



2025 Tech|X Accelerator

Recap Report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 TechX Accelerator was another incredible success, thanks to the unwavering support of The Nielsen Foundation's commitment to ensuring unbiased opportunities are available to talented tech founders from across industry verticals. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3), Tampa Bay Wave does not take any equity from participating companies, thus the impact of this year's accelerator program, along with the programs in the prior seven years, would not be possible without the critical support of The Nielsen Foundation. We are very grateful for this support and happy to share the impressive impact metrics and examples in this report.

The 2025 cohort consisted of 15 tech startups recruited from across the US and beyond, selected from nearly 100 applicants, many referred by Wave's ecosystem network members, including alumni companies.

The highly-credentialed startups selected for this year's 2025 cohort participated in an intensive multi-week program that included dedicated mentors, one-on-one coaching with notable tech founders, sales and pitch coaching, and investor introductions, all in an environment designed to support high-scale growth. The companies also benefit from ongoing support through Tampa Bay Wave's connections and access to further accelerate their development.

These companies received over 500 hours of mentoring and other support during the program, as well as invaluable exposure through press, social media, and Wave's signature events. The Welcome Reception was hosted at Downtown Tampa's WeWork, and the Pitch Night, moved from its traditional Tropicana Field venue to the Tampa Club, while the ballpark remains under repair. Ameyon Hawkins, from the Nielsen Foundation Board, graciously made opening remarks, following a short video provided by Andrea Bertels, President. A link to a highlights video is being provided in conjunction with this report.

Included herein are highlights from the 2025 TechX program, as well as updates about alumni companies from prior years, so that The Nielsen Foundation can celebrate success with us. We have also included a client story from Ovum Health from the 2024 cohort to showcase the impact these startups have on the lives they touch. We have also provided an aggregated recap of metrics dating back to the inaugural 2018 program, noting that the 111 startups that have been supported to-date are far outperforming our benchmark comparative. They've created 1,600 jobs, attracted \$375 million investor capital, achieved \$95 million in new revenue, and demonstrated what underrepresented founders can accomplish.

On behalf of all of us at Tampa Bay Wave, we are incredibly grateful to The Nielsen Foundation for making not only the 2025 Tech|X Accelerator another success, but for the combined impact that your investment in Wave's mission delivery has had for the participating founders and for the recipients and users of the technologies they introduced to the market.



Linda Olson
CEO, Tampa Bay Wave

Thank you to our Tech|X Accelerator Named Sponsor

Tampa Bay Wave (“Wave”), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit technology accelerator, expresses sincere gratitude to The Nielsen Foundation for the generous and long-term sponsorship of the 2025 Tech|X Accelerator. This critical support enables Tampa Bay Wave to continue our mission of fostering cutting-edge startups for all and driving the growth of Florida's innovation economy!



Tampa Bay Wave is honored to be a Nielsen Foundation Signature Program awardee. We value our long collaboration as a strategic partner to deliver on the Foundation’s commitment to support efforts that leverage data and technology enabling social impact.

This year’s TechX Accelerator was featured in the Tampa Bay Business & Wealth magazine article entitled “Tampa Bay Wave Names 15 Startups to 2025 Tech|X Accelerator Cohort” - [link here](#).



Andrea Bertels

President and Executive Director of Grantmaking

“We are proud to continue our eighth year of support for the Tech|X Accelerator, which aligns with our mission to power and advance innovation in technology.

The talent and ideas within the 2025 cohort are truly impressive, showcasing how groundbreaking advancements in fintech, cybersecurity, healthtech, and more will create a better future for people everywhere and expand opportunities for all across the ecosystem.”



Eight Years of Impact & Success

Thanks to the 8-year partnership between The Nielsen Foundation and Tampa Bay Wave, together we have been able to advance greater inclusion in the tech startup industry by providing custom support and mentoring to start-up leaders driving innovation in sectors including healthcare, fintech, and beyond. Because of this long-term support, we continue to see an increasing number of applicants as well as increasing interest from investors and industry.

To provide some historical context, in 2024 we reported that Wave had supported 96 startups in the first seven cohorts sponsored by The Nielsen Foundation. Those 96 startups had collectively raised just under \$350 million in capital and created 1,300 jobs. We also noted that since the first cohort in 2018, these startups had raised an average of \$2M more and added approximately 5 more jobs within a year of completing the program, compared to startups in other accelerator programs.

