

Venture Access NYC:

Building an Inclusive Tech and Venture
Ecosystem for New York City's Future





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Foreword

New York City has long been a beacon of diversity, resilience, and innovation. As venture capital investors firmly rooted in NYC, we are thrilled to serve as Co-Chairs of the Venture Access Alliance, which has embraced the powerful mission of building the most inclusive tech and venture ecosystem in the world. *Venture Access NYC: Building an Inclusive Tech and Venture Ecosystem for New York City's Future*, a comprehensive two-part report, reflects our accomplishments to date and the tremendous opportunities ahead to make this vision a reality.

In just a short time, NYCEDC's Venture Access NYC suite of programs have achieved promising outcomes that highlight NYC's diversity as an essential force for the growth and resilience of our tech economy. The *Venture Access NYC Milestones* report showcases the impact of public-private collaborations, from supporting over 250 diverse and underrepresented founders through cohorts of the Founder Fellowship led by tech and VC partners, to convening over 100 NYC-based investors who share a commitment to expand access into venture capital investments and careers through the Alliance.

The *2024 Venture Access Alliance Portfolio Diversity Report* builds on the research we began in last year's inaugural Alliance report, providing the first comprehensive picture of diversity among Alliance member firms. With in-depth insights into the demographics of investment decision-makers and the diversity of startups they support, this report establishes a foundation for setting meaningful benchmarks and creating real, actionable goals. Tracking these metrics year over year gives us the ability to measure our progress with transparency and accountability, and to refine our efforts as we continue to advance equity in venture capital.

We are inspired by what has been achieved so far, but we know there is still significant work to be done. This report calls attention to ongoing disparities in funding and representation for Black, Latinx, and women founders and highlights the need for more inclusive practices at every level of the venture ecosystem. By building upon our successes and acknowledging where more focus is needed, we are committed to making lasting, systemic changes that set a new standard for inclusion in our industry.

As we look ahead, we're excited to evolve and grow the Venture Access Alliance, and further catalyze support with others who share our mission. We will work as a collective to strengthen our ability to create sustainable, high-impact initiatives that advance equity and inclusion across NYC's tech and venture landscape, at a time when such efforts are more vital than ever.

Together with our fellow Alliance members and the entire NYC venture community, we are committed to building a future in which every founder has the opportunity to succeed, and NYC is recognized worldwide as a model for inclusive innovation.

Venture Access Alliance Co-Chairs

Jarrid Tingle
Partner,
Harlem Capital Partners

Fred Wilson
Partner,
Union Square Ventures

Executive Summary

The tech sector has grown into one of New York City's most important engines for economic growth and the creation of good-paying jobs.

Over the past two decades, New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) has made significant investments to strengthen, grow, and improve equity within the city's tech sector, and launched programs to support inclusive entrepreneurship and further create economic mobility for New Yorkers.

However, the rapid growth of NYC's tech and venture capital (VC) sectors has not been equitable in creating opportunities for all New Yorkers. Black and Latinx workers account for approximately 21 percent of the city's tech talent, despite representing 43 percent of the overall NYC workforce. NYC-specific data on startup founder and VC demographics remains limited. Yet, nationally, all-female founded startups received less than three percent of VC investments, and Black and Latinx-founded startups received less than three percent of all investments. Among VC investors, just 1.2 percent of investment decision makers are Black and less than 18 percent are women, according to Pitchbook and Crunchbase data. Meanwhile, women and minority investors oversee just two percent of all assets under management (AUM) at VC firms, according to Diversity VC's The Equity Record report.

To address inequities within the tech sector, NYCEDC launched the Venture Access NYC initiative in 2021. Venture Access NYC is designed as a suite of programs to build a more inclusive tech startup and venture capital ecosystem for founders and funders in NYC. Current programs under the Venture Access suite of programs include: the Founder Fellowship, an annual accelerator supporting diverse tech entrepreneurs in accessing the resources and networks needed to scale their startups; and the Venture Access Alliance, a coalition of VC firms working together to build an inclusive venture capital ecosystem in NYC.

