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**The Idea Village Announces 2018 New Orleans Entrepreneur Week,
New Presenting Sponsor JPMorgan Chase & Co. for Event's
10th Anniversary**

*Free business summit celebrates entrepreneurship and innovation with programming,
citywide events, March 19–23*

NEW ORLEANS—The Idea Village today announced dates for the 10th annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW)—a weeklong series of events celebrating business, innovation, and entrepreneurship in New Orleans. NOEW 2018 will take place March 19-23, with citywide events happening Monday through Wednesday and the NOEW Summit taking place Thursday and Friday at the Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) and The Shop at the CAC shared workspace.

Produced by The Idea Village in partnership with Solomon Group, NOEW features speakers, pitch competitions, workshops, networking events, and more to support innovative and entrepreneurial thinking in the region.

“The Idea Village kickstarted the startup ecosystem in New Orleans in 2000, producing the first New Orleans Entrepreneur Week a decade ago,” said Patrick Comer, Founder & CEO of Lucid and Vice-chair of The Idea Village. “This is our platform that offers anyone with smart ideas a place to learn, grow, and develop those ideas into viable startups.”

This year, NOEW is expanding to become a citywide affair, bringing partner programming to several neighborhoods in the Greater New Orleans region and offering locals ample opportunities to participate near where they work or live.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. will be the event's Title Sponsor. As one of the longest standing corporate partners of The Idea Village and one of the earliest funders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in New Orleans, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s enhanced commitment as the presenting sponsor further elevates and strengthens the work of The Idea Village at NOEW.

“There's a striking emergence of entrepreneurial talent in our city, and New Orleans Entrepreneur Week is a big reason for that. JPMorgan Chase is proud to be among The Idea Village's earliest supporters, and we're thrilled to be the presenting sponsor for this year's event,” said Katie LeGardeur, Managing Director and Market Leader for JPMorgan Chase. “Our organizations have a lot in common: we know the value of building relationships for the long haul; and we know that when we support entrepreneurs, we support opportunity, prosperity and inclusive growth.”

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“New Orleans Entrepreneur Week allows us to capture the creative spirit of our home-grown talent to encourage new ventures and generate excitement among investors,” said Sally Forman, acting CEO of The Idea Village. “It is because of partners like JPMorgan Chase, who have such a strong commitment to entrepreneurship, that we can continue this incredible work.”

NOEW’s full schedule will be released on Wednesday, February 21, when registration for the event opens via www.NOEW.org. For more information on The Idea Village or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Audrey Voelker at audrey@ideavillage.org.

ABOUT THE IDEA VILLAGE: The Idea Village was formed in 2000 by a group of New Orleans citizens who saw entrepreneurship as a catalyst for 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.

ABOUT NEW ORLEANS ENTREPRENEUR WEEK: New Orleans Entrepreneur Week (NOEW), presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co., is the leading platform for celebrating business, innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking in New Orleans. Produced by The Idea Village in partnership with Solomon Group, NOEW elevates entrepreneurship through discussion, debate, education, competition, and celebration. For more information: www.NOEW.org.

ABOUT JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.: JPMORGAN CHASE and its bank predecessors have been doing business in New Orleans for more than 180 years. The bank has more than 2,500 employees in Louisiana and more than 2 million customers statewide. Chase has been ranked the State’s #1 SBA lender for five consecutive years. Since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, JPMorgan Chase has invested \$40 million to nonprofits working in Louisiana, including \$6.5 million statewide in support of Workforce Readiness and \$2 million in support of Small Business Development.

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