



Here's your sign to start. **BRIDGING INNOVATION**
wveshipecosystem.org

CHARLESTON
WEST VIRGINIA

2027
APRIL 12-16

BRIDGING INNOVATION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Invest in West Virginia's *entrepreneurs.*

April 12-16, 2027 • Charleston, West Virginia

Driven by curiosity and built on purpose, Bridging Innovation Week is where bold thinking meets thoughtful execution.



wveshipecosystem.org/biw

ABOUT THE EVENT

The state's largest gathering *for entrepreneurs.*

Hosted by the West Virginia Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (WVEE), **Bridging Innovation Week** connects founders, funders, resource providers, and community leaders from every corner of the state. In 2027, we head to Charleston and expand our core program to **two full days**, anchored by Main Stage Visionary Voices, Breakout Build Sessions and Idea Labs, and the state's top pitch competitions.

450+

attendees expected
each program day

5

days of tours,
programming, and
partner events

45+

sponsoring and
exhibiting
organizations in 2026

98.8%

of West Virginia
businesses are small
businesses

Why sponsor

- Put your brand in front of the people building West Virginia's economy.
- Meet founders at every stage, from student pitches to venture-backed startups.
- Show visible, statewide support for small business and innovation.
- Directly fund the competitions, programming, and connections entrepreneurs rely on.

Who you'll reach

Founders & small business owners

Investors & lenders

Entrepreneur support orgs

Universities & students

State & local leaders

Corporate partners

Artists & makers



Not a *sit-and-get*.

Bridging Innovation Week is built for participation. Expect fewer panels and more possibilities. Every session is designed so attendees leave with a new connection, a sharper idea, or something they built in the room.

MAIN STAGE

Visionary Voices

Inspiring keynotes and live pitch competitions share one stage. Founders and leaders open each program day with honest stories and big ideas, then entrepreneurs step up to pitch for funding.

You leave with: fresh energy, a bigger picture of what's possible in West Virginia, and a front-row seat to the next wave of founders.

SMALL GROUP

Idea Labs

Facilitated roundtables where attendees approach a real challenge together, from finding capital to reaching rural customers. Everyone contributes, and the best ideas leave as collaborations.

You leave with: new perspectives, practical next steps, and peers working on the same problems.

HANDS-ON

Build Sessions

Practical workshops where attendees build something for their business on the spot, such as a pitch outline, a marketing plan, or an AI assistant trained on their business. Each session lists the business stage it fits.

You leave with: a finished tool or plan you can use the next day.

What the week is

- Networking first, with structured introductions and dedicated conversation time
- An Ecosystem Showcase where founders meet lenders, investors, and support organizations
- Live pitch competitions where entrepreneurs compete for funding
- Partner events across Charleston all week long

What it isn't

- Rows of chairs facing slides all day
- Sessions that turn into sales pitches. Presenters teach; they don't sell
- One-size-fits-all content. Sessions are matched to business stage
- A one-day event. Connections continue through WVEE all year



THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Five days in the Capital City.

Two full days at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center, complemented by tours, receptions, and partner events across Charleston throughout the week.

Monday

APRIL 12

Innovation Tours & Welcome Reception

Shuttle tours of Charleston's innovation hubs, followed by an evening welcome reception at Capitol Market.

Tuesday

APRIL 13

Conference Day One **CONVENTION CENTER**

Visionary Voices keynotes, IgniteWV Main Street and Venture Pitch Competitions, Breakout Idea Labs and Build Sessions, the Ecosystem Showcase, and a networking lunch. The evening ends with the **Capitol Street Takeover**.

Wednesday

APRIL 14

Conference Day Two **CONVENTION CENTER**

Visionary Voices keynotes, Vantage Ventures Validation Day, Breakout Idea Labs and Build Sessions, the **Awards Luncheon** (featuring the Guy Peduto Award and IgniteWV awards), and the SparkWV Youth Competition.

Thu – Fri

APRIL 15–16

Partner & Affiliate Events

Entrepreneurship Education Day, along with meetings, workshops, and gatherings hosted by partner organizations throughout the remainder of the week.

Schedule is preliminary and subject to change. The full agenda will be published on the event platform in early 2027.



