



eNews: March 2023



Welcome to the March edition of MFF's eNews! There's a lot to cover so let's dive right in.

In this issue:

- 🦄 Michigan has another Unicorn
 - 👏 MFF Members raise money, visit the White House, get accepted into Accelerator programs, and host *awesome* events!
 - 👤 Michigan Founders Fund is headed to SXSW - check out the opportunities to join us!
 - 📄 DEI UnDemo Day Applications are open (but they close soon!)
 - 📅 Events going on throughout the state in March
 - 🏠 A great source of funding for Michigan Mobility startups
 - 👏 MFF welcomes Pete Martin to the team!
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- Our Next Energy is the latest [Michigan Unicorn](#)
- Rivet Work raises a \$5.6M [Seed round](#)
- [Blue Conduit visits the White House](#) to expedite the removal of lead in drinking water throughout the US
- RIZZARR selected for [Comcast SportsTech Accelerator](#)
- Hush selected for the 2023 [MissionLink Accelerator Program](#)
- Great read: Bamboo's Amanda Lewan [Maps Michigan's startup Exits](#)



EVENTS



MFF Founders are Changing the Narrative

Last month, MFF Members Ashley Williams of RIZZARR and Johnnie & Alexa Turnage of EvenScore co-hosted an event to celebrate the accomplishments of Black Michigan founders and identify ways to improve outcomes for Black and Brown founders across the state. To advance efforts even further, The Song Foundation is distributing a survey for Black, Brown and foreign-born founders to document the current state of the local tech ecosystem and identify how to contribute to its growth and success. **Learn more and take the survey [here](#).**

There are some big events happening in March. Let us know which ones you'll be at!

MFF events

Mar 16: [Due diligence that attracts investors](#) - Royal Oak

Join us for a discussion about how to set yourself up for success as a tech company. You will get to hear from investors, founders, and experts in insurance and law to better understand how to do effective due diligence to protect yourself, your startup and attract investment!

Mar 23: [Celebrating MI's Women Founders](#) - Detroit

Join us for another MFF event designed to change the narrative - celebrating female founders during Women's history month! MFF Members Christina Fair of Hum, Sydney Davis of NixCode and Cindy Warner of 360ofme will co-host this discussion at Bas Blue!

MFF in Austin @SXSW Mar 12-14

MFF is a sponsor of Michigan Day run by Midwest House and we're excited to be bringing a couple MI unicorns 🦄 for our official panel about [Life after the \\$1 billion valuation](#) with Dug Song of Duo and Josh Luber of StockX. We will also be hosting some key networking events for founders and a special MFF **member-only** dinner. If you're coming, be sure to let us know!



MICHIGAN
FOUNDERS
FUND

@SXS

3/12 - MFF Founder/VC Mixer

3/13 - MFF First-Time Founders Roundtable

*Sydney Davis, NixCode, Moody Mattan, BrandXR,
Sergio Rodriguez, ToDoolie, Ashley Williams, RIZZARR,
Darren Riley, JustAir*

**3/13 - MFF Unicorn Panel: Life after the
\$1B valuation**

*Aziz Giliani, Mercury(moderator), Dug Song, Duo
Security, Josh Lubert, StockX*

**MIDWEST
HOUSE**

Events around the state

Mar 1: [Cannonball: A talk with serial entrepreneur Jen Baird](#) - Ann Arbor

Mar 7: [TCNewTech monthly pitch event](#) - Traverse City

Mar 8: [Accounting and tax basics for startups](#) - Ann Arbor/Virtual

Mar 15: [Customer discovery: the secret to startup success](#) - Virtual

Mar 15: [TC Women in Tech meetup](#) - Traverse City

Mar 16: [Startup Detroit Open Pitch Night](#) - Detroit

Mar 21: [Ann Arbor New Tech monthly pitch event](#) - Ann Arbor

Mar 21: [Startup Detroit Happy Hour](#) - Detroit

Mar 21: [Innovate State: You are not an Imposter](#) - East Lansing

Mar 22: [The myths and realities of tech entrepreneurship and getting funding](#)

- Traverse City

Mar 23: [Data Science Summit](#) - East Lansing

Mar 28: [5x5 Night](#) - Grand Rapids



RESOURCE ROUNDUP

MFF Internship applications are due [TODAY](#) - 3/1

Grants available for Michigan mobility startups

Michigan's Office of Future Mobility and Electrification is offering [grant funding](#) to startups working in automotive, drones, cargo shipping, freight hauling, electrification, and any technology that helps move people or goods. For universities and other ecosystem partners that support mobility startups, OFME's MP4 grants could be a boost for you as well. These grants can range from \$20k - \$200k or more.

AWS Space Accelerator 2023 - [Applications DUE March 6](#). Open to privately held startups at all stages of maturity working with space technology or space-derived data who have a clearly defined and innovative space mission.

Mar 13: [Conquer Accelerator](#) applications open

Mar 13: Applications for [DEI unDemo Day](#) CLOSE - *APPLY BEFORE THE 13TH!*

Mar 14: Learn how to apply for [non-dilutive funding](#) (SBIR/STTR) with BBCetc's Andrea Johanson



FOUNDERS FOR COMMUNITY



Back History is M.A.D.E. Every Day

As we reflect on Black History Month, we're recognizing MFF Community Trailblazer Leon El-Alamin and the work he's leading in Flint to support formerly incarcerated citizens and at-risk youth. [Learn more](#) about what Black History Month means to Leon and how he and his team are making Black history every day.

MFF Welcomes Pete Martin to the Team!

We are thrilled to introduce the newest member to the MFF staff - [Pete Martin](#). Pete is a fellow founder and Michigander who returned to the Great Lake State last year from Austin. In his new role as the Head of Connection (member network), Pete is the go-to person for current and future MFF members. He will oversee MI Pledges, the monthly MFF founder/investor events and the annual Founder Retreats. He is also the person to go to with your new program ideas. Please join us in welcoming Pete to MFF and back to Michigan!

That's it for this month! We look forward to seeing you out there, whether that's SXSW or at any of the great events happening here in our own state.

-MFF

The **Michigan Founders Fund (MFF)** is a vibrant hub for peer learning and networking that enables high-growth founders to turn business success into positive community impact.

Interested in becoming a member? Please contact us at community@michiganfoundersfund.org.



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