



All Cities: Organizers + City Updates

VFA CITY COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

All Cities: Roll Call

[9/18 Call Agenda Link](#) – a few asks and important links on last page :)

If you can't make the 9/18 meeting – no worries! We'll send a detailed recap. Input your city updates below for 'roll call' on Wednesday + to have going forward.

This is meant to be a low lift so there are some suggestions of what to add but please share out what feels right for you!

If your city isn't listed – add it! Would love to see what you're working on / hoping to build even if there are not many fellows or alumni in your city.



Find your city in the outline!

ACTIVE CITIES AS OF 2024

Baltimore

City Organizers <i>Who is actively organizing or interested in helping?</i>	PLEASE UPDATE THIS SHEET WITH CITY ORGANIZERS TOO!
Community Status <i>What's happening in your city right now? Do you know how many fellows + alumni are in your city?</i>	Working on getting a fellow speaker panel going with VFA alumni who have started businesses and/or are CEO's. Using a fellow's office space. I think a great way to introduce newer fellows to the rest of the community while getting some professional insight.
Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	Goal is to have more fellows interconnected and knowing who can be there for support.



Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	Not sure yet.
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Birmingham

City Organizers <i>Who is actively organizing or interested in helping?</i>	PLEASE UPDATE THIS SHEET WITH CITY ORGANIZERS TOO! Cameron Champion '20 & Derrick Austin '21 - Tyler Jacobson '22, Jacob Norgord '23, and Utkarsh K '23 on CLC
Community Status <i>What's happening in your city right now? Do you know how many fellows + alumni are in your city?</i>	Starting Dec '23, a 8+ person council began meeting weekly to develop our community, push job opportunities, and get 10+ 2024 fellows to BHM. VFA closing down has reduced our scope, but we still have strong desire to push recruiting to BHM and have three 2024 fellows that have moved to BHM so far! Hoping for 6.
Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	Local Board has been supporting ~monthly and also financially with a couple events/programming
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	Come to Bamasgiving! Nov 15-17 weekend. We had 80+ 2 years ago and 50+ last year, and going big for this year.

Charlotte

City Organizers <i>Who is actively organizing or</i>	PLEASE UPDATE THIS SHEET WITH CITY ORGANIZERS TOO! Grant Colgan '23, Nate Johnson '23, Marley Johnson '22
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<i>interested in helping?</i>	
Community Status <i>What's happening in your city right now? Do you know how many fellows + alumni are in your city?</i>	Monthly calendar/canva of social events
Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	More startup networking events, getting people included in Charlotte startup ecosystem
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	Partnerships with people in startup ecosystem. Also connections with other good startups in Charlotte besides DebtBook lol

Cleveland

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Detroit

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Kansas City

City Organizers <i>Who is actively organizing or interested in helping?</i>	PLEASE UPDATE THIS SHEET WITH CITY ORGANIZERS TOO! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briggs Uhler (buhler2919@gmail.com) • Bijoy Shah (bijoy.00@gmail.com) • Marineth Ordinal (mariabe77@outlook.com)
Community Status <i>What's happening in your city right now? Do</i>	From Briggs via Slack: I've updated the alum/fellow directory for everyone currently in KC and here's a synopsis of what KC has done (not much)

<i>you know how many fellows + alumni are in your city?</i>	<p>since the end of VFA 1.0 (unsure if anyone else from KC will be able to join either):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted two dinner/drink nights, one for a 2024 fellow and the other for a 2015 fellow that nobody knew existed (hi Amanda, lol) • Small groups of fellows grabbing dinner or coffee or playing tennis or whatever else - nothing formally organized and usually different people for each group, depending on schedules, ecosystem events, passions, etc. • There are currently 10 active fellows in KC
Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I (Briggs) think the biggest thing here is that we're not really building anything, but rather trying to maintain what we already had/have • We attempted to have a welcome "week" for the 2024 fellow that moved here,, but unsure that it was enough to be considered a welcome week
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	

Miami

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Updates + More	

<i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	

New Orleans

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Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	

Philadelphia

City Organizers	PLEASE UPDATE THIS SHEET WITH CITY ORGANIZERS TOO!
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Who is actively organizing or interested in helping?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabi Rudnick (rudnickgabriella@gmail.com) • Ben Rothschild (bzroths@gmail.com) • Jess Agyepong (jessagyepo@gmail.com)
Community Status <i>What's happening in your city right now? Do you know how many fellows + alumni are in your city?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a check in survey to hear what people want + see who is active • Created a Philly Database total count: 151 ppl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2024: 8 ○ 2023: 20 ○ 2022: 14 ○ Alumni: 109 • Hosting events – three currently in the works for sept/oct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome 2024 night + RIP VFA party ○ Phillies Game ○ Credo Night (Amy Nelson) • Created a Philly Notion Page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Philly Events Calendar with ecosystem events to attend (75 events + counting for Sept - Nov) ○ Resource Library ○ Helpful Links for startups + startup community
Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building our mentors / potential 'board members' for philly community • Connecting with other local startup community leaders to lean on for support • Working on a Philly newsletter • Working on a 'Startup Weekend' event (inspired by Techstars Startup Weekends)
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need help understanding status of VFA 501c3 ... if in the future we want to receive funding / sponsorship for events....what needs to happen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently talking to other philly based orgs who could potentially accept funds on behalf of us

Pittsburgh

City Organizers <i>Who is actively organizing or</i>	<u>PLEASE UPDATE THIS SHEET WITH CITY ORGANIZERS TOO!</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Sjoberg (emilysjoberg@gmail.com) • Rena Zhang (renamzhang@gmail.com)
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<i>interested in helping?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Fraijo (fraijomattthew@gmail.com)
Community Status <i>What's happening in your city right now? Do you know how many fellows + alumni are in your city?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recurring Community Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🧺 Picnic Club: Biweekly Sunday evening bring-your-own-dinner event in a park, with a different activity host each time ⚽ Intramural League: Weekly meetup with a different sport each week for seven weeks – starts this Wednesday (which is why we had to miss the meeting!) Fellows/Alumni Count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have two '24 PGH fellows! Last audit was done in Jan 2024 (26 fellows/alumni total). We should totally update this soon – would love to hear process ideas.
Updates + More <i>What are you building / wish you could build in your city / community?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting a PGH VFA committee to meet biweekly/monthly regarding events/initiatives Upcoming Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimagining city events (we are deeply missing Oktoburfest this year) Introducing new programming (love Amanda Tien's VFAMericanos concept) Creating a PGH startup job board (similar to Connect) to launch Nov 2024
Support <i>What do you need to help support your community + what you're building.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding ideas for events + whatnot Advice on getting alumni a few years out involved + engaged If anyone has job board creation experience hmu (emilyjsjoberg@gmail.com)

San Antonio

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St Louis

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Tulsa

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RETIRED VFA CITIES + ACTIVE CITIES W/ LOTS OF FELLOWS + ALUMNI

New York

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Atlanta

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Boston

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Chicago

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Cincinnati

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Denver

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Los Angeles

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Nashville

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Providence

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Seattle

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San Fran + Bay Area

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Washington DC

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