



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L St., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <https://www.fcc.gov>  
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 21-292

Released: March 10, 2021

## FCC ANNOUNCES MARCH 24, 2021 *TECH STARTUP ROUNDTABLE* WITH ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING MINORITY, WOMEN, AND SMALL BUSINESS TECH ENTREPRENEURS

### GN Docket No. 17-208

By this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announces that the Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group of the FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment (ACDDE) will co-host a virtual event along with the FCC's Media Bureau entitled *Tech Startup Roundtable* on **March 24, 2021**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT. The event will be held virtually and will be open to the public on the Internet via live feed from the FCC's web page at [www.fcc.gov/live](http://www.fcc.gov/live) and on the FCC's YouTube channel.

The roundtable will feature Minority, Women, and Small Business (MWS) Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations that facilitate entrepreneurship in their local cities. Within certain cities, these organizations have become "tech anchor institutions" for conversations, funding, and policies regarding the building of local, inclusive tech ecosystems, and the development of both diverse tech founders and worker pipelines.

The roundtable will highlight best practices of industry leaders in training and employment diversity in the tech field. It will feature three structured discussions to share how MWS Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations are rapidly becoming economic cornerstones for minority communities, thereby expanding workforce training and employment opportunities in underserved communities, centered around the following themes:

- **Theme 1:** Firsthand accounts of how MWS Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations have sustained operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they function as "tech anchor institutions" in cities to support the rebuilding of tech businesses.
- **Theme 2:** Capital formation and access to federal small business funding, including grants and loans, for which MWS Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations might qualify.
- **Theme 3:** The range of emerging tech industries for new businesses – including opportunities and challenges – and how MWS Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations may serve as conduits to support small tech founders, including those owned by women, minorities, and other diverse entrepreneurs.

The complete roundtable agenda is attached to this Public Notice. Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for such accommodations should be submitted via e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or by calling the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY). Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed, as well as contact

information for the requester if more information is needed to address the request. Please allow at least five days' advance notice for accommodation requests; last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to accommodate.

Members of the public may submit comments to the ACDDE using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System, ECFS, at [www.fcc.gov/ecfs](http://www.fcc.gov/ecfs). Comments to the ACDDE should be filed in GN Docket No. 17-208.

More information about the ACDDE is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment>. You may also contact Jamila Bess Johnson, the Designated Federal Officer for the Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment, at (202) 418-2608, or [Jamila-Bess.Johnson@fcc.gov](mailto:Jamila-Bess.Johnson@fcc.gov); or Julie Saulnier, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-1598, or [Julie.Saulnier@fcc.gov](mailto:Julie.Saulnier@fcc.gov); or Jamile Kadre, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-2245 or [Jamile.Kadre@fcc.gov](mailto:Jamile.Kadre@fcc.gov).

– FCC –



***Tech Startup Roundtable***

**A Conversation with Diverse Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations**

**Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group of the  
Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment  
and the FCC’s Media Bureau**

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC  
March 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

10:00 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

**Welcome Remarks**

Anna M. Gomez  
Partner, Wiley Rein LLP  
Representing Hispanic National Bar Association  
Chair, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment  
(ACDDE)

Heather Gate  
Director, Digital Inclusion, Connected Nation  
Vice Chair, ACDDE

Dr. Nicol Turner-Lee  
Senior Fellow, Governance Studies and Director, Center for Technology  
Innovation, Brookings Institution  
Chair, Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group, ACDDE

10:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Opening Remarks**

Dr. Fallon Wilson  
Board Chair, Board Chair of the Tennessee for Higher Education’s HBCU  
Success Office  
Subgroup Lead, Startup Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

10:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

**Panel: Diversity in Tech Entrepreneurship**

**Panelists:**

Shelly Bell  
Founder/CEO, Black Girl Ventures

Dr. Quincy Brown  
Director of Engagement and Research, AnitaB.org Foundation

Lili Gangas  
Chief Technology Community Officer, Kapor Center

Jerome Hardaway  
Founder, Vets Who Code

Dr. Makada Henry-Nickie  
David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Governance Studies, Brookings Institution

Andrew Lowenthal  
Executive Director, Out in Tech

Alicia Ortega  
Co-Director and Co-Founder, Native Women Lead

Sabrina Short  
Founder and CEO, NOLAvate Black

Andy Stoll  
Senior Program Officer, Entrepreneurship, The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Panelists will discuss the three themes listed below, with each discussion led by a different moderator or pair of moderators.

**Theme 1:** Firsthand accounts of how Minority, Women, and Small Business (MWS) Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations have sustained operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they function as “tech anchor institutions” in cities to support the rebuilding of tech businesses.

**Moderator:**

Christopher Wood  
Executive Director, LGBT Tech  
Member, Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group – Startup  
Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

**Theme 2:** Capital formation and access to federal small business funding, including grants and loans, for which MWS Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations might qualify.

**Moderators:**

Dr. Allison Scott  
Chief Executive Officer, Kapor Center  
Member, Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group – Startup  
Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

Brian Scarpelli  
Senior Global Policy Counsel, ACT – The App Association  
Member, Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group – Startup  
Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

Theme 3: The range of emerging tech industries for new businesses – including opportunities and challenges – and how MWS Tech Entrepreneurship Support Organizations may serve as conduits to support small tech founders, including those owned by women, minorities, and other diverse entrepreneurs.

**Moderators:**

Rashidi Hendrix  
Founding Partner, Metallic Entertainment  
Member, Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group – Startup  
Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

Clint Odom  
V.P. Strategic Alliances & External Affairs, T-Mobile  
Member, Diversity in the Tech Sector Working Group – Startup  
Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

12:10 pm-12:20 p.m.

**Comments/Questions from the Public**

12:20 pm-12:30 p.m.

**Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

Dr. Fallon Wilson  
Board Chair, Board Chair of the Tennessee for Higher Education’s HBCU  
Success Office  
Subgroup Lead, Startup Diversity Subgroup, ACDDE

Jamila Bess Johnson  
Designated Federal Officer, ACDDE