This equated to an average of approximately **\$3.7 million raised per startup**. When compared to a similar nationally recognized zero-equity program, the TechDiversity Accelerator raised an average of **\$3 million more** and generated about **9 additional jobs** than the benchmark program.

Comparative Averages as of 2024:	
Tampa Bay Wave TechDiversity (years 1-7)	Other Leading Program
<i>Per Company Raised: \$3,621,239</i> <i>Per Company Jobs: 13</i>	<i>Per Company Raised: \$668,604</i> <i>Per Company Jobs: 4</i>

As of June 2025, we can now report that a total of **111 Startups** have been supported over eight (8) program years. Aggregate program stats reflect: \$375 million investor capital raised, \$22.5 million in SBIR/STTR funding, 1600 jobs created, and \$95 million in reported revenues.

This equates to: **\$3.8 million raised per startup, 14.5 jobs created per startup**, and \$1.7 million average revenue per startup (for startups who have reported data; actual results may be higher).

When compared to entry (baseline) stats for the same startups, Wave founders have achieved 3.7x capital growth, created nearly 10 jobs per company, and demonstrated 3.4X Revenue growth.

We believe that these results showcases the value of these programs which are supporting a growing number of underrepresented founders and the trajectories of the companies they've built. The Nielsen Foundation's multi-year commitment has allowed these programs to gain visibility, applicant growth, and applicant quality year-over-year thanks to that reliable, ongoing funding.

Alumnae Ovum Health's Client Story

When Ashley (client) found **Ovum Health**, she told them that it took 12 years of symptoms to be diagnosed with Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS). She was not getting the nutrition and lifestyle support she desired from her PCP or OBGYN, and was concerned that she would struggle to have a healthy pregnancy one day.

Ovum diagnosed Ashley with three additional conditions, common in those with PCOS, that her previous caregivers had not even looked for. She started on a 4-6 month preconception treatment plan that included medication management, custom supplementation, and lifestyle medicine.

Each week she met with her Ovum care team to review her nutrition, movement, restorative sleep, healthy habits, environmental exposures, hydration, emotional health and social support. At-home monitoring tracked her progress; she submitted diet and lifestyle logs, and tracked her compliance with Ovum's program.

For the first time in her life, Ashley's cycle normalized from 74 days to 34 days, with ovulation confirmed every month for four months in a row. When she decided to start trying for a baby, Ovum advised on medicated, timed intercourse, to control the growth of her egg and the timing of the release of the egg for the best possible chance at conception.

And she got pregnant!

The Ovum team then immediately started on a loss-prevention protocol, as chemical pregnancies are common for those with her condition. At 4.5 weeks pregnant a pregnancy-induced condition that often leads to loss was uncovered, so a supportive medication was added. In a routine setting, she wouldn't even see her delivering OBGYN until week 9 or 10 when it's often too late to catch what Ovum caught thanks to early and ongoing monitoring.

Ashley is now halfway through a healthy pregnancy with no signs of adverse pregnancy outcomes. Baby Boy is due in November and the Ovum team could not be more proud of her or her commitment to being a healthy mama with a healthy baby.



Alice Criscti
Founder and CEO of Ovum Health

OVUM

2025 Tech|X Cohort Spotlight



Sarah Lucena
Founder & CEO
San Francisco, CA

Mappa.ai, co-founded by CEO Sarah Lucena, joined the 2025 Tech|X Accelerator to scale its AI-powered hiring platform designed to help startups and enterprises quickly identify top remote talent.

During the program, Mappa expanded its customer base to include global brands like Deel and Renault, while reducing average time-to-hire to under seven days.

The team also landed new customers through strategic partnerships with fellow cohort companies. By leveraging voice analysis and machine learning, Mappa is redefining recruiting with a focus on speed, precision, and affordability.



Beagle Labs, co-founded by CEO Dwight Neptune, participated in the 2025 Tech|X Accelerator to advance its AI-driven platform that streamlines property and casualty claims processing. Their machine learning technology enables faster inspections, reduces fraud, and improves profitability for insurers and contractors alike.

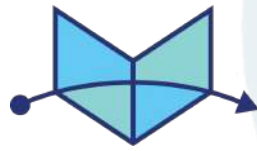
During the program, Beagle Labs secured pilot partnerships with leading P&C carriers and expanded into new markets across the Southeast.