Three years into running annual Founder Fellowship editions, the program has graduated more than 250 founders across 168 tech startups. And one year after launching the Venture Access Alliance, the membership has quickly grown to more than 100 VC firms that represent NYC's dynamic and diverse investment community. Looking towards 2025, this report shares progress made to date and key milestones, as we work with industry partners to build a more robust and inclusive ecosystem for founders and funders in NYC. The Report also highlights opportunities for future improvement, setting the stage for new efforts like the Startup and VC Internship Programs, additional support for Founder Fellow program alumni, and exciting plans for the Venture Access Alliance.

Venture Access NYC Milestones

NYCEDC has long been a driving force in fostering an inclusive and dynamic innovation economy in New York City. This commitment has led to notable investments in tech education and workforce training, including the development and launch of the Cornell Tech campus on Roosevelt Island; the Data Science Institute at Columbia University; the Cybersecurity Master's Program within City College at the City University of New York (CUNY); and Civic Hall, a tech and digital training hub launched last year in the heart of Union Square to create an inclusive talent pipeline for jobs in the city's tech sector.

To ensure an equitable landscape for tech entrepreneurship, NYCEDC has also championed programs like the International Innovators Initiative (IN2NYC), enabling entrepreneurs to secure cap-exempt H-1B visas and contributing to talent development at local colleges, and Women.NYC, an initiative dedicated to driving gender representation in NYC's high-growth industries.

Over recent decades, New York's tech ecosystem has experienced rapid growth, evidenced by rising startup formation, increased venture capital inflows, and robust job creation. Yet, the pandemic underscored persistent inequalities that threatened a balanced recovery within the City's tech ecosystem, especially for first-time founders, early-stage fundraisers, and entrepreneurs from underrepresented backgrounds.

In response, NYCEDC launched *Venture Access NYC* in 2021 as a comprehensive initiative to promote inclusivity and equal opportunity across the city's tech and venture capital sectors. Venture Access NYC prioritizes access for all New Yorkers in these high-growth industries, paving the way for diverse, inclusive economic advancement. The initiative has recently expanded beyond its flagship programs, the Founder Fellowship and Venture Access Alliance, to include the Startup and Venture Capital Internship Programs, furthering NYCEDC's commitment to building inclusive pathways into high-growth sectors through paid practical work experiences, mentorship, and network building.

Below is an overview of the foundational Venture

Access NYC programs and recent additions aimed at broadening opportunities for the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs in New York City.

Founder Fellowship

The Venture Access Founder Fellowship is a free startup accelerator program designed to offer NYC underrepresented founders improved access to capital and professional networks in NYCEDC's innovation sectors including tech, creative, the green economy, and life sciences. Each year, NYCEDC's program operators select a group of diverse-led startup teams to participate in their respective Founder Fellowship cohorts for a period of three to six months. Selected teams receive unique cohort offerings and access to networks, fundraising, mentorship, business development, and other opportunities necessary to build and scale their enterprises in NYC.

Since launching in 2022, the Founder Fellowship has served more than 250 NYC-based founders across 168 startups, selected from more than 1,400 applications. Fellow teams have collectively hired more than 100 new employees, raised more than \$22 million, and increased their combined company valuations by at least \$161 million during their three-to-six-month Fellowship cohorts. Approximately two-thirds of Fellow teams to date have at least one female founder, 77 percent have a Black, Latinx, and/or Asian founder, and 15 percent have at least one LGBT+ founder.

Werewool



Credit: Buck Ennis

[Werewool](#) is a biomaterials company based in Brooklyn that develops sustainable textiles to revolutionize the fashion industry. Co-founders Chui Lian Lee and Valentina Gomez started the company after learning that many fabrics and materials were not eco-friendly and had devastating effects on the environment, whether it be the large water footprint of cotton production or the microplastics created by recycled polyester. Werewool creates regenerative fibers that are colored by specially engineered proteins, a process that eliminates the need for harmful dyes and gives performance to textiles without plastics and water pollution.

Chui and Valentina were selected to participate in the 2023 Founder Fellowship cohort hosted by Newlab. During their time in the program, Werewool raised a \$3.7 million seed funding round to grow their team and advance their technology. They went on to hire three full-time staff and hosted two interns through NYCEDC's LifeSci NYC Internship Program. The team has since continued to grow their operations, with a goal of producing 125,000 tons of sustainable fiber by 2030. Werewool's tremendous growth has been featured in Bloomberg, Forbes, People, and many other publications.

