

PyCon Startup Row: An Overview

Since 2011, Startup Row has been a part of the vibrant PyCon experience and has given engineer-founders and their teams the opportunity to showcase their products, receive high quality feedback and connect with leaders in the Python engineering community.

Startups selected for Startup Row receive a free booth at PyCon. Founders also receive two badges to attend the conference.

Historical Background of Startup Row

- ▶ 2011 was Startup Row's first year and was produced in collaboration with Y Combinator.
- ▶ Since 2011, there have been roughly 75 companies that have made it to startup row out of several hundred other companies that either applied or competed in regional pitch competitions for a spot.
- ▶ Organizers have iteratively improved upon the applicant sourcing and qualifying process to more effectively identify the best early stage, engineer-led startups that solve interesting problems using Python.
- ▶ Since 2014, Startup Row organizers Yannick Gingras and Don Sheu have hosted a number of pitch events in cities around North America to help source startups.
- ▶ For PyCon 2016, Startup Row organizers put on a happy hour for Startup Row founders to meet the members of local user groups from Vancouver, B.C., Portland, Montreal, Chicago, Spokane, Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Seattle. Simple hosted in its headquarters.

Quick Facts About the Startup Row Alumni Base

Flagship Startup Row companies include:

- ▶ DotCloud (SR '11) pivoted its business to become Docker. Both DotCloud and Docker have sponsored PyCon.
- ▶ OfferUp qualified for Startup Row in 2014 but couldn't afford the trip to PyCon when SR extended an invitation. Today, OfferUp is worth over \$1 billion and is a committed PyCon sponsor. OfferUp sponsored at the Gold level in 2016.
- ▶ Lambda Foundry (SR '12) created Pandas, the popular open source data science library.

For the 63 companies from Startup Row batches 2011-'15:

- ▶ 66% have some publicly recorded funding activity or have exited
- ▶ At least ~16% have achieved a successful exit to companies ranging from Rackspace, to Splunk and Amazon.
- ▶ At least 20 went through a top-ranked accelerator program, 7 through YC alone
- ▶ Alumni companies have raised in excess of \$400 million from over 150 different accelerator programs, institutional VCs and individuals around the world