As it scales, Beagle aims to become the industry standard for AI-powered property assessments.



Dwight Neptune
Co-founder & CEO
New York, NY

Alumni Spotlight



Venteur



Stacy Edgar
Co-founder & CEO
San Francisco, CA
2022 Tech|X

Stacy Edgar, co-founder and CEO of **Venteur**, participated in the 2022 accelerator cohort to advance her company's mission of transforming employer-sponsored health insurance. In August 2023, Venteur raised a **\$7.6 million** seed round to expand its AI-powered platform, which enables businesses to offer personalized health coverage through Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangements (ICHRAs).

Building on this momentum, Venteur secured a **\$20 million Series A** in April 2025, backed by Informed Ventures, American Family Ventures, and Morgan Health, to further scale its reach and innovation in the health benefits space

NO LIMBITS

Erica Cole, founder and CEO of **No Limbits**, participated in the 2022 accelerator cohort to scale her adaptive apparel brand designed for people with disabilities.

In early 2025, she closed a **\$3 million** Series A round and acquired Buck & Buck, a heritage brand in accessible fashion, expanding No Limbits' reach to aging and mobility-challenged populations.

Since appearing on the television show **Shark Tank**, Cole has grown No Limbits into a nationally recognized brand, securing retail partnerships and launching new collections focused on function, dignity, and style. As the company scales, it continues to lead the charge in inclusive design, aiming to reshape the future of fashion for all bodies.



Erica Cole
Founder & CEO
Seattle, WA
2022 Tech|X

Mentor & Investor Networks

Advisory Council + Mentor Network

Participating companies tapped into a network of 230+ volunteer mentors passionate about supporting early-stage startups. Some offer expertise in areas like HR, go-to-market strategies, or trademark law, while others provide ongoing CEO coaching. Various programming is designed to facilitate mentor introductions and relationship building between the startups and mentors. On average each participating startup gained 20–30 direct connections and received 100+ hours of hands-on guidance.



Investor Network & Demo Day

Startups in the 2025 Tech|X Accelerator tapped into Tampa Bay Wave’s national network of 600+ investors. The program also drew 100+ registered investors for Demo Day, leading to dozens of follow-ups and investor meetings.

Wave’s investor team continues to expand its reach in markets like NYC, Austin, and San Francisco while providing hands-on support with investor readiness and non-dilutive funding (SBIR/STTR). With portfolio companies surpassing \$1B raised, Wave ranks among the top five nonprofit startup accelerators nationwide.

2025 Tech|X Recruitment & Selection



67%

Applications
Outside of FL



18%

Applications
Outside of US



15

Companies
Selected

The 2025 Tech|X Accelerator year-round recruitment efforts attracted another cohort of exceptional tech startups ready to scale. Tampa Bay Wave's reputation as a "best-in-class" accelerator, combined with its extensive networks, continues to help attract top-level founders seeking strategic connections and expert guidance needed for long-term success.

We also credit the success of this year's recruiting cycle to *The Nielsen Foundation* and their long-term support, which has enabled Tampa Bay Wave to build a national reputation and a strong track record for scaling diverse-led startups. Because of this long-term support, we continue to see an increasing number of applicants, along with strong applicants referred by our alumni companies.

The 2025 cohort exemplifies the exceptional talent we're attracting. The founders brought impressive backgrounds from global brands such as American Express, Goldman Sachs, Microsoft, Deloitte, Amazon, SpaceX, Netflix, IBM, Intel, Blue Origin, Roche, Bain & Company, Mars, and Nestle.

Additionally, with degrees from top institutions like Harvard, MIT, Stanford, NYU, Brown, Penn State, Northwestern, Rutgers, and University of Oxford, the 2025 cohort represented the elite caliber of talent advancing through Tampa Bay Wave's programs. One of this year's participants is also a professor from the University of South Florida's new College of AI, Cyber and Computing Sciences, further demonstrating the value of Tampa Bay Wave's growing network of academic partnerships.

Key Recruiting Metrics

- 159 Total Applications received
- 67% of applications from outside Florida
- 18% of applications from outside the US
- 30 Semi-Finalists selected from initial screenings
- 15 Companies selected for the cohort

2025 Tech|X Accelerator Cohort



CAREHERO



2025 Cohort Companies

The logo for ROCK, featuring the word "ROCK" in a stylized, bold, purple font. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular symbol with a vertical line through it, resembling a stylized infinity symbol or a specific character.

