

Level Up Pitch Contest



Table of Contents

COMPETITION OUTLINE.....3

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....4

PRIZES.....4

COMPETITION CATEGORIES4

HOW TO ENTER.....5

JUDGING CRITERIA.....5

GENERAL CRITERIA.....6

MORE INFORMATION7

COMPETITION OUTLINE

This document constitutes the official contest entry rules.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the competition is to support the development of ventures from ideation to commercialization. This contest reflects the commitment of the Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan, Inc. and the Tampa Black Heritage Festival to support innovation and entrepreneurship for economic prosperity in Hillsborough County specifically East Tampa.

SOLUTION

The Level Up Pitch Competition (“Competition”) is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to win a \$1,000 award to help accelerate their business.

PROCESS

The Level Up Pitch Competition involves three steps:

- Step 1: Apply online
- Step 2: Expert review and finalist selection
- Step 3: Live pitch finale

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications Open: October 30, 2019 **Application**

Deadline: December 1, 2019 **at 5pm Finalists**

Announced: December 18, 2019

Live Pitch Finale: January 10, 2020

The final live pitch will be held at THAP 5508 campus in Tampa (5508 N. 50th Street Tampa, FL 33610). The event takes place in the evening, starting at 5 pm. **Finalists must be available to present their idea in person.**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To win, companies must meet the following requirements:

- Companies must be geographically located in **Hillsborough County, FL**
- Must be a registered business in Hillsborough County and the state of Florida.
- Priority will be given to companies that have been operating for two years or less and living in East Tampa.

Applications must be complete.

- Applicants may enter more than one category. **However, should they be selected as a finalist, applicants will only be invited to pitch in the category for which they rank the highest.**
- A non-refundable registration fee of \$55 is required for each submission.

PRIZES

The grand prize winner will receive a \$1,000 prize awarded to the highest ranking business.

Winners will also receive access to a variety of supports and services offered by the 5508 Co-Working and Collaboration Exchange including free office space. This access will be valid until the end of 2020 and will provide winners with valuable training and networking opportunities.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Applicants in this category are driven changemakers, looking to advance social, environmental, or community economic goals via their revenue-generating business.

TECHNOLOGY STARTUP

Applicants in this category have a business idea that involves new technology product development or product improvement. This includes but is not limited to the novel creation, application or improvement of a technology-based business idea in the areas of advanced materials and manufacturing, robotics, engineering, life science, industrial internet of things, information & communications technology, etc.

CREATIVE INDUSTRY STARTUP

Applicants in this category are artists, designers, creators and cultural entrepreneurs. This category is for those who create new cultural products, firms and markets that create new economic and cultural value.

HOW TO ENTER

All applicants must submit the application requirements online by **5pm Thursday December 1, 2020**:

1. Tell us about **your business**
2. Tell us about **your team**
3. Upload a **video & submit completed documents**
*Files must be in pdf format, with a maximum size of 8 MB Want to know how to make a pitch deck?
4. Link to a **pitch video** (optional)
5. Submit your **non-refundable \$55 application fee**

JUDGING CRITERIA

The finalists in each category will be asked to deliver a 5 minute pitch. The pitch will be followed by a 7 minute Q&A session with the judging panel. Pitches will be evaluated on:

- Strength of Entrepreneur/Team
- Size of the Opportunity/Competitive Environment
- Product/Technology
- Business Stage
- Marketing/Sales/Partnerships
- Ability to Access Financing to Achieve Milestones

Winners will be chosen by a panel of 3-4 judges from all eligible submissions of the Competition. All decisions made by the panel of judges are final. The odds of winning the Competition depend on the total number of eligible entries received.

In order to be declared the confirmed winner of any prize, a selected contestant must, in addition to meeting the eligibility criteria in the rules, correctly answer, in person, a mathematical skills testing question without the assistance of any kind, whether electronic or otherwise.

GENERAL CRITERIA

1. This Competition is for the general public eligible to enter and will be interpreted and subject to federal, provincial, municipal, and local laws and regulations.
2. By participating in this Competition, each entrant agrees to be legally bound by these official contest entry rules, including the Pitch Competition Guide 2020.
3. TBBHF/ THAP reserves its right to cancel, terminate, modify, amend, extend, or suspend the Competition.
4. Employees, representatives, and agents of TBBHF/ THAP, as well as anyone domiciled with or related to such employees, representatives or agents, and the Competition judges, are not eligible to enter, or otherwise, to participate in this Competition.
5. To be considered an eligible entry, TBBHF/ THAP reserves the right to vet entries based on consistency with TBBHF/ THAP's policies and procedures.
6. The Competition winners are solely responsible for payment of any applicable taxes and reporting any taxable income associated with winning the Competition. The prizes cannot be substituted or transferred to a third party and cannot be exchanged for cash value. However, TBBHF/ THAP may in its discretion, substitute the prizes for another prize which is, in its opinion, of equal or greater value. Any additional costs not described in these rules as part of the prize that are incurred in collecting and/or using the prize are the prize winners' responsibility.
7. TBBHF/ THAP shall not be liable for the failure of any contest submission or entry to be received by TBBHF/ THAP for any reason, including, but not limited to technical problems, traffic congestion, or any other issues.
8. TBBHF/ THAP shall not be liable for any injury or damage to a contestant's, or any other person's computer related to or resulting from participating in the Competition.
9. Termination of Competition: TBBHF/ THAP reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to void any entry and/or withdraw, suspend, amend, or terminate this Competition in whole or in part (or to amend these rules) in any way at any time without prior notice (but subject to applicable law), in the event of an error, technical problem, computer virus, bugs, tampering,

unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failure or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of TBBHF/ THAP that in TBBHF/ THAP's sole discretion determines, interferes with the proper conduct of this Competition as contemplated by these rules, or in the event of any accident, printing, administrative, or other error of any kind, or for any other reason. Any attempt to deliberately damage any website or to undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition is a violation of criminal and civil laws and should such attempt be made, the person will be automatically disqualified and TBBHF/ THAP reserves the right to seek remedies and damages to the fullest extent permitted by law. TBBHF/ THAP reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, and without prior notice, to adjust any of the dates and/or time frames stipulated in these rules, to the extent necessary, for the purposes of verifying compliance by any entry with these rules, or as a result of technical problems, or in light of any other circumstances, which in the opinion of TBBHF/ THAP, in its sole and absolute discretion, affect the proper administration of the Competition as contemplated in these rules.

10. Personal Information: By entering this Contest, each contestant expressly consents to the Sponsor, its agents and/or representatives, storing, sharing and using the personal information submitted with his/her entry only for the purpose of administering the Contest and in accordance with Sponsor's privacy policy

MORE INFORMATION

This competition is administered by The TBBHF/ THAP Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the competition should be directed to:

Derrick Blue
Derrick.blue@thap-inc.org

Bill Trotman
billytrotman@gmail.com