



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2017

Media Contact: Felicity Williams
412.765.1820, fwilliams@hilldistrict.org

B.L.A.S.T. Pitch Party

Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Energy Innovation Center-Covestro Room, 1435 Bedford Avenue Pittsburgh, Pa 15219

"Developing our community requires a focus on developing the people behind our businesses that offer products and services. That's why we created BLAST, so that people could get the support they need to thrive in our transitioning neighborhood. The vision is for us to all grow together." ~Marimba Milliones, President & CEO, Hill CDC

Join the **Hill Community Development Corporation, Vernard Alexander of the Minority Network Exchange, Kiva Pittsburgh, Urban Innovation21, and Woodforest National Bank** for a "Shark Tank" event with Hill District entrepreneurs!

Five participants from the BLAST Summer 2017 Cohort will be pitching their businesses to a panel of judges. All are seeking funding for a Kiva loan for the development and growth of their business. Audience members will be able to participate by lending live to the BLAST participants! The "Best Pitch" will receive a prize at the end of the night!

Judges include: Mamar Gelaye, former owner and CEO of Omnyx, Danielle Darr, founder of D's Natural Products, Shawn Thomas, entrepreneur lending director at Bridgeway Capital, and Nicole Manns, manager of BNY Mellon's Affirmative Action Group.

What is BLAST?

BLAST (Business Leadership Academy for Social Transformation) is a business and community development program of the Hill CDC. This year's BLAST program is comprised of a cohort of participants keenly focused on: developing business leadership skills; mastering a strong elevator pitch; and effectively casting a vision that will attract investors to advance the growth of their business within their community and beyond. This training is designed to position participants as business leaders with the resources necessary to create opportunities, and to sustain a business in a transforming Hill District. To find more details on BLAST, visit www.hilldistrict.org/blast.

The 2017 BLAST Cohort has been sponsored, in part, by Woodforest National Bank under the leadership of their Community Development Divisional Manager and Vice President, Jason

Your front door to the Hill District. | hilldistrict.org

Hill Community Development Corporation 2015 – 2017 Centre Ave, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh PA 15219 P 412.765.1820 F 412.765.1829

Jones. Woodforest National Bank's mission is to promote economic growth through community development lending and revitalization, financial literacy programs, employee volunteer involvement in community boards and committees. The Woodforest Charitable Foundation strives to empower communities to be a better place to live, work and do business. Find more information about Woodforest National Bank's community programs, visit www.woodforest.com/WoodforestCares.

About the Hill CDC:

The Hill CDC works in partnership with residents and stakeholders to create, promote, and implement strategies and programs that connect plans, policies and people to drive compelling community development opportunities in the Greater Hill District.

Visit www.hilldistrict.org for more information.