This program exceeded every expectation—the depth of expertise and genuine commitment to founder success is remarkable. Tampa's startup community is unlike anywhere else, with a collaborative spirit that drives real innovation. The connections we've made through Tech|X will be instrumental as we scale, and we're honored to be part of this thriving ecosystem. Thank you for creating something truly special.

Co-Founder & CEO

Actualization (Tampa, FL)

We make sure AI follows human rules.

Founder(s): [John Licato](#)

Website: actualization.ai

Allies (Orlando, FL)

Allies is a maternity platform that uses data-driven insights to connect and provide families with compassionate care.

Founder(s): [Yohanes Frezgi](#), [Bianca Frezgi](#)

Website: theallies.co

Beagle Labs (San Francisco, CA)

Beagle uses machine learning to enable insurance carriers to complete underwriting property inspections 10x faster with fewer errors.

Founders(s): [Dwight Neptune](#), [Luiz Guzman](#), [Keelan Gayle](#), [Josie Madingo](#)

Website: beaglelabs.ai

Care Hero (Boston, MA)

Care Hero is an online platform that connects families with vetted caregivers for affordable, flexible, and personalized in-home senior care.

Founders(s): [Jamie Gong](#), [Henry Chan](#)

Website: gocarehero.com

2025 Cohort Companies - cont'd.

DepthAI (St.Petersburg, FL)

AI for Spatial Computing: Depth AI creates modeling of digital twin, mixed-reality, holographic imaging, based on AI-powered systems.

Founder(s): [Dr. Gloryvee Cordero](#)

Website: depth.ai

Emisha Innovations (Portland, OR)

Emisha Innovations, Inc. is a forward-thinking technology company dedicated to driving innovation and creating cutting-edge solutions in the Artificial Intelligence Software, Hardware, Telecommunications, and Semiconductor sectors.

Founder(s): [Jerritt Thomas](#)

Website: emishai.com

GenomAI (San Ramon, CA)

At GenomAI, we develop a clinical AI assistant that transforms health data into actionable insights, streamlining physician workflow and improving patient outcomes as well as enabling individuals to understand and act on their health information.

Founders(s): [Maria Noemi Perez Paz](#)

Website: genom-ai.com

Learn Collaborate (Los Angeles, CA)

Learn Collaborate is an AI-powered platform that bridges the gap between education and industry by equipping students with real-world skills through collaborative projects and mentorship from industry professionals.

Founders(s): [Tracie Ponder](#)

Website: learncollaborate.com

LITIG8 (AUstin, TX)

Litig8 is the premier platform for litigation and class action cases, connecting lawyers and clients globally. With an extensive network of legal professionals, it offers clients easy access to top attorneys while helping lawyers expand their practice.

Founders(s): [Eli Blatt](#)

Website: litig8.com

2025 Cohort Companies - cont'd.

Mappa (San Francisco, CA)

Mappa goes beyond resumes, using voice AI to assess technical skills, predict performance, and ensure cultural fit—helping companies hire smarter, faster, and with confidence.

Founders(s): [Sarah Lucena](#)

Website: mappa.ai

ModoScript(Miami, FL)

B2B big data analytics(AI) medtech SaaS real-time remote treatment monitoring solution to more accurately assess oral specialty therapeutic and treatment protocol efficiency across clinical trials(Phase 2-4) and FDA marketed therapies.

Founder(s): [David Zuleta](#)

Website: modoscript.com

Movestax (Miami, FL)

AI native cloud platform for modern builders

Founder(s): [Thiago Caserta](#), [Marcelos Cauduro](#), [Rodrigos Souza](#)

Website: movestax.com

RiskRator (Miami, FL)

RiskRator simplifies compliance for financial institutions by automating the regulator mandated, annual Money Laundering and Sanctions Risk Assessment.

Founders(s): [Celeste De Armas](#), [Ana Maria de Alba](#)

Website: riskrator.com

ROOK (Miami, FL)

ROOK's API empowers companies with more meaningful health data. Easily process and embed data from hundreds of wearables with one single integration and gain access to deeper understanding and more actionable insights to drive innovation.

