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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Idea Village Receives Kauffman Foundation Grant

New Orleans, LA (October 28, 2015) — The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation today awarded The Idea Village a grant as a part of the Foundation’s [initiative to fund exemplary organizations that help entrepreneurs](#) launch and grow their businesses. This generous grant will allow The Idea Village to expand its reach and impact, increase community engagement, and foster a more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Idea Village was one of eight grantees selected from an applicant pool of more than 300 proposals from leading entrepreneurship support programs in 47 states.

“The Kauffman Foundation partnership will allow us to scale our impact by growing the New Orleans Entrepreneur Week platform to provide deeper resources to local entrepreneurs,” said Tim Williamson, Co Founder and CEO. “The Foundation’s investment validates the efforts we’ve made over the last 15 years to foster an inclusive, collaborative ecosystem in New Orleans.”

Wendy Guillies, president and CEO of the Kansas City, Missouri-based Kauffman Foundation, said the cohort of grantees represent some of the country’s most effective, scalable and transferable entrepreneurial support programs.

“These eight organizations have demonstrated success in helping entrepreneurs meet key challenges they face in growing their businesses,” Guillies said. “The Foundation also is interested in developing a better understanding of what makes such programs effective so that we can help other organizations replicate their strategies and contribute to greater entrepreneurial success.”

ABOUT THE IDEA VILLAGE:

Founded in 2000, The Idea Village is the first nonprofit organization with a mission solely centered on entrepreneurship in New Orleans and has played an integral role in catalyzing the city’s entrepreneurial movement. Its programs offer support to local entrepreneurs through training, mentoring, peer-to-peer learning, coaching from investment professionals and access to pro bono lawyers, bankers, and other experts. In addition, The Idea Village produces New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, an 8-day festival celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and new thinking. The Idea Village received a Gold Excellence award from the International Economic Development Council for our Entrepreneur Season model in 2012, and we were recognized as a top-three entrepreneurship ecosystem developer in 2014 by the Global Innovation Summit. For more information: www.ideavillage.org

About the Kauffman Foundation

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private, nonpartisan foundation that aims to foster economic independence by advancing educational achievement and entrepreneurial success. Founded by late entrepreneur and philanthropist Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Foundation is based in Kansas City, Mo., and has approximately \$2 billion in assets. For more information, visit www.kauffman.org, and follow the Foundation on www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn and www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn.

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