



INVEST IN WOMEN FOUNDERS

2026 SUMMIT



SKYLINE CLUB
INDY

November 5 | Noon-6pm
Indianapolis, Indiana

2026 Summit Sponsorship Proposal

A Stronger Founder Class. A Bigger Opportunity for Indiana.

For our fifth year, The Startup Ladies raised the bar. Applicants were selected based on customer discovery, a working product, market traction, coachability, a credible growth plan, and readiness to use capital effectively. The result is a more sophisticated Top 9. Women building scalable companies who are prepared for serious conversations with investors, customers, partners, and corporate leaders.

Seven of the nine companies are headquartered outside Indiana, giving sponsors an early opportunity to build relationships with founders entering the Indiana business community. Several are open to locating or expanding where capital, customers, talent, and strategic support are strongest, creating an opportunity to connect promising companies with Indiana's business ecosystem.

WHY NOW

Indiana suspended its Minority and Women Business Enterprise certification program before a replacement was ready. At the very moment a public pathway for recognizing and expanding opportunity was removed, private-sector leadership became even more important. If Indiana wants to attract, retain, and grow women-owned businesses, the business community must show up, build relationships, open doors, buy from them, and invest in them.

About the Summit

The #InvestInWomenFounders Summit is a half-day experience connecting women founders with investors, executives, and business leaders. Unlike traditional pitch competitions, founders participate in an **interview-based showcase** designed to move beyond pattern matching and reveal the substance of the company, market opportunity, and founder's capacity to lead.

Before taking the stage, each founder completes intensive capital-readiness training and preparation. Sponsor support helps make this experience - valued at more than **\$20,000 per Top 9 company** - **available to founders at no cost.**

What Your Sponsorship Makes Possible

Capital Readiness

Give founders the training, tools, practice, and feedback needed to communicate effectively with investors and make stronger capital decisions.

Meaningful Access

Bring founders, investors, executives, customers, service providers, and potential partners together for intentional relationship-building.

Indiana Connections

Build early relationships between Indiana's business community and seven out-of-state founder companies exploring where resources can best support their growth

A Fairer Process

Support an interview format that evaluates each founder based on the business, opportunity, judgment, and vision - not traditional pattern matching.

A Sponsorship Built for Business Outcomes

Your sponsorship creates meaningful opportunities for your company to:

- **Build relationships** with founders, investors, executives, and community leaders through purposeful networking and introductions.
- **Discover companies early** that may become customers, vendors, partners, investment prospects, or future Indiana employers.
- **Strengthen your brand and talent visibility** among entrepreneurs, executives, and professionals.
- **Demonstrate leadership** by helping expand access to capital, customers, expertise, and opportunity.
- **Extend your visibility** before, during, and after the Summit through newsletters, social media, event materials, and sponsor recognition.

Every level is designed to be useful, visible, and realistic to fulfill. Higher tiers add exclusivity, access, and leadership opportunities rather than simply adding more logos.