Founders(s): [Marco Benitez](#), [Daniel Martinez](#), [Jose Ivan Esquivel](#), [Jonas Ducker](#)

Website: tryrook.io

Tukki (Miami, FL)

Tukki makes US immigration simple

Founders(s): [Ramiro Roballos](#), [Saveliy Vasilev](#)

Website: tukki.ai

Programming

The 2025 Tech|X cohort companies had access to **over 500 hours of mentoring and support, including 70 workshops and training sessions** featuring an impressive lineup of expert speakers. Founders also benefited from numerous one-on-one coaching with our Mentor Network over 230 professionals.

Featured Speakers

- **Government/Military**

- David Wilkinson (SBIR/STTR expert)

- **Venture Capital**

- Raymond James
- Tampa Bay Ventures
- Dogwood Ventures
- TopMark Partners
- Las Olas Ventures

- **Industry Experts**

- JustWorks
- Locality Bank
- Omni Public
- FounderSuite
- Rocket Proforma
- JP Morgan Chase
- Thoropass
- Nvidia
- Gunderson Dettmer
- Insight Assurance

- **Founders/Alumni**

- No Limbits
- Eskuad
- Karambit
- Simplified
- Superb
- VitVio
- H-Trace
- Pulse Charter Connect

- **Founders/Alumni**

- SBIR Funding, Process, and Hacks
- Exploring the US Government as a Customer
- State of Venture Capital
- Financial Projections and Modeling Best Practices
- Alternative Funding Sources (Family Office, Venture Debt, RBF, Crowdfunding)
- Building with an Exit in Mind
- Tax-Advantaged Strategies
- Enterprise Sales Strategies & Hacks
- Enterprise Marketing Strategies
- Professional Business Presentations
- Growth Strategies and Scaling Up
- Demystifying Payroll and HR
- Leadership & Skills
- Sourcing and Managing Talent

Press & PR

Tampa Bay Business Journal Inno [article link](#)

Tampa Bay Business & Wealth Digital Magazine [article link](#)

Mentor & Community Partner Networks

Founders coming through Wave programs talk extensively about the connections they made by being in our Accelerators. Below are some examples of the networks they meet.

Wave's Mentor Network

Wave member companies have access to a wide network of professionals in our 230+ all volunteer Mentor network. These professionals have a passion for helping early stage startups. Some offer their expertise on specific topics (such as HR or trademark laws), while others may coach a startup on an ongoing basis, depending on what support the founder(s) need. We host regular Mentor mixers to build strong trusted relationships. Startups receive at least 20-30 direct mentor connections during their time in the program resulting in easily 100+ hours of consulting help.

Here is the [link](#) to the page on Wave's website, showcasing our Mentor network.

Wave's Community Partner Network

Wave has also built a strong community partner network, with both formal and informal agreements in place. We connect our member companies to a wide range of community partners, such as our economic development partners and others who can help our startups build their base in our community.

We also provide introductions to others ESO (entrepreneur support organizations) in the ecosystem to encourage their participation and to magnify their visibility and exposure. Logos from several of our community partners are shown below but more may be found under this [link](#) on our website.

Notables from Tampa Bay Wave's Community Network



Tampa Bay



Curriculum Days



Panel with **Derek Barnett, Dr. Richard Munassi, and Matthew Ymielek**



Session with **Jesus Jimenez and Felipe Saboya** from Insight Assurance



Session with **Jay Powers**



2025 Tech|X Mentor Surge



Cohort Happy Hour thanks to **Justworks!**

Signature Events

Tampa Bay Wave opens every program with a Welcome Reception, and culminates with a Community Pitch Night. Both events serve to engage local business community and other partners.



Linda Olson
CEO,
Tampa Bay Wave



Jarad Haggard and Claire Lamb,
from Thoropass



Cohort Group Photo



Wave Board Members connecting with Cohort Member
Celeste De Armas, Founder of RiskRator



Chuck Lobsenz, partner at Potomac Law
Group, and Liza Marie Garcia of
Visionary Global Media

Signature Events – Pitch Night



Key Speakers



Brian Auld
President, Tampa Bay Rays



Ameyon Hawkins
Nielsen Foundation



A crowd of 100+ guests enjoyed powerful presentations from our Tech|X founders and featured speakers!