Itselectric



Credit: Buck Ennis

[Itselectric](#) is a Brooklyn-based electric vehicle (EV) curbside charging company led by co-Founders and co-CEOs Tiya Gordon and Nathan King. The company partners with property owners in cities across the US who want to utilize their excess electrical capacity to install public chargers on their property's curb. This approach enables itselectric to install EV chargers in just two days, and in return, property owners receive a share of the revenue generated by the charging stations on their premises.

Tiya was selected to participate in the 2023 Founder Fellowship cohort hosted by Chloe Capital.

During their Fellow cohort, itselectric raised a \$2.2 million pre-seed round, including receiving an investment from Chloe Capital. Itselectric also launched a partnership with NYCEDC to pilot their EV chargers at the Brooklyn Army Terminal and Brooklyn Navy Yard, becoming one of the first City-supported pilots with a tech startup. Since graduating the program, the team announced a \$6.5 million follow-on round led by Uber with participation from Founder Fellow cohort operator Newlab and Venture Access Alliance members Halogen Ventures and the Partnership Fund for NYC. With this funding, the company's curbside charging infrastructure will also help support Uber's goal of helping rideshare drivers go electric.

MyLÚA Health

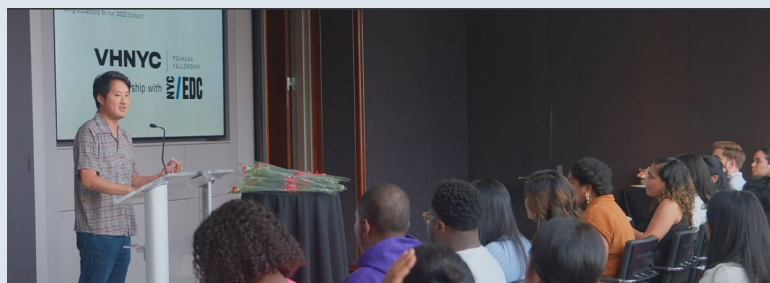


Credit: Chloe Capital

[MyLÚA Health](#) is a digital maternal care platform that predicts and manages the risk of maternal complications, aiming to reduce maternal morbidity and advance health equity through inclusive data analytics and collection, personalized patient education, and interventional care measures. Its predictive capabilities and patient-centric approach allow health plans and physicians to detect, escalate, and mitigate the risk of life-threatening maternal conditions.

Co-Founders J'Vanay Santos-Fabian and Michael Conward, PhD participated in the 2023 Founder Fellowship cohort at Chloe Capital and are one of

four startups from the Cornell Tech Startup Studio to be selected to the Founder Fellowship. During their Fellow cohort, the team received a venture investment from Chloe Capital and were invited to present in front of NYC Mayor Eric Adams and more than seventy investors at the Venture Access Alliance launch reception. In October 2024, they were recognized by the National Institutes of Health with a \$300,000 award to scale their AI-driven platform designed to break barriers in maternal mental and social health.



2023 Visible Hands Founder Fellowship cohort

Credit: Visible Hands



2024 Founder Fellowship Kickoff Reception at NYCEDC

Credit: NYCEDC



2023 Founder Fellows Tara Pham of Numina, Lateesha Thomas of Onramp, and Chui-Lee Lian and Valentina Gomez of Werewool

Credit: NYCEDC

In October 2024, NYCEDC opened applications for the 2025 Founder Fellowship, serving up to 75 diverse-led companies through five program cohorts hosted by [Chloe Capital](#), [Company Ventures](#), [Gold House](#), [Newlab](#), and [Visible Hands](#). The program will also catalyze nearly \$1 million in dilutive and non-dilutive funding over and above NYCEDC's investment in the program, which will be invested by private sector partners into a subset of Fellow teams. Additionally, OpenAI will offer \$5,000 of API credits to each participating Fellow team. Extrapolating from the program's historic success in catalyzing further investment, we expect to see the 2025 Founder Fellowship companies raise at least \$12 million during their brief time in the program, and significantly increase their valuation over time.

