



## **Innovation & Technology Inclusion Council**

**March 18, 2021**

**4:00 – 5:30 PM**

**Webex**

### **Minutes**

- I. Call to order 4:04 p.m.**
- II. Welcome & Roll Call – Thomas Sanchez & Joy James**
  - Introduced New Members – Glennette Clark, Cleve Mesidor
- III. DMPED Updates**
  - The Bridge Fund, Sybongile Cook, Director, Business Development & Strategy
    - Reviewed Bridge Fund grant programs (Hotel, Restaurant, Retail, Entertainment) and other small business support programs that took place in Q4 of calendar year 2020, including Resiliency Fund and Childcare Grant
  - DC Local Equity, Access, and Preservation Funds (DC LEAF) grant, Katie Littman, Policy & Special Projects Manager
    - Reviewed purpose of funds for three opportunities: Economic Growth & Employment – supporting mixed-use development projects in census tracts with high unemployment; Food Access & Security – providing healthy food products, and reducing food insecurity; Healthcare Equity – construction/renovation on health center in communities lacking access to care
  - Members inquired about outcomes of various grant programs; DMPED is required to report to Council and may develop plans related to findings
- IV. ITIC Member Updates**
  - Zeal Capital Partners, Nasir Qadree
    - Recap success of new fund with focus on inclusive investment and diverse management teams
    - Discussed recent investments by Bank of America and companies in the portfolio
    - Currently looking for interns, preferably MBA students, for six-month internship
    - Zeal will be featured on CNBC in April 5, great opportunity for visibility for DC ecosystem
  - Entrepreneur Development Network DC (EDNDC) Launch, Jim Chung & Grant Warner
    - Funded by Well Fargo, Pepco, and Washington DC Economic Partnership (WDCEP), partnership with George Washington and Howard Universities
    - Pre-accelerator based on lean startup method; 25 teams in the introductory session, 130 teams registered for future sessions; still open to new teams looking to scale up, <https://innovation.gwu.edu/edndc>

John Falcicchio  
Deputy Mayor



V. Discussion

- Two-Sided Marketplace, Kevin Morgan
  - Discussed concept offered in New York through RXR Volunteer network, <https://www.rxrvolunteer.com/>; matching platform to allow individual workers to volunteer to assist in area of expertise
  - Working on a similar concept for DC that would concentrate on hardest hit areas such as Wards 5, 7,8;
  - Bringing it to the ITIC for discussion on how to implement in a way that would help with COVID recovery
- ITIC Member Survey, Thomas Sanchez
  - Survey sent earlier this week, desined to see where ITIC can focus efforts for 2021; received 6 responses, awaiting more
  - Issues presented in survey include:
    - Seniors access to computer to sign up for vaccine
    - Gap in education and training for emerging tech like blockchain, crypto currency and bitcoin; There was a related brief discssion on financial literacy in relation to bitcoin
    - Shared concept on ways to enhance employment for DC residents
    - Members will continue to complete survey, will share feedback prior to next meeting to prepare for conversation
    - Members expressed interest in meeting prior to May meeting to have focused conversation

VI. Closing

- Next steps
  - Will share information and relevant contact for Two-Sided Market and Ideas discussed in relation to new member survey
  - Will send invite for May meeting

**Adjourned - 5:31**

