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# 6 Greater Cincinnati-Based Pitch Competitions

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If you're a burgeoning startup, oftentimes funding — besides your brilliant idea — takes up a considerable amount of brain space.

While the Queen City offers considerable options for a more traditional approach to getting capital, such as consulting [with an angel investor or going through venture capital firms](#), there's also ample opportunity to win some cash via a local pitch competition.

Below, we've rounded up a few of these events, highlighting pertinent details like prize total, yearly frequency, requirements and more. Note that we didn't include Demo Days from local accelerators, which often require participants to have gone through its full program to pitch.

Is there a competition we missed? Let us [know](#).

- **[IQ Elevator Pitch Competition](#)**

- **Who:** Hosted by the University of Cincinnati, this competition is for all interested UC students. Tickets are free.

- **What:** "Busy investors don't have much time to listen. Often you need to be able to request their support in 60-90 seconds, the length of one elevator ride. This 'elevator pitch' competition simulates this business reality."
- **Where:** UC Campus Recreation Center
- **When:** Historically, once a year; typically in April.
- **Prize:** \$25,000 total grand prizes; \$5,000 in cash, \$20,000 in startup grants; other categories can win prizes as well.
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### Fast Pitch

- **Who:** This event is hosted by [Social Venture Partners Cincinnati](#), the city's "home for engaged philanthropists" that is a part of a 3,500-strong international network of partners who work with local nonprofits.
- **What:** "Fast Pitch is a technique borrowed from the venture capital and startup community and a way to showcase and accelerate nonprofits making a difference in our city! Nonprofits get training in telling effective, inspiring stories and then compete via a three-minute pitch."
- **Where:** Duke Energy Convention Center
- **When:** Historically, once a year; March 14, 2019
- **Prize:** N/A
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### Impact for All

- **Who:** Hosted by Impact 100 Inc. Tickets are \$35-\$65 to attend. While this year's competitors have already been chosen, this is a yearly event.
- **What:** "SAVE THE DATE for the night we've all been waiting for! Our 5 Focus Area Committees and the Board of Directors spend 7 months selecting the VERY best grant recipient finalists Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky has to offer!"
- **Where:** Musical Hall, Cincinnati
- **When:** Historically, once a year; Sept. 13
- **Prize:** [Four different grants of \\$104,000](#); other finishers could win between \$1,500-\$2,500.
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### StartupCincy Inaugural Community Pitch Night

- **Who:** Hosted by Startup Cincy and a host of local startup community players.
- **What:** Pitch night
- **Where:** Historically, OTR Live
- **When:** Historically, once a year, during Techstars Startup Week
- **Prize:** \$10,000

### ArtWorks Big Pitch

- **Who:** Hosted by ArtWorks, a local nonprofit organization that works to "empower creatives."
- **What:** "Big Pitch is an entrepreneurial boot camp. Each finalists is paired with another local business mentor and a U.S. Bank small business specialists. Teams go through classes about different facets of business such as marketing/branding, legal, and storytelling. The finalists then submit a business plan and present their business pitch in front of a panel of jurors and 400 audience members."
- **Where:** N/A
- **When:** Historically, once a year.
- **Prize:** N/A

### Pitch Room Competition

- **Who:** Hosted by Samuel Adams.
- **What:** "The Pitch Room is a competition that teaches rising food and beverage craftspeople how to perfect the art of the sales pitch. If you are a Cincinnati food, beverage, or craft brewing business owner with a packaged product or a liquid that is currently on draft or bottled, apply now for the chance to compete in our [Cincinnati Pitch Room Competition](#)."
- **Where:** N/A
- **When:** Historically, once a year.
- **Prize:** \$10,000 and a year's worth of mentorship from Samuel Adams' employees.

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Nov 16: SustainableCincy Demo Day

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