Wave Staff



Linda Olson
CEO & Founder



Dr. Richard Munassi
Accelerator Managing
Director



Demelza Genest
Chief Operations Officer



Dee Garcia
Director of Development
& Strategic Partnerships



Amit Agrawal
Director, Investor
Relations & Platforms



Jonathan Truong
Sr. Mgr, National Programs
and Partnerships



Mariah Ramos
Manager, Accelerator
Ops & Mentor Relations



Jennifer Ptack
Manager, Strategic
Branding & Events



Michael "Mike" Lynn
Manager, Venture
Center Operations



Prat Reddy
Accelerator Associate



Matt Ymiolek
Investor Relations
Associate



Greg Pierce
Accelerator Associate



Laura Davenport
Marketing Associate



David Wilkinson
SBIR/STTR Consultant

Wave Board of Directors



Santo Cannone
Board Chair



Linda Olson
President/CEO



Alfred Goldberg
Vice President



Madeline Dent
Secretary



Catherine Wilhelm
Treasurer



Kailah Matyas
Program Strategy Committee Chair



Rob Brown
Fundraising Committee Chair



Yvette Segura
Sustainability Committee Chair



Diana Hayes
Gov. & Ethics Committee Chair



Marcus Adolfsen



Kathy Chiu



Taylor Johnston



Lew Jolly



Amanda Milligan



Brian Model



Jack Murray IV



Shane Needham



Nick Outman



Penny Parks



Miraj Patel



Lance Raab



Cathy Ryan Reneer



Inga Schmitzer



Kathleen Shanahan



Andrew Smith



Elizabeth Urbanski



Lauren Weiner



Aaron White

ECONOMIC IMPACT

BUILDING FLORIDA'S TECH ECOSYSTEM

SINCE OUR PROGRAMS LAUNCHED IN 2013



600+

STARTUPS SUPPORTED



1.1B+

CAPITAL RAISED



6,300+

NEW JOBS CREATED



22

EXITS

ACCELERATING FLORIDA'S INNOVATION ECONOMY

- AI
- DefenseTech
- MedTech
- FinTech
- EdTech
- CyberTech
- IoT
- SaaS
- eCommerce
- Hospitality
- HealthTech
- MarTech
- CleanTech
- BlueTech
- InsureTech

BUILDING BETTER FOUNDERS



STARTUP FOUNDERS FROM
30 COUNTRIES SHOWCASED TAMPA
AS AN INNOVATION HUB



22 COMPANIES RELOCATED
TO TAMPA BAY

ANNUAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



1,248

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



1,300

HOTEL ROOMS



450

FLIGHTS THROUGH TPA



500

MENTORING HOURS



2,500+

TRAINING HOURS

Tampa Bay Wave Sponsor & Partner Community

Federal Support



Economic Development Partners



Pillars of Innovation



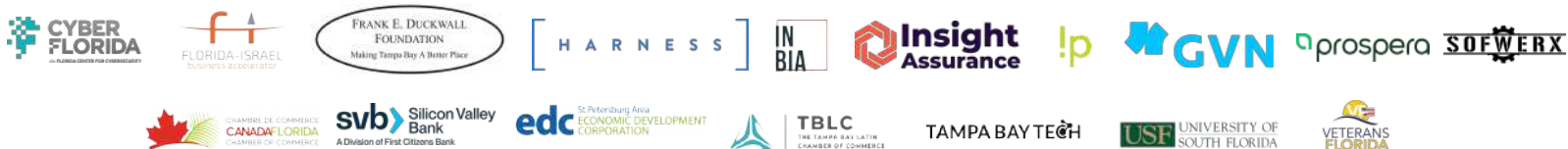
Tidal Wave Sponsors



Corporate Friends of Wave

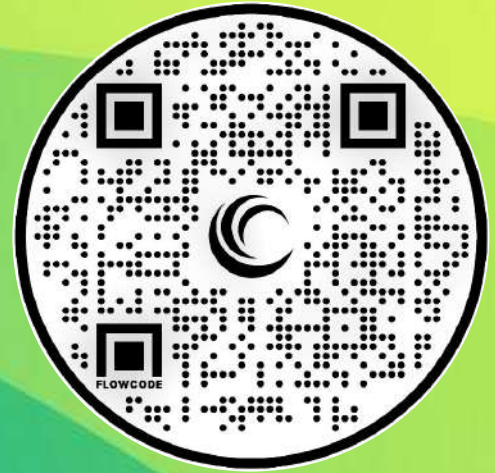


Partners



THANK YOU!

For questions, please reach out to:
Linda Olson,
CEO, Tampa Bay Wave
linda@tampabaywave.org



Follow Wave on social media:



SCAN TO
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