



Accelerate: A Decade of Impact

2015-2023

- 247 pitches presented
 - 23 people have pitched more than once
- 4,000+ attendees

Pitch impact (with pitch title and year)

- 2023 winner Anycia Grady leveraged Accelerate to raise tens of thousand of dollars to launch an app to help address mental health issues in Black communities (launch anticipated in 2024) ... Seeking Supervision(2023)
- Thousands of students have been exposed to literacy through the distribution of 2,000+ free comics and hosting of 7 literacy lounges and pop-ups; and the project secured ARPA funding from Cuyahoga County to help create an LLC to sustain the work ... Comics at the Corner (2023)
- 60+ blocks of Cleveland neighborhoods were beautified with 600 flowers and 500 bags of mulch, and 250 students and teachers participated in 7 litter reduction courses in partnership with 18 schools and organizations ... Clean and Beautiful Neighborhoods (2023)
- Hundreds of students are addressing stress, gaining DJ skills, and finding opportunities to use those skills publicly through a project that later took first place at SEA Change NEO competition and used that prize to purchase more equipment ... Soundbender Institute (2023)
- A pilot program with Cuyahoga County Public Library is helping community members learn the fundamentals of social entrepreneurship and use those lessons to make an impact ... Impact Academy (2023)
- 40 consignors are able to provide clean, usable goods to families and children in hospitals and at social service agencies ... Making the Complainable Sustainable (2023)
- More than 1,000 individuals have learned to move mindfully forward in the presence of anxiety by participating in beekeeping ... Bee Brave (2022)
- A new pipeline is helping BIPOC and first-generation college students enter the field of education through a partnership with Cleveland Metropolitan School District and John Carroll University that addresses the low percentage of BIPOC K-12 teachers ... Read Like Me (2021)
- 3,000+ Coping Boxes are exposing youth and their families to healthy coping mechanisms in the face of anxiety, anger, stress, and other emotions; partnerships with 37 hospitals, schools, churches, and rehab centers are addressing mental health; and a curriculum was developed reaching 500+ youth and 300+ teachers ... Project Coping Box (2021)
- 3,500 youth in 7 Cleveland school districts and beyond have gained new life skills, and 50,000 neckties were donated for young men as part of their youth mentorship program ... 1,000 Ties (2020)





- 1,000+ stories of inspiration and hope have been shared to bear witness, build community, and honor resilience, and a book was published to further help people connect, feel hope, and become inspired ... *Never, Ever Give Up* (2019)
- More than 50 youth have launched or expanded businesses to sell products and services they create ... *Teen Entrepreneur Pop-Up Shops* (2018)
- Library visits and take-home materials are welcoming to children of all abilities through an adaptive toy library and sensory kits at Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library ... *Special Needs Resource Library* (2018)
- 4,000+ students and their families have been able to pursue a path to college after thinking college was not an option ... *Getting Our Babies to College 101* (2017)
- 6,000+ families with pre-school age children were provided simple tools to learn literacy, numeracy, and other skills that would help them become kindergarten-ready ... *KinderKits* (2016)
- More than 5,000 readers and writers per year attend 200+ literary programs offered by Lit Cleveland to develop writers, amplify voices, and transform our community through storytelling ... *A Celebration of Words* (2015)
- More than 160 people have received training for lucrative careers through Cleveland Codes Software Developers Academy at Tri-C ... *Cleveland Codes* (2015)

Also

- Since 2019, 50% or more of presenters have been BIPOC; this year it's 61%.
- Most years since 2017, at least half the finalists have been BIPOC (last year, all 6 categories + Technovation had BIPOC presenters).
- We have had 8 BIPOC overall and/or Technovation winners since 2015.
- Accelerate presenters who met at the competition have collaborated on projects. For example:
 - Allison Lukacsy-Love (2018 Give Box CLE, aka Little Free Pantries) and Stephanie Bude (2017 Kids of the 2016 program to teach trades to youth) partnered to build five of the pantries.
 - Eli Auerbach (2021 "Lifting Kids Up") and Diane Mastnardo (2019 BAAM!) pitched together in 2022 ("Healthy Communities Collaborative")
- Many presenters have pitched – and won – at SEA Change Ohio and other pitch competitions.
- 12 presenters set up fundraising pages on the iboy crowd-funding platform (iboy.org/campaign/cleveland) and raised thousands of dollars.