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Lead the *conversation.*

Every level includes two-day conference passes and exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Presenting

EXCLUSIVE • 1 AVAILABLE

\$40,000

30 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- **"Bridging Innovation 2027 presented by"** recognition across all event branding
- Speaking opportunity on the Tuesday main stage
- Logo on main stage, website header, event app, event signage, and all print materials
- Recognition from the stage throughout both program days
- Featured in every press release
- Full-page ad in the digital program
- Dedicated digital feature on your community investment
- Inclusion in newsletters and digital outreach
- Partner spotlight on a monthly WVEE call before the event
- Premier double exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase
- 30 two-day conference passes

LEVEL 2

Diamond

\$20,000

20 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- Logo on main stage, website, and all key signage
- Recognition from the stage during transitions
- Featured mention in press release and digital marketing
- Naming rights to the Build Sessions or Idea Labs (reserved for the first two Diamond sponsors)
- Inclusion in social media highlights and newsletters
- Full-page ad in the digital program
- Premier exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase
- 20 two-day conference passes

LEVEL 3

Platinum

\$12,500

12 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- Logo on website, signage, and select marketing materials
- Recognition from the emcee during the Visionary Voices program
- Mention in newsletters and digital outreach
- Half-page ad in the digital program
- Exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase
- 12 two-day conference passes



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Show up for *small business.*

LEVEL 4

Gold

\$7,500

8 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- Logo on website, event signage, and digital marketing
- Recognition during an Idea Lab or Build Session
- Mention in newsletters and digital outreach
- Quarter-page ad in the digital program
- Exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase
- 8 two-day conference passes

LEVEL 5

Silver

\$5,000

6 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- Logo on website and marketing materials
- Mention in newsletters and digital outreach
- Eighth-page ad in the digital program
- Exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase
- 6 two-day conference passes

LEVEL 6

Friend

\$2,500

4 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- Logo on website
- Mention in the digital program
- Exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase
- 4 two-day conference passes

EXHIBITOR

Showcase Table

\$500

2 TWO-DAY CONFERENCE PASSES

- Exhibit table in the Ecosystem Showcase on both program days
- Listing in the event app and on the website
- 2 two-day conference passes

Ecosystem Showcase space is limited and assigned in the order sponsorships are confirmed. Gold recognition may take place within a session series named by a Diamond sponsor.



COMPARE LEVELS

Benefits *at a glance.*

BENEFIT	PRESENTING \$40K	DIAMOND \$20K	PLATINUM \$12.5K	GOLD \$7.5K	SILVER \$5K	FRIEND \$2.5K	TABLE \$500
Two-day conference passes	30	20	12	8	6	4	2
Exhibit space in the Ecosystem Showcase	Premier double	Premier	●	●	●	●	●
“Presented by” recognition on all branding	●	—	—	—	—	—	—
Speaking opportunity on the main stage	●	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naming rights	—	Build Sessions or Idea Labs*	—	—	—	—	—
Logo on main stage	●	●	—	—	—	—	—
Recognition from the stage	●	●	Keynote	Breakout	—	—	—
Press release mention	●	●	—	—	—	—	—
Logo on event signage	●	●	●	●	—	—	—
Newsletter & digital outreach	●	●	●	●	●	—	—
Logo on website	●	●	●	●	●	●	Listing
Digital program	Full page	Full page	Half page	Quarter	Eighth	Mention	—

*Available to the first two Diamond sponsors. Looking for something more specific?
Pair any level with an à la carte opportunity or a Capitol Street Takeover host slot.



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\$5,000
5 HOST SLOTS

TUESDAY NIGHT • APRIL 13

Host the Capitol Street Takeover.

When Tuesday's program wraps up, hundreds of attendees head downtown to connect with Charleston's business community. Five hosts each lead a meetup of their own, and we send the crowd your way.

What's included

- 1 Your own proximity meetup**
A 6–8 pm gathering on or near Capitol Street, planned and hosted your way: a networking hour, an open house, a product demo, or a fireside chat.
- 2 Street signage**
Branded road signs pointing attendees straight to your location.
- 3 An official Bridging Innovation Week event**
Listed in the event app and on the schedule, with RSVPs shared back to you.
- 4 On the Takeover map**
A pin on the printed and in-app map of the evening.
- 5 A send-off from the stage**
Named at the Tuesday wrap-up, just as attendees head downtown.
- 6 4 two-day conference passes**
For Tuesday and Wednesday.

Make it yours

Pick a crowd you want to meet and a format that fits your organization. A few ideas:

Founders & Funders

Veterans

Makers & Artists

Young Professionals

Women in Business

Tech & Innovation

The only sponsorship that brings attendees and the broader Charleston community to you. Host slots are limited to five and reserved in the order they are confirmed. Hosts cover the costs of their own meetup, and no food or beverage is required.



À LA CARTE OPPORTUNITIES

Own a *moment*.

Put your name on the moments attendees remember. Add one to any sponsorship level or choose one on its own.

EXCLUSIVE

Awards Luncheon

\$10,000

WEDNESDAY | 1 AVAILABLE

Name the luncheon where the Guy Peduto Award and IgniteWV winners are celebrated. Includes two minutes of welcome remarks, your logo on every table, and a reserved table of eight.

