

THE IDEA VILLAGE

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The Idea Village kicks off 2018 Entrepreneur Season

Organization announces Acting CEO, relocation to new hub, and programs for 2018

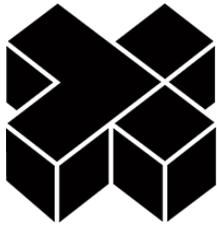
NEW ORLEANS - Today, The Idea Village announced its 2018 Entrepreneur Season™, which will feature the 10th annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW), the IDEAx accelerator program, and a move to a new entrepreneurial hub in the Warehouse District of New Orleans. Additionally, the New Orleans-based nonprofit announced that one of its original cofounders, Sally Forman, will lead The Idea Village team as Acting CEO to provide strategic planning and executive leadership, manage day-to-day operations, and work with the Board of Directors while it conducts a national search for a new full-time CEO.

“We are excited about Sally’s passion for and commitment to entrepreneurs and The Idea Village and its ecosystem,” said John Payne, CEO of Caesars Entertainment Operating Company and Chairman of The Idea Village Board of Directors. “Sally’s leadership style will allow us to maximize this move, our networks, and best-practice resources so that we can continue to do what we do best – help entrepreneurs grow their businesses.”

A native of New Orleans, Forman studied journalism at LSU before beginning a career in communications. She has served as director of communications with the City of New Orleans and published two books, including “How They Did It: Profiles of New Orleans Entrepreneurs.” Forman has her own consulting firm and also serves on the Board of Trustees for Loyola University New Orleans.

“Sally empowers the people around her,” said Patrick Comer, CEO of Lucid and Vice Chairman of the Board. “With so much activity happening around the Village, we need solid leadership guiding the ship as we build for the future and plan for the next 20 years.”

In addition to bringing on Forman as Acting CEO, The Idea Village will relocate its offices in August 2017 to The Shop at the CAC, a new co-working space developed by The Domain Companies at the Contemporary Arts Center in downtown New Orleans.



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NOEW – the organization’s premier annual event celebrating entrepreneurship, innovation, and new thinking – will also continue to take place on a campus anchored by the Contemporary Arts Center. Having the organization’s operations housed there will allow for expanded year-round programming for entrepreneurs and the community at large.

“I am thrilled to be working with The Idea Village staff and Board of Directors as we launch the next chapter of innovation and entrepreneurship in the city,” said Forman. “The original vision for this organization was to create a resource within our community for entrepreneurs and startups. It is fantastic to see the growth of the ecosystem since our founding, and I am eager to work with supporters, new and old, to continue positioning New Orleans as a leader for entrepreneurship and next-generation problem solving.”

Beyond planning for the move and NOEW 2018, The Idea Village is also seeking applicants for Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIR) for the six-month IDEAx accelerator program, which will run from October 2017 to April 2018. The intensive program helps early-stage, high-growth companies and will seek applications beginning July 2017. Startups selected for the cohort will have access to critical resources in order to grow their businesses such as mentorship, focused consulting sessions, peer networking, and professional services.

For more information, please visit The Idea Village’s website at www.ideavillage.org.

ABOUT THE IDEA VILLAGE: The Idea Village was formed in 2000 by a group of New Orleans citizens who believed entrepreneurship is a catalyst for positive change. The Idea Village is an independent 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that provides direct service to high-impact entrepreneurs, convenes the ecosystem through NOEW, and supports initiatives that strengthen our entrepreneurial infrastructure. The Idea Village received the Gold Excellence award from the International Economic Development Council for our Entrepreneur Season model in 2012 and was recognized as a top-three entrepreneurship ecosystem developer in 2014 by the Global Innovation Summit. For more information: www.ideavillage.org.

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