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Tampa Bay Wave Welcomes 16 Diverse Tech Startups into the 2023 TechDiversity Accelerator Cohort



The TechDiversity Accelerator brings the most innovative tech startups to Tampa Bay, a nationally-recognized hub for startup talent and innovation

TAMPA, FL (May 8, 2023) - [Tampa Bay Wave, Inc. \(Wave\)](#), a nonprofit technology accelerator helping entrepreneurs transform innovative ideas into real-world solutions and scalable businesses, is proud to announce the 2023 TechDiversity Accelerator powered by the Nielsen Foundation. This program cohort consists of 16 incredible high-growth tech startups from across the United States and around the world, including companies from Spain, Colorado, Illinois, Texas, New York, and Oregon. The TechDiversity Accelerator is designed for early-stage tech companies that are at least 51% owned,

controlled and operated by people of color (including Black, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Latino or Latina, Native or other minority entrepreneurs), women, veterans, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities or combination thereof.

The 2023 TechDiversity Accelerator, which has been supported by the Nielsen Foundation since its inception in 2018, is a 3-month tech business accelerator program that offers companies access to key resources to accelerate their growth, including a dedicated team of experts, mentoring from notable tech founders and industry giants, sales training, pitch coaching, and investor introductions in an environment designed to support and drive high-scale growth. Companies in the program will also participate in Wave's Pitch Night at the conclusion of the program in July to pitch their companies to an audience of accredited investors, venture capitalists, Tampa Bay community members and industry leaders.

Selected participants will also receive ongoing support through Tampa Bay Wave's CORE membership, which provides year-round mentorship, strategic introductions to investors and customers, and other valuable services to further accelerate company development. Tampa Bay Wave is the first GAN-accredited tech accelerator program in the State of Florida; thus, selected companies will also have the benefit of becoming a member of Morrow (the new name for the Global Accelerator Network) which includes \$100,000+ worth of discounts and other perks.

"The lack of venture capital activity for startups led by diverse founders has been disproportionate. However, it's no secret that diversity is good for business. And when we invest in startups led by diverse founders, the results speak for themselves: these companies have been shown to outperform their peers by 10%," says [Linda Olson](#), Founder and CEO, Tampa Bay Wave. "I am so proud of programs like our TechDiversity Accelerator that are making a difference. We are grateful for our long-term partnership with the Nielsen Foundation that allows us to continue advancing diversity and inclusion within the early-stage startup space."

The 2023 cohort will be the TechDiversity Accelerator's sixth cohort, building upon each prior year's successes with multiple alumni companies recently closing funding rounds including [No Limbits](#) and [Luna Joy](#).

"The Nielsen Foundation is thrilled to support the sixth cohort of the TechDiversity Accelerator at Tampa Bay Wave," said [Andrea Bertels](#), President and Executive Director of Grantmaking at the Nielsen Foundation. "Providing greater opportunities for diverse entrepreneurs to build, grow, and expand their businesses and influence in the tech sector is good for business and good for the world, and the caliber of the TechDiversity Accelerator companies is why the Nielsen Foundation recently renewed its support for the next three years."

The startups selected for the 2023 cohort continue the trend of strong national and international applicants, as well as a diverse maturity set. Some of the startups are in early revenue stages, with the majority generating between \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 in annual recurring revenue (ARR). Cumulatively, the group has raised over \$3 million in external capital. Several founders are also alumni of 500 Startups

Global, Techstars, Draper Startup House, TMCx, Capital Factory, Founders Institute, and other leading accelerators. One of the companies recently won the Enterprise and Smart Data Speed Pitch at the famed SXSW conference in Austin, Texas, in March.

“The 2023 Nielsen TechDiversity Cohort continues the trend of strong founders solving real problems matriculating to Tampa and the Tampa Bay Wave Accelerator program. Applications were received from startups across the United States and globally; the final companies chosen for the program stand out in terms of quality,” said [Dr. Richard Munassi, Accelerator Managing Director](#). “The founders of the Wave’s newest companies come from accomplished backgrounds, including McKinsey & Associates, Booz Allen Hamilton, Leidos, Forbes, Ernst & Young, Vodaphone, Disney, CBS, NBC, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, UBS, and Infosys. Founder backgrounds also include time at premier academic institutions, including Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Columbia, Rice, Duke, MIT, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the University of Virginia, NYU Stern School of Business, and the University of Miami School of Law, and the cohort includes multiple PhDs, aeronautical engineers, and MD and JD founders as well. Top to bottom, they are companies solving real problems led by world class founders, and we are proud to have them joining the Tampa Bay Wave portfolio.”