2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

Visibility, leadership, and relationship-building benefits

2026 #InvestInWomenFounders Sponsorship Grid

The Startup Ladies | 5th Annual Accelerator & Summit | November 5, 2026

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES & DELIVERABLES						
BENEFIT	TITLE \$25,000	PRESENTING \$15,000	CHAMPION \$10,000	ADVOCATE \$5,000	VENDOR \$2,500	TABLE \$1,500
Availability	1	2	4	Open	Open	Open
Event naming	"Presented by"	Supporting line	-	-	-	-
Industry/category exclusivity	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-
Logo prominence	Premier	Featured	Large	Standard	Standard	Standard
Homepage/Summit page logo	12 months	9 months	6 months	4 months	4 months	4 months
Newsletter logo recognition	6 issues	5 issues	4 issues	3 issues	3 issues	3 issues
Dedicated sponsor profile or Q&A	Feature	Feature	Short profile	-	-	-
Social media recognition (individual & group posts)	20 individual + group	15 individual + group	10 individual + group	6 individual + group	3 individual + group	group only
Press release recognition	Quote + logo	Named	Named	Named	Named	Named
Sponsor video in pre-event content	Up to 60 sec.	Up to 30 sec.	-	-	-	-
Official sponsor badge for company use	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsor offer/resource in attendee email	Featured	Featured	Included	Included	Included	-
Recruitment opportunity promoted	2 roles	1 role	1 role	-	-	-
First right to renew for 2027	30 days	21 days	14 days	-	-	-
Reserved corporate tables / seats	2 VIP table (16)	1 VIP table (8)	1 VIP table (8)	1 table (8)	2 seats	1 table (8)
Vendor display table	Premium	Included	Included	-	Included	-
Stage recognition	Premier	Featured	Named	Named	Named	Named
Approved executive welcome	Up to 3 min.	Up to 2 min.	-	-	-	-
Curated founder introductions	Up to 9	Up to 6	Up to 4	Up to 2	Up to 2	-
Curated investor/executive introductions	Up to 6	Up to 4	Up to 3	Up to 2	-	-
Pre-Summit founder briefing	Private	Group	Group	-	-	-
Guided sponsor table discussion	Custom topic	Custom topic	Included	Included	-	Included
Post-Summit leadership debrief	Private	Group	Group	-	-	-
Access to opt-in attendee list	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Invitation to alumni/interviewer gathering	4 seats	2 seats	2 seats	1 seat	-	-
2026 Summit video access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Post-event impact summary	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Sponsor Experience

Sponsorship at the #InvestInWomenFounders Summit goes beyond brand visibility. Sponsors become part of an intentionally connected community of founders, investors, executives, and business leaders, with opportunities to build meaningful relationships before, during, and after the event. **From curated introductions to purposeful networking**, the experience is designed to create connections that can continue well beyond the Summit.

Before the Summit

Your company is introduced as a business leader investing in women-owned companies. Sponsors receive pre-event visibility, while upper-tier sponsors work with our team to identify founders, investors, executives, talent, and potential partners they most want to meet.

During the Summit

Begin with lunch and purposeful networking overlooking downtown Indianapolis. Meet the Top 9 at their tables, experience their companies through live founder interviews, participate in guided conversations, and continue building relationships during the closing cocktail reception.

After the Summit

Recognition continues through recap content, videos, social media, and newsletters. Eligible sponsors receive continued introductions, an impact summary, leadership debrief, and early opportunities to renew for 2027.

Summit Agenda

Noon	Guests arrive, check in, Buffet luncheon, and visit with founders at their tables
1:05 pm	Panel Discussion with successful Top 9 alumni moderated by Rhaya Shilts, Owner Jackson Sky Creative
1:45 pm	Instructions to move to the first session
1:50 pm	Everyone moves into their session
2:00 pm	Session 1 - Fund the founder! (3 rooms)
2:45 pm	Break
3:00 pm	Session 2 - Fund the founder! (3 rooms)
3:45 pm	Break
4:00 pm	Session 3 - Fund the founder! (3 rooms)
4:45 pm	Break
5:00 pm	Cocktail reception overlooking the city
6:00 pm	Wrap up

About The Startup Ladies

The Startup Ladies is a **women-owned professional membership organization** dedicated to increasing the number of women launching scalable businesses and helping founders secure the funding they need to grow. Since 2014, we have delivered more than **500 programs**, built an eLearning platform with more than **100 lessons**, and our investor members have invested more than **\$1 million directly into women-owned companies**.

We bring together three interconnected membership groups that provide the resources, capital, expertise, and relationships founders need to grow:

- **Entrepreneurs** - progress from idea to market to growth through education, mentorship, capital-readiness resources, and connections to investors and business leaders.
- **Investors** - individuals and angel investors who connect with investment-ready women founders and provide the capital needed to help promising companies scale.
- **Corporations & Universities** - connect founders with critical expertise, services, talent, and resources across areas such as banking, legal, accounting, HR, insurance, technology, marketing, research, and advanced business training.

See the Summit in Action

Meet the 2026 Top 9 founders and explore highlights from past #InvestInWomenFounders Summits.

→ [2026 Top 9 Founders](#)

Explore past summits and all the women who have been through our investor-ready accelerator.

[2025](#)

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[2024](#)

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[2023](#)

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[2022](#)

Social Media

Learn more about us and stay in touch through our social media outlets:

- [Bluesky](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Website](#)

THANK YOU!

Thank you for considering sponsorship of The Startup Ladies. Funding will help to grow the number of women building scalable companies throughout Indiana and beyond!

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