



Groupon and Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago Honor Englewood Snack Company with Small Business Development Grant

October 23, 2017

Five small businesses were chosen by local leaders at a recent pitch event to receive extra financial support and pro bono services

CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 23, 2017-- [Tea Squares](#), an Englewood-based, tea-infused energy snack company founded by local entrepreneurs Jordan Buckner, Isaac Lozano, Alex Stomp and Adi Malik, won a recent Make City Business pitch event competition sponsored by Groupon and organized by the Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC).

As the grand-prize winner, Tea Squares will receive a \$5,000 grant to help with its growth as well as \$2,500 in UPS shipping credits. The company, represented at the event by Buckner, was chosen as the grand-prize winner from a pool of five finalists who were invited to pitch a panel of local business leaders on the quality of their business plan and the likelihood that they could execute it, soundness of their financial status and projections, a clear plan for job creation, the marketability of their product or service and how they planned to use the extra money and supplemental services.

"We were very impressed by Jordan's business acumen and how he and his co-founders plan to use the additional financial resources and services to market their business to the broader marketplace and hire more teens and young adults from the Englewood neighborhood," said Nikhil Sagar, pitch event judge and vice president and general manager of Groupon Goods North America. "Great local businesses are the foundation of the neighborhoods that we call home, and we're proud to support the critical work being done by ICNC to help these entrepreneurs get to the next level."

The winners of the Make City Business pitch event were:

1st Place (\$5,000) - [Tea Squares](#)

2nd Place (\$3,000) - [Meliora Cleaning Products](#)

3rd Place (\$2,000) - [Luna Lights](#)

Runners Up: [Chow Brothers](#) and [Englewood Brews](#)

"Tea Squares is honored to receive the Make City award as up-and-coming businesses like ours, and many others, need support and resources from organizations like Groupon and ICNC to help us deliver on our mission," said Buckner. "Winning this award enables us to launch our new single-serve packs and fund our fellowship program, through which we hire young adults from underserved communities."

Each of the finalists are slated to receive a pro bono package that includes business risk and compliance analysis, custom business apparel, marketing services and a Groupon consultation package consisting of one-on-one sessions with employees from various departments. All of the cash prizes for the pitch event were funded by Groupon.

"We're proud to provide a platform for emerging entrepreneurs like Jordan and the other finalists to share their amazing work and receive the support and resources they need to become successful businesses," said Jennifer Holmes, Director of Development at ICNC. "We'd like to thank everyone who submitted an application, the finalists, volunteer judges and Groupon for helping to make this event possible."

About ICNC

ICNC (www.industrialcouncil.com) advocates for the interest of business on Chicago's Nearwest Side. ICNC strengthens both start-up & emerging companies by providing business development assistance as well as information and links to public and private resources and services. ICNC, an employer-driven organization, develops programs and services in response to the needs of the companies it represents. In addition to the \$2.5 million a year in revenue from its incubator (operated by ICNC and its 501 (c)(3) affiliate, the Kinzie Industrial Development Corp or KIDC), ICNC receives funding from government and foundation grants – positioning it to offer extensive no-cost services to local companies and tenants. Today, ICNC is comprised of over 400 member companies and represents the Nearwest side's rapidly growing business community, comprised of over 2,000 small businesses.

About Groupon

Groupon (NASDAQ: GRPN) is building the daily habit in local commerce, offering a vast mobile and online marketplace where people discover and save on amazing things to do, see, eat and buy. By enabling real-time commerce across local businesses, travel destinations, consumer products and live events, shoppers can find the best a city has to offer.

Groupon is redefining how small businesses attract and retain customers by providing them with customizable and scalable marketing tools and services to profitably grow their businesses.

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