Building on the successes of the Founder Fellowship to date, NYCEDC is committed to running additional annual cohorts of the program alongside operator partners in the venture and tech ecosystem for the next several years. Further, NYCEDC is working to launch a new alumni strategy designed to support entrepreneurs after they complete the Founder Fellowship and other City-supported entrepreneurship programs, to ensure that entrepreneurs receive ongoing support from NYCEDC, our extended network of public and private partners, and each other. This effort will help address gaps in post-graduation support by connecting program alumni with additional opportunities in City government, facilitating access to industry convenings and workshops, and fostering expanded networks through ongoing communications like newsletters and social platforms. By tracking alumni metrics over time, NYCEDC can further understand the long-term impacts of its programs and continue offering meaningful support that fosters lasting relationships with founders, investors, and industry partners alike.

Venture Access Alliance

The [Venture Access Alliance](#) is a coalition of venture capital investors who believe NYC's diversity is its greatest strength and opportunity for growth, and who work together to build an inclusive tech and venture ecosystem in NYC. Launched in October 2023 at a formal announcement ceremony attended by more than 150 venture capital

investors, government officials, tech entrepreneurs, and leaders from the tech and finance community, the Alliance is co-chaired by Fred Wilson of Union Square Ventures and Jarrod Tingle of Harlem Capital Partners. The Alliance is supported by the Ford Foundation and Annenberg Foundation and is inspired by successful public-private initiatives like [PledgeLA](#), an initiative launched by the Annenberg Foundation and the City of Los Angeles.

Alliance members play an integral role in improving diversity throughout the startup value chain, from developing diverse workforces to sourcing deals from a diverse community of startup founders, modifying due diligence practices, and mentoring early-stage entrepreneurs.

The Alliance is centered around three core goals:

- **Building Community:** The Alliance provides a collaborative forum for NYC's VC firms and industry partners to connect, co-invest, and promote greater access within the venture industry. Through a calendar of convenings, ecosystem events, and an online community, members regularly share industry insights, best practices for inclusive hiring and investing practices, and foster connections that drive inclusive growth.
- **Tracking Diversity:** The Alliance tracks metrics to assess and report on representation within VC firm leadership and their portfolio companies. By setting benchmarks and tracking annual progress, the Alliance aims to create accountability and transparency, helping members advance toward a more diverse and equitable venture landscape.
- **Committing to Action:** The Alliance empowers VC firms to work together on co-designing and scaling high-impact initiatives that expand diversity within NYC's innovation economy, address gaps in access and inclusion, and position NYC as the global leader for equitable tech and venture capital activity.



**Venture Access Alliance Launch Event,
October 18, 2023**

Credit: TechNYC



**Venture Access Alliance Launch Event,
October 18, 2023**

Credit: NYCEDC



**Founder Fellows at
Venture Access Alliance
Launch Event,
October 18, 2023**

Credit: NYCEDC

The Venture Access Alliance has achieved remarkable milestones since its inception just one year ago.

More than 100 venture capital firms and ecosystem partners have joined the Alliance as members, representing a broad and diverse range of emerging, medium, and established investment teams that reflects the full spectrum of NYC's venture ecosystem. Member firms collectively account for more than \$23.5 billion in assets under management (AUM), and all are actively investing in tech and tech-enabled companies.

Through regular convenings, Alliance members exchange best practices and new ideas for expanding capital access and improving diversity within NYC's venture-backed community. To date, the Alliance has hosted more than a dozen industry convenings throughout New York City, including through quarterly general membership

meetings and working group sessions, and ecosystem events hosted in partnership with other industry leaders.

100+
MEMBER VC FIRMS
REPRESENTING

\$23.5+
BILLION IN ASSETS UNDER
MANAGEMENT



The Venture Access Alliance convenes every quarter at general membership meetings hosted by a member firm. Pictured here, Primary Ventures hosted the inaugural membership meeting in December 2023 at their headquarters.

Credit: NYCEDC

These community forums have led to impactful collaborations among member firms to build or scale programs that will expand access and inclusion within the venture capital industry. Among the key accomplishments of the Alliance's first year are the successful partnerships established to celebrate and scale high-impact

efforts among NYC's VC community, including AlleyCorp's \$1 million PEERLESS Competition for diverse founders, Primary's Factor Fellowship connecting top talent to startup careers, and Commonwealth Ventures' VC Fellowship with CUNY's City College.

