



NEWS RELEASE

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City Provides Grants to Entrepreneurship Programs in Stockton

(Stockton, CA) – For the second consecutive year, the City of Stockton has granted \$80,000 to local organizations that provide small business programs to entrepreneurs and start-up businesses in Stockton. The Business Entrepreneurship Grant Program involves a competitive application process, and recipients were granted awards based on recommendations from a selection committee. Six local organizations received funding that will help develop innovation programs to grow the local entrepreneurship scene.

The Northeastern California Small Business Development Center (SBDC) San Joaquin Delta College (sbdc.deltacollege.edu) received a \$20,000 grant for the enhancement of services targeting entrepreneurs and start-ups in Stockton. The SBDC offers client services such as no-cost business consulting, coaching, and business education classes.

Stockton Impact Corps (www.stocktonimpactcorps.com) was awarded a \$16,600 grant for the enhancement of a microloan program offering workshops, consultations, and working capital. The organization provides training services to local entrepreneurs and manages a micro-lending program for small businesses in Stockton.

“Stockton Impact Corps is thrilled to be involved with the Business Entrepreneurship Program (BEP) for the second year,” said Stockton Impact Corps’

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City of Stockton
News Release – Entrepreneurship Grant
Thursday, August 31, 2017
Page 2 of 3

Executive Director Mark Crockett. “BEP funds are integral to the development of Stockton Impact Corps and help us maximize our impact within the community. These funds also help us provide business consulting and entrepreneurship experience to UOP students, who have the opportunity to get involved in the community by working directly with business owners.”

Bay Valley Tech (www.bayvalleytech.com) was granted \$12,000 to accelerate the establishment of a Stockton-based coding academy that includes training and preparation of Stockton’s workforce for proficiency in software programming skills.

The African American Chamber Foundation of San Joaquin (AACFSJ) (siaacc.wixsite.com/stockton) was awarded \$11,400 to facilitate the Minority Entrepreneur Network, Talent, and Opportunity Resource (MENTOR), a leadership program for socially and economically disadvantaged minority entrepreneurs providing fundamental business concepts to new and existing business owners. The AACFSJ promotes the expansion of business opportunities in Stockton through its membership.

The Downtown Stockton Alliance (DSA) (www.downtownstockton.org) received a \$10,000 grant to provide basic and advanced technical assistance to start-ups and entrepreneurs through the Brick & Mortar Entrepreneurship Center, including a session in Spanish. The DSA operates and manages the Property and Business Improvement District in Downtown representing nearly 1,000 property owners.

Huddle Cowork (www.huddlecowork.com), in collaboration with the San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, received a \$10,000 grant for the expansion,

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City of Stockton
News Release – Entrepreneurship Grant
Thursday, August 31, 2017
Page 3 of 3

implementation, and promotion of the incubation program, Entrepreneur Lab, which is hosted at Huddle. Huddle will also provide mentorship for the program participants. Huddle Cowork is one of the premier downtown coworking spaces.

Huddle Cowork Cofounder, David Garcia shared that this grant funding is essential to this incubation program. “The City of Stockton's Entrepreneurship Grant has allowed us to nurture our city's nascent start-up scene, and, to-date, we've seen very positive results. Simply put, we would not be where we are today without support from the City.”

Funding of entrepreneur programs is supported by the City of Stockton Economic Development Strategic Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2015. The plan includes key objectives for business growth in Stockton, as well as supporting a robust entrepreneurship sector. This initiative was made possible by grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant, which helps support local low to moderate income persons to create jobs in Stockton.

For more information on the City's economic development programs, visit www.stocktonca.gov/econdev or call 209-937-8539.

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