EXCLUSIVE

Networking Lunch

\$8,500

TUESDAY | 1 AVAILABLE

Name Tuesday's networking lunch. Includes your logo on buffet and main stage signage and recognition during the hour.

Registration & Name Badges

\$7,500

TUESDAY + WEDNESDAY | 1 AVAILABLE

Your logo at the registration area and on every attendee name badge, plus one sponsored push notification in the event app each day.

Visionary Voices Keynote

\$5,000

TUESDAY + WEDNESDAY | 2 AVAILABLE

Introduce one Visionary Voices keynote speaker from the main stage each program day, with your logo on screen during that talk.

The Marketplace

\$5,000

TUESDAY + WEDNESDAY | 1 AVAILABLE

Your logo at Bridging Innovation Week's limited-edition merchandise stand in the Ecosystem Showcase and on the branded bags every shopper carries.

Coffee & Hydration

\$4,000

TUESDAY + WEDNESDAY | 2 AVAILABLE

Branded coffee stations in the Showcase each morning and water service in every breakout room.

Dine Local Breakfast Passport

\$3,000

TUESDAY | 1 AVAILABLE

Your name on the guide that sends attendees to downtown Charleston's breakfast spots and coffee shops before the program begins.

Headshot Lounge

\$3,000

TUESDAY + WEDNESDAY | 1 AVAILABLE

Name the space where attendees get a free professional headshot.

Art in Motion

\$2,500

TUESDAY | 3 AVAILABLE

Your sponsorship brings a West Virginia artist to the main event on Tuesday for live painting, music, or another creative experience, with your name on the moment.

Have an idea of your own?

We're glad to build a custom opportunity around your goals. Let's talk.

BEYOND THE WEEK

Year-round, statewide support for West Virginia's entrepreneurs.

The West Virginia Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (WVEE) is a statewide network connecting founders, funders, resource providers, and community leaders. We help entrepreneurs find the right resources at the right time, and help the organizations that serve them work together.

98.8%

of West Virginia businesses are small businesses

100+

attendees at our monthly ecosystem meetings

500+

entrepreneurs directly supported through navigation services

1% → 2%

each 1% rise in entrepreneurial activity correlates with a 2% drop in poverty

What we do

Convene partners across the state (and beyond).

Monthly ecosystem meetings keep support organizations statewide working from the same playbook and entrepreneurs informed on events and opportunities.

Connect founders to the right support, at the right time.

One-on-one navigation calls and warm referrals, so founders reach the right help quickly.

Coordinate regionally and kickstart collaboration.

Regional spokes anchor local coordination and link it to statewide strategy. Focused subcommittees catalyze collaboration in areas like the arts, capital, K-12 education, and government regulations.

Hold the entire system accountable.

Advocate for shared goals and tracked outcomes across the system, to create the conditions where entrepreneurs succeed.

Showcase our entrepreneurial spirit.

Host Bridging Innovation Week, the state's largest gathering for entrepreneurs, and share entrepreneurial success stories.

Partner with us year-round. Annual partners help fund the statewide strategy, convenings, and navigation that run all year, with recognition at Bridging Innovation Week built in. Email connect@wveshipecosystem.org to start the conversation.

How the week powers the year

Bridging Innovation Week is where West Virginia's ecosystem sets its agenda. The priorities and partnerships that take shape in April drive the work WVEE carries forward all year.

APRIL

Set the agenda.

Founders, partners, and funders surface shared priorities, and new collaborations take shape.

SPRING – SUMMER

Put ideas to work.

Subcommittees on capital, the arts, K-12 education, and government regulations turn those priorities into action.

YEAR-ROUND

Follow through with founders.

Navigation calls and regional spokes connect entrepreneurs to the right support at the right time.

EVERY MONTH

Track and report.

Monthly ecosystem meetings track progress, and results come back to the stage at the next Bridging Innovation Week.

NEXT STEPS

Let's build what's next, together.

Every sponsorship directly supports the entrepreneurs, programs, and connections that move West Virginia forward.

1

Choose your level.

Pick a sponsorship level, a Capitol Street Takeover host slot, an à la carte opportunity, or a combination.

2

Confirm via email.

Email connect@wveshipecosystem.org to confirm your sponsorship and reserve your space.

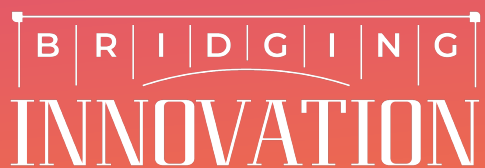
3

Send your assets.

We'll share a short form for your logo, links, and pass holders.

Commit by March 22, 2027

to be included in event signage and the digital program. Earlier commitments get more visibility before the event.



connect@wveshipecosystem.org

events@wveshipecosystem.org

wveshipecosystem.org/biw



Hosted by the West Virginia
Entrepreneurship Ecosystem