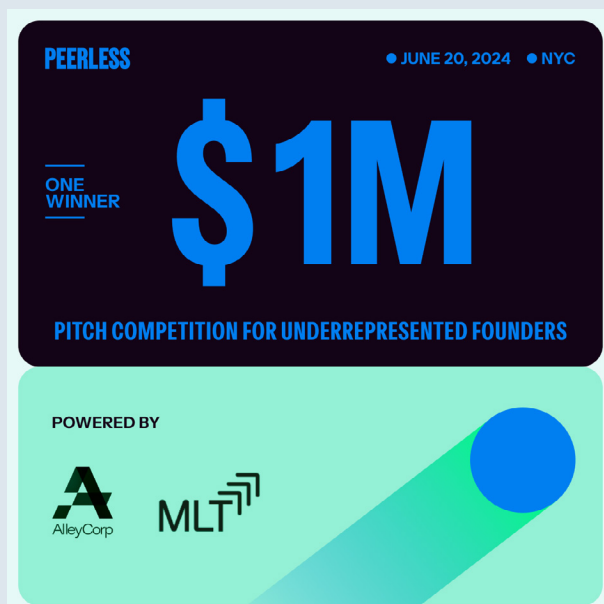
Venture Fellows | CUNY & Commonwealth Ventures



Credit: CUNY

[Venture Fellows Program](#), launched in February 2024, recruits and exposes diverse CUNY students to a range of investment activities through fellowships at VC firms. The program is a collaboration between the Colin Powell School at CUNY City College and Alliance member firm Commonwealth Ventures, and was inspired by the inaugural Alliance report, [Diversity in Venture Capital](#).

PEERLESS | AlleyCorp



Credit: AlleyCorp.

[PEERLESS](#), launched in March 2024, is a pitch competition aimed at creating a more innovative and equitable venture ecosystem by offering exceptional early-stage founders a \$1M investment from AlleyCorp. Partners include five Alliance member firms, NYCEDC and Tech:NYC. In 2024, Yinka Ogunbiyi, Founder of Halo Braid, was selected as the inaugural program winner.

Factor Fellowship | Primary Ventures



Credit: Factor Fellowship.

[Factor Fellowship](#), launched in April 2024, is a sixteen-week program from Primary Ventures connecting top talent from diverse backgrounds to careers in high-growth roles at venture-backed startups in NYC. The program, which selected its inaugural Fellow cohort in September 2024, is designed to immerse participants in the mechanics, ways of working, and culture of startups, and to facilitate the seamless transfer of their existing skills and experience.

In addition, the Alliance has contributed to the collection of critical VC data reporting and sharing of valuable diversity and inclusion insights to empower members with the knowledge and tools necessary to improve representation in their operations. The inaugural Alliance report, *Diversity in Venture Capital: Challenges and Opportunities for New York City*, was launched in 2023 and

established a baseline understanding of the state of diversity in NYC's venture community.

The 2024 Venture Access Alliance Portfolio Diversity Report seeks to highlight the current state of diversity among Alliance member firms and their investment portfolio companies, while also outlining the steps needed to ensure long-term

2023 Report



Credit: NYCEDC/Wocstar.

Diversity in Venture Capital: Challenges and Opportunities for New York City, was issued in October 2023 as the inaugural Alliance report and examined the state of diversity in NYC compared to other venture hubs and national numbers, from leadership and workforces to company funding. The report provides insights on the many ways that venture capitalists and company founders can connect with each other and harness the diversity of its workers and entrepreneurs.

improvement of diversity outcomes in their operations. The report highlights that NYC's venture capital industry, as represented by Alliance members, is making notable progress compared to national trends in investing in women and people of color. More than 70 percent of VC firms in the Alliance have diverse leadership, with 29 percent being minority-led, 44 percent having a woman general or managing partner, and 32 percent having a diversity-focused investment thesis. Additionally, approximately 40 percent of Alliance portfolio companies are led by underrepresented minority founders, and 24 percent are led by women founders, significantly outpacing the national diversity averages of venture-backed startups across all US VC firms.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on making NYC the top tech and venture hub in the world—one that reflects the unmatched innovation and diversity of New Yorkers. As we celebrate the first

anniversary of the Alliance, we are also excited to take visionary steps toward creating a more impactful and financially sustainable organization, including establishing an independent entity to unlock a broader range of program resources and opportunities.

