



THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**BOOST**

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES  
*for ORIGINAL and*  
SUSTAINABLE THINKING

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026**

SALESFORCE TOWER CHICAGO  
333 W WOLF POINT PLAZA  
CHICAGO, IL, 60654



JOIN US FOR FOOD,  
DRINKS, AND AN  
EVENING OF IMPACT



# BOOST

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES *for*  
ORIGINAL & SUSTAINABLE THINKING

APRIL 22, 2026

Salesforce Tower Chicago  
333 W Wolf Point Plaza  
Chicago, IL 60654

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.

# 22

## WINNING START-UPS LAUNCHED

through Delta Institute's annual BOOST event.



## THE CUTTING EDGE of SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION

BOOST is a Chicago flagship event that provides a platform for emerging entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas in front of a live audience and win small business grants to further develop their ideas. Innovators and supporters join together annually at BOOST to discuss new ideas over food and drinks.

# \$136k

### AWARDED

in small business grants.





# BOOST 2026

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT



## *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.



# 8.7k

*SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS*

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

# 35k

*WEBSITE USERS ANNUALLY*

at [delta-institute.org](http://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 BOOST, 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)
- Deliver remarks on your organization during either BOOST (2 speaking slots available)
- Recognition as a BOOST sponsor on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 20 registrations to attend BOOST
- 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)
- Deliver remarks on your organization during either BOOST (2 speaking slots available)
- Recognition as a BOOST sponsor on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 10 registrations to attend BOOST
- Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

## *Impact Investors*

*\$5,000*

- Recognition as a BOOST sponsor on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 10 registrations to attend BOOST
- Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

## *Planet Protectors*

*\$2,500*

- Recognition as a BOOST sponsor on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 4 registrations to attend BOOST
- Devoted social media shout-out to your business, family, or foundation

## *Sustainability Supporters*

*\$1,000*

- Recognition as a BOOST sponsor on website, event presentation, and email newsletter.
- 2 registrations to attend BOOST



# Sponsorship Opportunities Overview



Make an Impact



Event Recognition



Event Tickets



Sponsored social post



Speaking Opportunity\*



Special Recognition\*



Featured sponsor blog

*Collaboration Catalysts*



20



\$15,000

*Climate Champions*



10



\$10,000

*Impact Investors*



10



\$5,000

*Planet Protectors*



4



\$2,500

*Sustainability Supporters*



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.



## *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

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Chief Impact Officer, Third Plateau

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West Monroe

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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

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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 McDarrah, *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*



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/DeltaGreatLakes



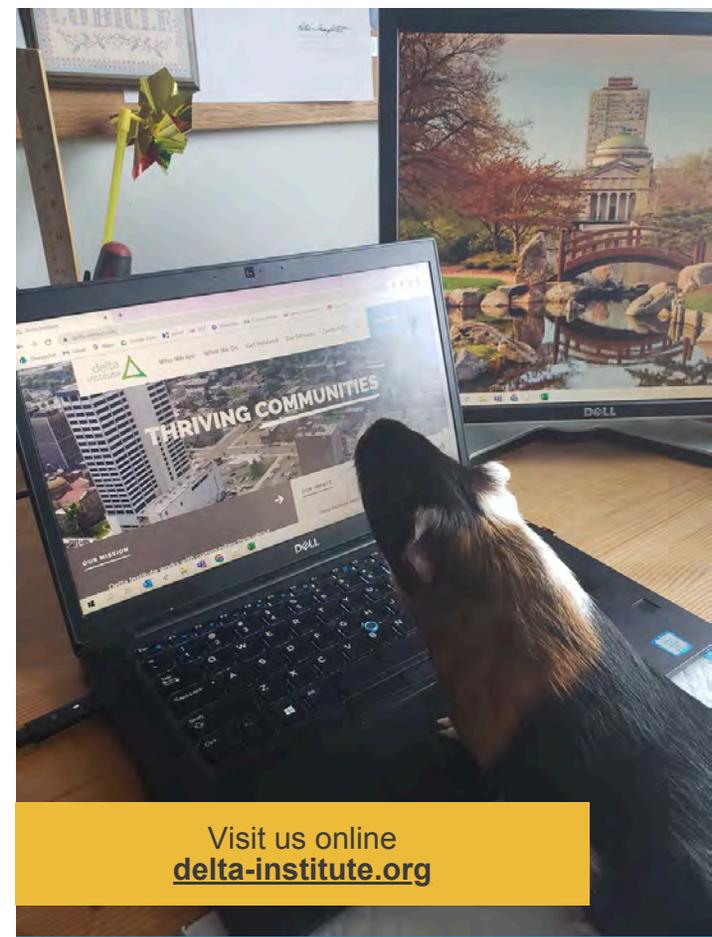
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