



August 10, 2015

Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II
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Winner of Start-Up/Scale-Up Business Plan Competition to be announced

One local entrepreneur will receive a rehabilitated space in a historic building, six months of a discounted lease rate and thousands of dollars in prizes and technical assistance to get their start-up business off the ground when the winner of the **Start-Up/Scale-Up Business Plan Competition** is announced at a press conference this week.

Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II and the **North Avenue Fond du Lac Marketplace BID 32** will announce the winning proposal on **Wednesday, August 12, 11:00 a.m.** on the corner of N. 21st Street and W. Fond du Lac Avenue at the Marketplace Garden.

A panel of judges selected the five finalists from a pool of local entrepreneurs through a series of two dozen capacity-building workshops and professional development sessions. The top proposals include a videography lab, a fashion studio, a plus-size resale store, a construction site cleaning service and an inventor's workshop, and the finalists presented their business plans to the judges for evaluation on July 31.

"Development is rapid and robust in the Lindsay Heights neighborhood, and this contest is an important opportunity to build upon this critical momentum," Alderman Stamper said. "The winning proposal will have the opportunity to establish itself at the intersection of two major commercial corridors and bring real value to this high-profile space. All the finalists showed incredible ingenuity and vision in their proposals, and it will be very tough to choose a winner."

Alderman Stamper said the competition would not have been possible without the partnership of property owner Michael Ford, as well as support from Fondy North Economic Development Corporation, Zilber Family Foundation, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development, LISC Milwaukee, Town Bank and the C4 Group.

The Start-Up/Scale-Up Business Plan Competition Winners

Kendale Allen is a 26-year old self-taught videographer and a photographer. He desires to bring Visual Vids to Milwaukee. Starting out by telling the story of the adoption of his youngest sibling, Allen now fuses his passion for video with his love of hip-hop music.

Milwaukee native and Columbia College graduate, **Kelvin Haydon** is no stranger to the fashion scene here in Milwaukee. Since 1991 Kelvin has been making a name for himself with avant-garde fashions. Most notable are his runway designs that pay homage to old Hollywood, Haydon is now making his mark on daily wear.

Plus size woman are no different when it comes to finding great fashion bargains. No one may understand this better than, **Ailsa Stokes-Hardy**, Author of “The Plan Didn’t Work” and motivational speaker. Her desire is to open a plus size resale store, Love’n My Curves Resale.

Nakita Watkins, owner of Ms. Clean Cleaning Service, is one of the few African American woman in the area to specialize in construction site cleaning services in Milwaukee. Tenacity and determination is no stranger to Watkins. Watkins faced many challenges but she was able to overcome them by working hard and being a consummate professional, she prides herself and her business on building a family legacy.

Walter Townsend an inventor and self-proclaimed tinkerer has a mission is to leave a smaller footprint especially in urban areas. With the help of his grandson, **Justin Townsend**, Walter is looking to create items that produce their own energy, such as his signature product, the motorless snow blower and energy efficient florescent light bulbs.

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