Through the creation of an independent entity, the Alliance will be able to catalyze support from philanthropic institutions, corporate sponsors, and other strategic partnerships that can reinforce the long-term success and value proposition of the program. Additional resources will be vital to sustaining the core Alliance operations, including to continue growing and convening the Alliance community, host exclusive industry forums and ecosystem events, produce groundbreaking research and data insights on the growth of an inclusive tech and venture landscape, and scale high-impact initiatives that significantly move the needle on diversity and inclusion in

venture capital—all while maintaining a close link to NYCEDC and the City’s inclusive economic development priorities.

By forging new partnerships, building its capacity to fundraise, and developing a long-term sustainability plan, the Alliance is poised to continue growing as a key player in NYC’s venture capital space—one that can drive real, systemic change.

Together with the collective power of Alliance members and the broader VC community, we are committed to continuing to build the most inclusive, dynamic, and competitive tech ecosystem in the world.

Startup and Venture Capital Internship Programs

Since 2022, NYCEDC has supported the New York City Startup Internship Program, a workforce development program that has provided 166 CUNY students with paid internships at 84 NYC-based startups to date.

Beginning in 2025, NYCEDC aims to build upon the success of the NYC Startup Internship Program and issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek operators to launch the Startup and Venture Capital Internship Programs, two multi-year workforce development programs aimed at providing NYC students with on-ramps to meaningful work and exposure to the city’s technology and VC ecosystems through paid work experiences, professional development, and mentorship.

In particular, the Venture Capital Internship Program will expose talented undergraduate students— with a focus on CUNY students—to the world of VC firms and venture-backed startups. Through this multi-year commitment, diverse cohorts of students from across the city will be able to gain valuable transferable skills and hands-on experiences to prepare them for future careers in the growing tech and venture ecosystem. NYCEDC plans to launch the initial Venture Capital Internship cohort as a pilot in the summer of 2025, with the goal of placing at least 140 students over the next five years in internships across various VC firms, including placements with members of the Venture Access Alliance.

Additional Programs

In addition to Venture Access NYC, NYCEDC is helping to build a more diverse and inclusive tech sector through a number of initiatives, often in close partnership with the venture community:

NYC Catalyst Fund

NYCEDC launched the [NYC Catalyst Fund](#) in September 2023 to expand our impact by making investments that generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact, as well as financial returns.

The Catalyst Fund is investing \$40 million in funds operating in three key areas: diverse entrepreneurship, community development, and emerging sectors. These investments are aimed at advancing NYCEDC’s commitment to inclusive entrepreneurship by leveraging third party capital and partnerships with the private sector to help break down barriers that founders face in gaining access to financing at critical moments in their entrepreneurial journey where capital access remains a roadblock to success.

NYCEDC expects to invest in 10-15 private credit and private equity funds managed by external investment fund managers, with investments ranging from \$1 million to \$7 million each. To date, NYCEDC has announced up to \$17 million in investment commitments across four firms, including Harlem Capital, MetaProp, Antler, and Maycomb Capital. Three of these investments are members of the Venture Access Alliance.

Women.NYC

Powered by NYCEDC, [Women.NYC](#) is an initiative that connects women to jobs and businesses of the future. It aims to introduce women to the opportunities for employment and business creation from high-growth sectors that are driving NYC’s economy and will create tens of thousands of good jobs in the coming years, including tech, offshore wind, the green economy, and life sciences.

From education to training to entrepreneurial offerings, Women.NYC provides critical onramps



to access successful careers in high-growth industries. In 2024, Women.NYC's Pivot to Growth initiative launched a seven-week accelerator with Get Sh!t Done, designed for NYC-based entrepreneurs in successfully scaling businesses in the tech, life sciences, and green economy industries.

LifeSci NYC

LifeSci NYC is a comprehensive mayoral initiative led by NYCEDC to establish New York City as the global leader in life sciences. The City is investing more than \$1 billion to build clusters of life sciences innovation across NYC, develop infrastructure to support company growth, ecosystem development, and talent development to cultivate a diverse and equitable workforce, with a goal of creating 1,000 new companies, 40,000 jobs, and 10 million square feet of lab space by 2040.

