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## The Whiteboard Startup Roadshow Showcases New Haven Entrepreneurs, Following Arts & Ideas Walking Tour of Ninth Square

Event To Be Held at Luck & Levity on Thur., 6/26 and Runs in Coordination with the International Festival of Arts & Ideas' "Innovation in the Ninth Square" Walking Tour

NEW HAVEN - Launched and supported by <u>Independent Software</u> and <u>CT Next</u>, <u>The Whiteboard</u> "Startup Roadshow" is currently highlighting New Haven on the nine-month long celebration and exploration of Connecticut's startup communities. The effort for June will wrap up with <u>"Realizing Impossible Ideas with New Haven Entrepreneurs,"</u> an event on 6/26, from 2-5pm at <u>Luck & Levity Brewshop</u>, in coordination with <u>"Innovation in the Ninth Square,"</u> an International Festival of Arts & Ideas event.

New Haven-based Independent Software is seeing promising outcomes from the overall effort. At the Hartford event at reSET, 110+ startups, nonprofits, ecosystem supporters, creative professionals and small businesses came together, leading to the generation of several new connections among the diverse guest list.

"Last month we saw startups and supporters come from as far as New London, Stamford and Torrington. Our community is hungry to get stronger and more deeply connected. We are pleased to be a part of helping to make that happen," said Derek Koch, CEO and Founder, Independent Software.

The focus of the June 26 event is to explore how "impossible ideas" can be realized through the convergence of place, thinking and people. Speaking on the topic will be Margaret Anne Tockarshewsky, Executive Director of the <a href="New Haven Museum">New Haven Museum</a>, Elon Boms, Founder of <a href="Launch">Launch</a>

<u>Capital</u>, and other seasoned vets of the entrepreneurial community. Entrepreneurs from Yale and surrounding area will be doing product demos and samplings/tastings during the 2-4pm Entrepreneur Showcase.

The event follows the Arts and Ideas' "Innovation in the Ninth Square" walking tour of The Grove, SeeClickFix, and MakeHaven. These established businesses support the Ninth Square "innovation ecology." Guests on the tour will learn what it's like to co-exist and thrive on a block that fosters impossible ideas.

Along with local startups, the Washington Fellows from President Obama's <u>Young African Leadership Initiative</u> will attend the event. These 25 African entrepreneurs are spending 6 weeks at Yale. They are participating in a six-week curriculum that includes training on business and entrepreneurship, as well as off-campus activities such as meeting with seasoned practitioners and entrepreneurs.

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