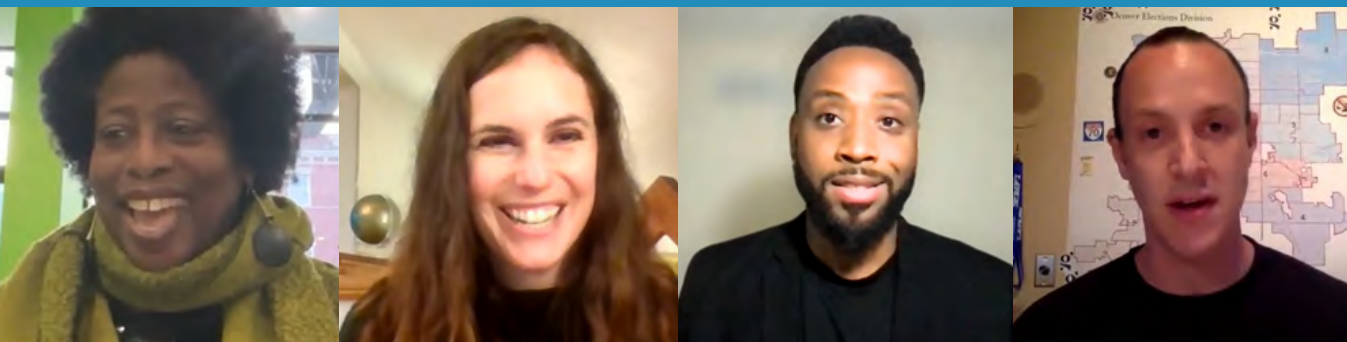
Above: Spring 2025 panelists Rimjhim Agrawal, Alisa Bhachu, Tomás de'Medici, and Beatriz Ponce de León



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 tabling 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

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 Director, Entrepreneurs Program at The Richard L. Duchossois 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



/DeltaGreatLakes



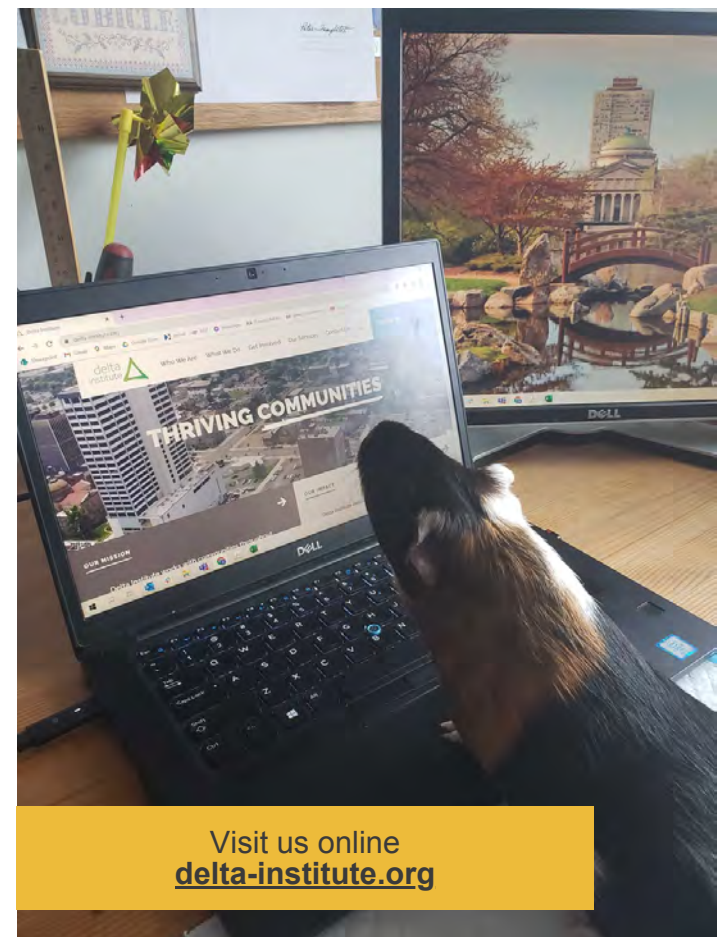
@DeltaInstitute



/delta-institute



@deltainstitute



Visit us online
delta-institute.org



35 E Wacker Dr Ste 1760
Chicago, IL 60601

delta-institute.org | 312-554-0900