Investments to date include the [LifeSci NYC Internship Program](#), which aims to develop the City's next generation of life sciences leaders by providing paid industry-aligned experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, particularly students from under-represented backgrounds, while offering curriculum and training support with hard skills in the sciences as well as professional and personal development. Since launching in 2017, the program has placed nearly 1,000 interns at more than 200 host companies, with over 40 percent of those

internships either extended or transformed into full time-roles. More than 40 percent of interns come from NYC's public universities, over 70 percent are students of color, and more than half are women. Notably, at least four Founder Fellow startups have hosted LifeSci NYC interns, including Werewolf, Lilu, Vader Nanotechnologies, and Bosque Foods.

LifeSci NYC, in collaboration with healthcare investment firm Deerfield Management, also supports the [XSeed Award](#), which provides seed funding for NYC-based early-stage life sciences entrepreneurs, prioritizing founders from groups historically underrepresented in the life sciences. The Award aims to address a critical funding gap, bringing promising translational research to the marketplace and to commercial success. To date, the XSeed Award has granted \$1.5 million across 12 companies led by a diverse range of innovators leading novel drug development projects and startup companies.

LifeSci NYC is also supporting the expansion of [BioBus](#), a nonprofit that provides hands-on science education on mobile labs with a focus on students underrepresented in the scientific community, to reach an additional 12,700 students in the Bronx. In the first year of NYCEDC's partnership with BioBus, the program served 4,500 Bronx K-12 students at over 20 schools. BioBus is also a long-time host company to the LifeSci NYC Internship Program, having hosted 30 LifeSci NYC interns since 2018.

As part of LifeSci NYC, in early 2024 NYCEDC

XSEED Award



Credit: Deerfield Management.

XSEED Award winners Rohini Kalvakuntla, left, co-founder and Chief Growth Officer of Helex, a biotechnology company developing novel 3D genome structure and epigenetics-driven in vivo gene editing therapeutics for greater precision, with a focus on retinal dystrophies, and Chidiebere Uzodinma Awah, right, Principal Investigator at UTR Therapeutics and Postdoctoral Fellow at CUNY Hunter College, who is developing a breakthrough technology platform to change how cancer is treated.

announced the launch of [Break into Biotech](#), a workforce development program to provide New Yorkers access to training and career development opportunities necessary to break into NYC's growing biotechnology sector. The program is a collaboration with Genspace, a community biology laboratory located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, which aims to break down barriers and give open access to biotechnology by providing people from all educational backgrounds a meaningful hands-on experience with the life sciences.

Conclusion

New York City is at the cutting edge of building the most globally competitive, inclusive, and resilient tech and venture capital ecosystem. NYCEDC’s initiatives—alongside our growing community of industry partners, Founder Fellows, and Venture Access Alliance members—have laid a powerful foundation that reflects the city’s pioneering spirit. With every new investment, founder cohort, and partnership, we are accelerating toward a future where every entrepreneur, investor, and tech and venture worker can participate in and benefit from the city’s economic growth.

The *2024 Venture Access Alliance Portfolio Diversity Report* offers a critical milestone that benchmarks the progress Venture Access Alliance members have made in building a more diverse and accessible venture ecosystem through their hiring and investments to date. Supported by the Annenberg Foundation and independently researched by UCLA’s Luskin School, this report uses hard data to spotlight where we are today and the critical strides still ahead.

Alliance member firms are leading the way in equitable investment practices, with tangible

gains in funding women and minority founders. Looking forward, NYCEDC is committed to working together with the Alliance to further expanding access, deepening collaborations, and pushing for systemic change to ensure NYC’s tech and venture landscape reflects the unparalleled diversity and dynamism of our people.

Join us in driving a venture capital ecosystem that sets the global standard for inclusivity, innovation, and impact. Learn more about [Venture Access NYC](#) and sign up to join the [Venture Access Alliance](#).



**Read the 2024
Venture Access
Alliance Portfolio
Diversity Report:
[Click Here](#)**

Prepared for NYCEDC by UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs,
Commissioned by Annenberg Foundation