Charlotte Innovation Week: A Users' Guide to the 5-Day Event

Innovation Week Guide

By Courtney Gabrielson - July 2, 2019

The Charlotte tech and entrepreneurial ecosystem is starting 2020 off with a bang, thanks to its inaugural Innovation Week.

It's a 5-day event that has events and meetups of every flavor and price point, with a goal of getting area movers and shakers together to both celebrate all things Charlotte startups and work to bring the ecosystem to greater heights.

Excited? Want to know more of what to expect or how to get involved? You're in luck. We've assembled a users' guide to the event, outlining the basics on each major touchstone of the program (descriptions for the events below are provided by their respective websites).

See you there!

DAY ONE: MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Newly Added Events:

- How Proptech is Changing the Real Estate Industry Panel Discussion
- Introduction to the Charlotte Healthcare Ecosystem

DAY TWO: TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Bunker Brews

Where: Camp North End, 1824 Statesville Ave.

When: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Why: For the unfamiliar, Bunker Labs is "a national network of veteran entrepreneurs" that provides seasoned entrepreneurs with the resources they need to get their business idea off the ground. While details around the event have yet to be announced in full, this two-hour program will allow attendees to enjoy — well, brews.

Social: Tag #CLTInnovationWeek, @TheBunkerLabs, @CLTInno

Register: Here!

DAY THREE, MORNING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

PitchBreakfast

Where: Foundation for the Carolinas — 220 N. Tryon St.

 $\textbf{When:}\ 9{:}10\ \text{a.m.}\ \text{to}\ 10{:}10\ \text{a.m.}$

Why: "At each event (monthly in Charlotte, quarterly in Asheville and Charleston), we feature three or four startups that pitch their companies to the audience and a panel of experts we put together. In our standard format, each startup is given 5 minutes with slides to pitch, followed by 10 minutes of feedback and Q&A with our panel and audience. ... This month, we'll be at Foundation for the Carolinas for a special Seed the South Edition PitchBreakfast during Charlotte Innovation Week."

Social: Tag #CLTInnovationWeek, @PitchBreakfast, @CLTInno (and the socials of participating startups; keep a weather eye out during the event for the requisite tags).

Register: Here!

DAY THREE. AFTERNOON: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Sam Smith. Photo Courtesy Collective Hustle.

Seed the South – Pre-Seed and Seed Stage Startups

Where: Foundation for the Carolinas — 220 N. Tryon St.

When: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Why: "Seed the South is a two-day event for investors and founders to come together and see what's going on in the business world around them." Speakers this year include Dr. Shanté Williams, Holly Eskridge, Brandon Shelton, Christopher Poe and more.

Social: Tag #CLTInnovationWeek, @CLTInno (and the socials of participating startups, speakers and other presenting entities; keep a weather eye out during the event for the requisite tags).

Register: Here!

Newly Added Events:

- SoGal Happy Hour
- Female Investors Connect

DAY TWO, EVENING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

Photo courtesy the Charlotte Angel Fund website.

Charlotte Angel Fund

Where: Foundation for the Carolinas — 220 N. Tryon St.

When: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Why: "Charlotte Angel Fund will be opening up their monthly meeting to to attendees of Charlotte innovation Week to get an inside look at Charlotte's largest angel fund group. It will open with networking, then from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., three companies will pitch. Charlotte Angel Fund invests in early stage companies throughout North Carolina and contiguous states. This meeting is open to all during Charlotte Innovation Week to observe the inner workings of one of the Southeast's biggest angel fund."

Social: Tag #CLTInnovationWeek, @CLTAngelFund, @GregBrown407 and @CLTInno (and the socials of participating startups, speakers and other presenting entities; keep a weather eye out during the event for the requisite tags).

Register: Coming soon; check this page for updates.

DAY THREE. MORNING/AFTERNOON: THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Photo Courtesy Collective Hustle.

Seed the South - Seed and Series A

Where: Foundation for the Carolinas — 220 N. Tryon St.

When: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Why: "Seed the South is a two-day event for investors and founders to come together and see what's going on in the business world around them." Speakers this year include Dr. Shanté Williams, Holly Eskridge, Brandon Shelton, Christopher Poe and more.

Social: Tag #CLTInnovationWeek, @CLTInno (and the socials of participating startups, speakers and other presenting entities; keep a weather eye out during the event for the requisite tags).

Register: Here!

DAY THREE. EVENING: THURSDAY, JAN 23

Inno on Fire underway in Rhode Island. Expect to look as happy as these folks at Charlotte Inno's version of the event! Photo Courtesy BostInno.

Inno on Fire

Where: Norfolk Hall - 2905 Griffith St.

When: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Why: "Charlotte Inno will post (and host) its own Inno on Fire awards editorial and subsequent event celebrating some of the ecosystem's brights stars! What makes someone — or something — "On Fire," and worthy of nomination and acclaim? It's a rather wide net. While Charlotte Inno primarily focuses on area tech- and startup-adjacent communities, we believe that innovation doesn't necessarily mean a cool new app or millions of dollars in fundraising (although that certainly does count).

We're accepting nominations for Inno on Fire through Nov. 8. They'll help us determine the winners, along with editorial insight and other resources. Not long after, we'll debut an editorial piece announcing the winners — all of which will be celebrated at the aforementioned Jan. 23 event."

Social: Tag #CLTInnovationWeek, @CLTInno (and the socials of participating startups, speakers and other presenting entities; keep a weather eye out during the event for the requisite tags).

Register: Here!

DAY FOUR: FRIDAY, JAN 23

Newly Added Events:

- NC TECH: Outlook for Tech
- Skookum Tech Talks: Women in Tech
- Charlotte Innovation Week Wrap-up Party

Seed the South in action. Photo Courtesy Collective Hustle.