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**Charlotte Center City Small Business Innovation Fund: Round 4 Awards Over $1 Million in Grants to 27 Small Businesses to Finish Allocating all Available Funding**

**Partnership Includes Charlotte Center City Partners, Founding Sponsor Honeywell, Foundation For The Carolinas, Bank of America, Duke Energy, and Knight Foundation**

CHARLOTTE, (August 18, 2021) – The Charlotte Center City Small Business Innovation Fund today announced it has awarded $1,034,00 in grants to 27 more small businesses within Center City to spur and support innovation as they continue to adapt to the new economic realities and opportunities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 27 recipients in Round 4, which finishes allocating all available funding, join the 116 recipients from Rounds 1-3. In all, 143 Charlotte small businesses received innovation grants totaling more than $4.6M.

The Charlotte Center City Small Business Innovation Fund launched in June 2020 as a collaboration between Charlotte Center City Partners, Foundation For The Carolinas, and founding sponsor Honeywell, which invested $2 million in the fund. Bank of America, Duke Energy, and Knight Foundation joined as partners. $1.5 million was provided by the City of Charlotte in Round 3 through federal CARES Act funding and was available city-wide. Round Four was made possible with significant investments by Honeywell, Duke Energy, and the Knight Foundation.

93% of 27 grants made in this round are to women, minority and/or veteran-owned businesses. Each of these awards proves that small businesses in Charlotte are innovating and creating as they look for opportunities in 2021 and emerge from the pandemic.

“Grants from the Small Business Innovation Fund continue to help small businesses, particularly those owned by minorities, women and veterans, adapt to continuously changing conditions and better serve their customers,” said Greg Lewis, Honeywell chief financial officer and chair of the Small Business Innovation Fund’s Grant Review Committee. “The Innovation Fund has not only empowered Charlotte small businesses to innovate, it has strengthened the resiliency and vibrancy of our city.”

Through the focused investment of Knight Foundation, Round 4 of the Small Business Innovation Fund will help 10 small businesses in Charlotte’s Historic West End innovate, adapt and thrive amid complex challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The funds will allow local businesses to invest in redesigning spaces, leveraging technology, training, operations and/or infrastructure.

“Local businesses are the lifeblood of communities. That’s why we were thrilled to help 23 small businesses in the Historic West End by providing over $900,000 through the Small Business Innovation Fund to innovate and adapt during the pandemic,” said Charles Thomas, Knight’s Charlotte program director. “Since 2015, Knight Foundation has been focused on supporting Black-led commercial development and Black-owned small businesses that are essential to the success of the district. We are proud to be part of the collaboration between the Center City Small Business Innovation Fund, the Historic West End Partners and Honeywell to put residents first and help the district thrive.”

“We are so pleased to award more grants to Center City’s entrepreneurs who add vibrancy and character to our Center City through their small businesses,” said Michael Smith, President and CEO of Charlotte Center City Partners. “The fund is now supporting more than 143 businesses investing in their future during this pandemic. As we connect these entrepreneurs and their innovative projects with fresh capital, Charlotte and Center City are poised to continue to innovate and outperform the cities with whom we compete.”

The Round 4 grants are enabling these 27 businesses to invest in new innovations and adaptations, including:

* Collaborating with other small businesses and organizations to create exciting new retail, food, and cultural neighborhood destinations.
* Enhancing e-commerce platforms, launching new marketing programs, and developing new products and services.
* Launching new mobile options with food carts and trucks to expand customer base and react to new customer preferences.
* Upgrading infrastructure to better utilize outside environments and upfit interior spaces to increase safety and consumer confidence, earn more revenue, and become more resilient.

If you would like to speak with specific businesses, please reach out to Moira Quinn for a list of businesses that are available for media inquiries.

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**ABOUT HONEYWELL**

*Honeywell (*[*www.honeywell.com*](http://www.honeywell.com)*) is a Fortune 100 technology company that delivers industry-specific solutions that include aerospace products and services; control technologies for buildings and industry; and performance materials globally. Our technologies help aircraft, buildings, manufacturing plants, supply chains, and workers become more connected to make our world smarter, safer, and more sustainable. For more news and information on Honeywell, please visit* [*www.honeywell.com/newsroom*](http://www.honeywell.com/newsroom)*.*

**ABOUT CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY PARTNERS**

*Charlotte Center City Partners envisions and activates strategies and actions that will assure Charlotte Center City is a welcoming an equitable, economically vibrant, culturally rich, and beloved place for all. For more information, visit* [*www.charlottecentercity.org*](http://www.charlottecentercity.org)*.*

**ABOUT FOUNDATION FOR THE CAROLINAS**

*Founded in 1958, Foundation For The Carolinas is the sixth-largest nonprofit community foundation in the country, serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of $2.8 billion, FFTC’s mission is to inspire philanthropy and empower individuals to create a better community. Visit* [*www.fftc.org*](http://www.fftc.org)*.*

**About John S. and James L. Knight Foundation**

*Knight Foundation supports democracy in America by fostering informed and engaged communities. The foundation invests in journalism, arts and culture in community, research in areas of media and democracy, and in the success of cities and towns where John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. For more, visit* [*www.kf.org*](http://www.kf.org)*.*

**Awardees Round Four**

* 704 Shop and Discovery Place Science
* Alchemy at C3Lab
* Bobby's Painting Company
* Bringing You Excellence (BYE)
* BW Sweets Bakery
* Central Coffee Co.
* Charlie's Angels Beauty Bar
* Charlotte Collective
* Community Dream Builders
* Cosmic Nails
* Cowbell Burger & Whiskey Bar
* Cuzzo's Cuisine
* Deep Roots Community Planning Solutions
* E-Fix Development, NWB Development and Worldlink Wireless
* Global Flavor
* Good Earth Essentials
* Jimmy Pearls
* McColl Center for Art + Innovation
* Pho @ Noda
* Roots Café
* The Brown Sugar Collab
* The Dooby Shop School of Cosmetology
* The Pub at Gateway
* The Visual and Performing Arts Center (VAPA)
* Thoughtful Baking Co.
* QC Fit Northlake West
* West End Fresh Seafood Market