Introducing the Tampa Bay Wave TechDiversity 2023 Cohort

Company: Artclever

Description: Artclever helps creative professionals from over 20 countries start or upscale a career by providing modern skills, personal mentorship, and portfolio building services to earn remotely or relocate through their talents. Students, experts, design schools, and companies benefit from Artclever's services, which are paid for by the users.

Location: Lake Oswego, OR

Co-founders: [Maria Pokrovskaya](#), Co-Founder and CEO; [Daniil Voronin](#), Co-founder

Company Website: <https://en.artclever.com/>

Company: Bakstage

Description: Bakstage is the creator of HiCX™, an AI & ML powered engagement platform that enables two-way audio and video live streaming for customers, with a focus on boosting customer experience and retention.

Founder(s): [Shashank Singh](#), [Preet Raj](#)

Location: Livingston, NJ

Company Website: <https://bakstage.ai/>

Company: Black Stock Footage, LLC

Description: Black Stock Footage, LLC is a social impact startup that operates the first centralized stock video marketplace specializing in Black representation of people, cultures, and activities. Their vision is to become the largest supplier and distributor of stock content focused on Black representation through their own stock content marketplace and distribution partners, including Adobe.

Founder(s): [Imani Lee](#), Co-founder and CEO; [Zebrina Edgerton-Maloy](#), Co-founder & CCO

Location: Tampa, FL

Company Website: <https://blackstockfootage.io/>

Company: Blackhedge

Description: Blackhedge is a smart investing platform that provides AI/ML solutions for users in a simple format through their mobile app. Their algorithms scan the markets every day to determine good entry and exit points for users based on their proprietary algorithm.

Founder: Danish Sayed, Founder and CEO

Location: New York, NY

Company Website: <https://www.blackhedge.io/>

Company: Dateability

Description: Dateability is a dating app designed for the disabled community, providing a safe and inclusive space for people with physical, psychiatric, and intellectual disabilities and chronic illnesses to find companionship. The app includes a "Dateability Deets" section on user profiles, which helps to neutralize and de-stigmatize disabilities, reducing the anxiety of disclosing one's disability or chronic illness.

Founder: Jacqueline Child, Co-founder and CEO; Alexa Child, Co-founder

Location: Denver, CO

Company Website: <https://info.dateabilityapp.com/>

Company: Delphi Technology Corp.

Description: Delphi works with organizations to increase their training capacity by providing immersive interactive learning environments. We empower them to deliver training anywhere, at any time – making onboarding, standardizing, and upskilling more accessible, cost-effective and data-driven than ever before.

Founder(s): Alan Tay, Co-founder and CEO; Michael Bogaars, Co-founder

Location: Calgary, Alberta

Company Website: <https://delphitechcorp.com/>

Company: FLUIX

Description: FLUIX leverages the power of autonomous AI combined with automated cooling systems to drive down energy costs for critical infrastructure including data centers, power plants, farms, 4.0 manufacturing, and more.

Founder: Abhishek Sastri, Founder and CEO

Location: Tampa, FL

Company Website: <https://fluixpro.com/>

Company: Insttantt

Description: Insttantt is a Madrid, Spain-based startup that aims to be the standard for personal data processing, enabling instant and secure transactions between people and companies through a data wallet and white-label SaaS platform.

Founder: Andres Ramirez, CEO

Location: Madrid, Spain

Company Website: <https://www.instantt.com/>

Company: Kind Designs

Description: Kind Designs is the world's first company to 3D print living seawalls that function as coral reefs and that have an embedded sensor system to collect essential water quality data - transforming seawalls into a protective and sensory organism while improving the quality of biodiversity and water.

Founder(s): [Anya Freeman](#), Founder and CEO

Location: Miami, FL

Company Website: <https://kinddesigns.org/>

Company: Koda Health

Description: Koda Health is a B2B Enterprise solution serving health systems and payors focused on driving equity of access in serious illness. We digitally guide patients through the process of proactive healthcare planning, auto-generating legal documents that protect patient's care and virtually notarizing these documents at no cost to patients.

