

For Immediate Release
June 19, 2019

Media Contact:
Heather Wagner Reed
heather@juiceconsulting.com
713 208 3891



AUSTIN

IMPACT HUB AUSTIN BRINGS TOGETHER 12 VENTURES FOR AUSTIN IMPACT ACCELERATOR COHORT

Impact Hub Austin to introduce the twelve ventures to the public at July 1 event at Impact Hub Lamar; the Austin Impact Accelerator will tackle issues regarding affordability and workforce development

(AUSTIN, TEXAS – June 19, 2019; source: Juice Consulting) – Innovation space **Impact Hub Austin** announces the 12 ventures selected to be a part of the **Austin Impact Accelerator**, an issue-focused free acceleration program that develops and brings to market a cohort of solutions focused primarily and purposefully on affordability and workforce development. The 12 members of this cohort include **Austin Justice Coalition, Digital Docent an initiative of E4 Youth, Diva-licious Brands, LLC, Equidad, ATX, Haven Connect, Integral Care, Magnazine, My Brother's Keeper Scholars, Prowess Project, Red Salmon Arts, Survive2Thrive Foundation and The Other Ones Foundation**. The ventures will be introduced to the public with a **Meet the Cohort** event on **July 1** at **Impact Hub Lamar** (5540 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78751), **5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** To register for a ticket, please see [here](#).

With the Austin Impact Accelerator, Impact Hub Austin seeks to unite public, private and nonprofit partners to jumpstart social innovation that addresses Austin's most challenging issues. Current sponsors are **JP Morgan Chase & Co., City of Austin Office of Innovation, BuildFax and Capital City Innovation**. Additional partners for the Austin Impact Accelerator include **Blue Sky Partners, City of Austin Innovation Office, Capital Area Workforce Solutions and City of Austin Mayor's Office**. For more information, please see [here](#).

"The Austin Impact Accelerator has always supported solutions that can have the biggest impact regardless of the sector," said **Ashley Phillips, Managing Director of Impact Hub Austin**. "The Cohort Mixer on July 1 will introduce the community to 12 initiatives working to diversely address the

fundamental shifts happening in our community. Not everyone is thriving in Austin and the Accelerator participants are ensuring that that does not remain the case.”

For more information on the 12 ventures see below:

[Austin Justice Coalition](#)

Austin Justice Coalition will begin its Complete Communities project in the Summer of 2019. Complete Communities will be an initiative that reviews the new land code and the process for the creation thereof through and equitable lens.

[Digital Docent, an initiative of E4 Youth](#)

E4 Youth provides creative workforce development opportunities for youth of color ages 16 - 22. They work with local schools, colleges and leaders within the creative and technology sectors to provide hands on career exposure, mentoring, job shadow and internship opportunities.

[Diva-Licious Brands](#)

Diva-Licious Brands is a first-to-market, diabetes-friendly food product line that trains and employs residents in under-served neighborhoods. We also strive to teach our trainees how to create self-employment opportunities via their own culinary services and cottage food industry products.

Equidad ATX

To serve as a catalyst for collaboration among neighborhood leaders and community stakeholders to accelerate holistic, equitable and sustainable neighborhood revitalization, and disrupt the structural cycle of generational poverty.

[Haven Connect](#)

Haven Connect makes affordable housing in Austin more efficient by centralizing open waitlist opportunities, simplifying the application process, and streamlining property waitlist management.

[Integral Care](#)

Integral Care improves the lives of adults and children living with mental illness, substance use disorder and intellectual and developmental disabilities in Travis County.

Magnazine

Magnazine provides free, powerful educational and job training tools to help adults thrive in an ever-changing economy.

My Brother's Keeper Scholars

Because higher education levels are correlated with better health, workforce, and other social outcomes, MBK Scholars focuses on closing the college and career attainment gap for young men of color in Austin.

[Prowess Project](#)

Prowess Project helps companies with innovation and productivity by certifying educated, experienced women, many who are moms wanting to reenter the workforce but can't find the flexible, empowering jobs they desire. Prowess Projects matches them with businesses who could use their expertise.

[Red Salmon Arts](#)

Red Salmon Arts is a Chicana/Latina/Native American cultural arts organization with over 30 years of community building in Austin. We seek to support and employ artists, writers, and innovators, which will help create a resilient and thriving economy for indigenous and underrepresented communities.

[Survive2Thrive Foundation](#)

The mission of the SANCTUARY web application is to provide immediately accessible temporary housing options, life changing resources, and support from advocates trained to serve displaced and homeless communities seeking help.

[The Other Ones Foundation](#)

The Other Ones Foundation transitions Austin's homeless neighbors into an engaged community through shelter, opportunity, and support. We offer low demand emergency shelter, barrier-free work opportunities, and case management services aimed at breaking down barriers to stable income and housing.

The Austin Impact Accelerator Workshops pairs teams with subject matter and industry experts offering experience and best practices in customer research, funding strategy, community and business development, public-private partnerships, working with the City, sales, legal, strategy, public relations and investment. Companies in the cohort also receive a seven-month coworking membership at Impact Hub Austin with access to both locations, as well as a robust mentor network including local leaders in the public, private and non-profit sectors and introductions to corporations, investors and partners through cohort-specific and community-wide events.

"The City of Austin Office of Innovation works to identify and test solutions to complex challenges facing Austin," said **Kerry O'Connor, Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Austin**. "Our i-team, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies, has focused on alleviating homelessness in the past. We are currently working with Neighborhood Housing and Community Development to help residents facing displacement pressure due to gentrification to move forward on a continuum from crisis to stability, to prosperity with increased agency and choice. We're excited to coordinate our work with the Impact Hub Accelerator. We will provide teams with any research, knowledge, and insights we have from our work. We'll be actively looking for ways in which new enterprises could do business with the city to help make progress towards Austin's strategic goals."

Past Impact Hub Austin accelerators have led to 875 individuals and families becoming empowered with attainable housing, 470 individuals gaining training and/or employment options that provide a living wage, 27 new solutions that address economic opportunity and housing forming and launching and \$9.6 million dollars being raised by ventures for pilots and follow-on funding. 60 percent of founders and participants in these accelerators are either women and/or people of color. Three data reports from the programs have even been published, enabling smarter policy and stronger civic engagement, with one of these reports going on to win the World Economic Forums' "Shaping our Cities' Future" Challenge. Alumni from previous Impact Hub Austin accelerators include ICON 3D, Austin Housing Conservancy, Austin Coding Academy, PelotonU, Almost Home Financial, The Tiny Heights and Central Texas Allied Health Institute.

"We are excited to support the accelerator's second year and move to break silos by bringing together the challenge areas of workforce development and affordable housing into one program cohort," said **Victoria O'Dell, Program & Communications Manager at Capital City Innovation**. "Austin's capacity to collaborate to address pressing challenges is what sets us apart as a city and will ultimately lead to any success we have in creating healthier and thriving communities for all residents."

About Impact Hub Austin:

Impact Hub Austin offers a powerful combination of mission, community and space to support game-changing ideas for social impact. At once an inspiring coworking space, incubator and community hub, Impact Hub Austin connects local entrepreneurs and creatives to a global movement for good. To learn more about the Affordable Housing Accelerator (AHA) or Impact Hub Austin, visit www.impacthubaustin.com.

###

MEDIA NOTE:

For press inquiries about Impact Hub Austin or interview requests, please contact the team at Juice Consulting:

Heather Wagner Reed
713 208 3891
heather@juiceconsulting.com

Tyler Ostby
210 854 9119
tyler@juiceconsulting.com