Founder: [Tatiana Fofanova](#) PhD, Co-founder and CEO; [Katelin Cherry](#), Co-founder and CTO; [Desh Mohan](#) MD, Co-founder and CMO

Location: Houston, TX

Company Website: <https://www.kodahealthcare.com/>

Company: Lazo

Description: Lazo is an all-in-one financial and legal SaaS platform for early-stage startups, providing streamlined bookkeeping, tax, compliance, legal, payroll, and investor relations solutions for venture-backed companies.

Founder: [Juan Manuel Barrero](#), Co-Founder and CEO

Location: Miami, FL

Company Website: <https://www.lazo.us/>

Company: Kind Designs

Description: Kind Designs is the world's first company to 3D print living seawalls that function as coral reefs and that have an embedded sensor system to collect essential water quality data - transforming seawalls into a protective and sensory organism while improving the quality of biodiversity and water.

Founder: [Anya Freeman](#), Founder and CEO

Location: Miami, FL

Company Website: <https://kinddesigns.org/>

Company: The MÔN App

Description: The MÔN App is a community app that focuses on conversations about relationships and sex, bringing creators, experts, and communities together through live, premium, and short-form voice and text-based chats and groups.

Founder: [Caleth Jones](#), Founder and CEO

Location: Austin, TX

Company Website: <https://www.themonapp.com/>

Company: Pulse Charter Connect

Description: Pulse Charter Connect (PCC) digitizes an antiquated logistics system used by transplant centers, facilitating faster, safer, and more efficient transportation for organs and surgical teams. Their software aims to improve long-term outcomes for transplant recipients through data collection and artificial intelligence.

Founder: Laura Epstein, Co-founder and CEO

Location: Chicago, IL

Company Website: <https://pulsecharterconnect.com/>

Company: Snipitz

Description: Snipitz is an AI-powered SMART Video Engagement Interface that delivers hyper-personalized viewer experiences and user behavior analytics.

Founder: Denny Darmo, Founder and CEO

Location: Frisco, TX

Company Website: <https://www.snipitz.app/>

Company: Talli

Description: Talli is a simple daily care and health tracking platform for the care economy, from infant care through senior care. Talli helps families and caregivers share better information and make better decisions across care teams and providers.

Founder: Lauren Longo, Founder and CEO

Location: Atlanta, GA

Company Website: <https://talli.me/>

Company: Tempest Droneworx, Inc.

Description: Tempest Droneworx is a software company that focuses on saving lives, resources, and the planet through their flagship product, Harbinger. Harbinger aggregates real-time data from various sources, such as drones, satellites, and sensors, to present easy-to-read 3D maps with a user-friendly interface.

Founder: Ty Audronis, Co-founder and CEO; Dana Abramovitz, Co-founder and COO

Location: Houston, TX

Company Website: <https://www.tempestdroneworx.com/>

To learn more about the TechDiversity Accelerator, please visit:

<https://www.tampabaywave.org/techdiversity/>

ABOUT THE NIELSEN FOUNDATION:

The Nielsen Foundation is a private foundation originally funded by Nielsen, a global data and analytics company. The Foundation envisions a more equitable world where everyone counts. The Nielsen Foundation's mission is to support organizations that give voice and opportunities to historically under-represented groups and communities. The Foundation supports organizations that encourage educational access and persistence, promote economic mobility and well-being, and advance representation in media

and technology. Across these focus areas, the Foundation’s grant-making is firmly grounded in a commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. For more information, visit www.nielsen-foundation.org.

ABOUT TAMPA BAY WAVE:

Tampa Bay Wave, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing entrepreneurs with facilitated access to the resources, expertise, and capital they need to grow vibrant technology-based companies in Tampa Bay. Since March 2013, Tampa Bay Wave has supported more than 460 tech startups thanks to grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), plus support from its economic development partners Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa. Tampa Bay Wave also receives support from individuals such as Michael and Korrine Fraser, as well as from partners such as A-LIGN, Bank of America, Encore Bank/STi, EY, Florida Blue, Florida Business Development Corporation, Florida Funders, Foley & Lardner, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, KnowBe4, Nielsen Foundation, Rays/Rowdies Foundation, Southwest Airlines, Trenam Law, Truist Foundation, and Vinik Family Foundation. Tampa Bay Wave is also a member of Morrow (formerly Global Accelerator Network) network of accelerators. For more information, visit www.tampabaywave.org

