

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK GUIDE
FOR LGBTQ+ ENTREPRENEURS



GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

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ABOUT GEW

Global Entrepreneurship Week is a movement to celebrate and empower entrepreneurs in every country and community around the world – especially those who face structural barriers or may have never considered the idea of launching a startup. Each November, 10 million people take part in tens of thousands of activities, competitions and events that inspire them to act and provide them with the knowledge, experience and connections they need to succeed.

Global Entrepreneurship Week reaches beyond high-tech startup hubs like Silicon Valley, London and Shanghai. It envisions one entrepreneurial ecosystem open to all, including smaller cities in emerging economies and under-represented communities, whether systemically marginalized, geographically hard-to-reach or otherwise pushed aside or left out. National campaigns are driven by local event organizers who plan activities tailored to their community's needs. Activities can range from small, local gatherings to massive international competitions – or anything in between.

More than 200 communities in the United States take part, with more than 1,000 activities taking place across the country every year. Past VIP participants have included celebrity investor Mark Cuban, rapper Pitbull, Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer and more.

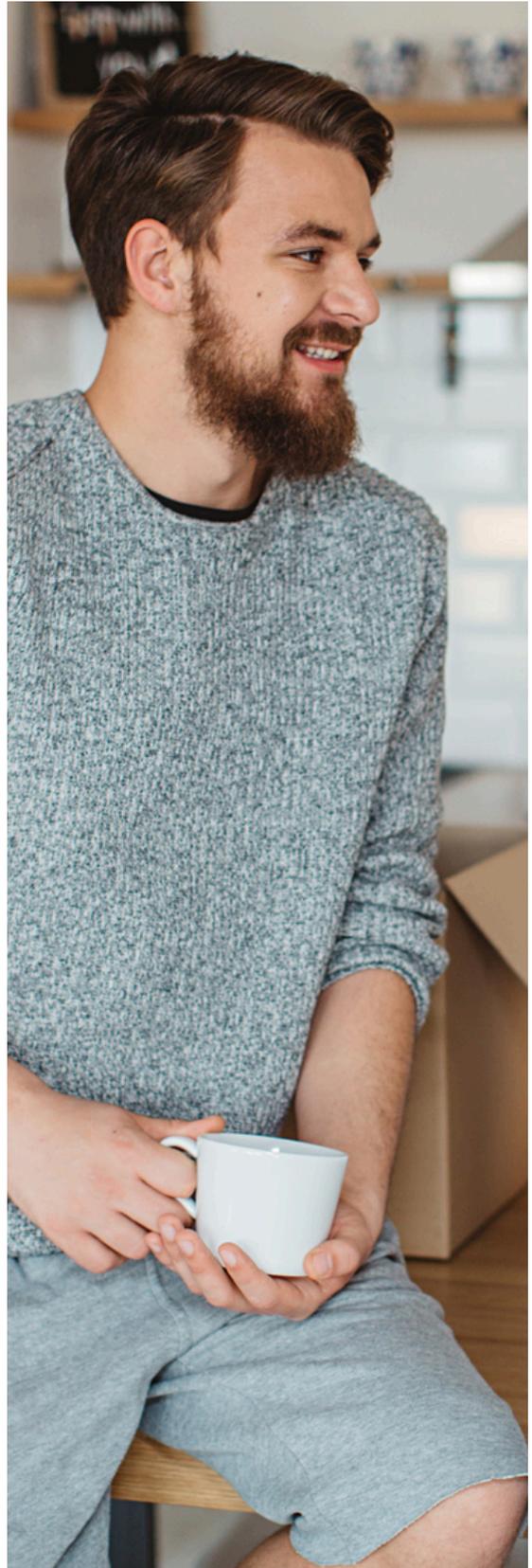
While GEW only takes place one week each year, the connections made are long-lasting. The campaign serves as an opportunity to collaborate and engage with organizations and individuals to celebrate and spotlight entrepreneurs, expose people to the path of entrepreneurship, help them get started and facilitate access to capital and the resources they need to succeed.

Global Entrepreneurship Week is powered by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and supported by a range of strategic partners including corporate sponsors like FedEx, entrepreneurship support organizations like Endeavor Global, a diverse collection of national host organizations and 25,000 local event organizers.



Partners are encouraged to plan activities tailored to their needs. Activities during the Week can range from small, local gatherings to massive international competitions - or anything in between. Meanwhile, a collection of signature activities provide partners with a ready-made offering and set of instructions to plan a local (or virtual) activity like a Startup Huddle event, Speed Network the Globe session or even a Startup Nations Policy Dialogue for your community.

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GEW + LGBTQ + ENTREPRENEURS

LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs are a largely underrepresented group of entrepreneurs and face barriers when starting and growing a business. With the growing number of LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs, it is important to share their stories to inspire current and future LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs. Additionally, there is a need for targeted resources to help LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs to start and scale their businesses.

Global Entrepreneurship Week highlights entrepreneurs across the country and around the world and those who are developing new tools to empower their local entrepreneurs.

Benefits of participating:

- Highlight LGBTQ+ businesses in your community.
- Connect entrepreneurs to business resources.
- Establish connections to peers and mentors. Encourage economic equity for LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs.
- Share stories of notable LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs to inspire the next generation to consider entrepreneurship as a career path.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1. Browse our Ideas Bank

If you already have an event scheduled for November, skip ahead to #3 below. If you don't already have something in mind, we have 100+ ideas collected from GEW organizers around the world to inspire you.

Access the Ideas Bank [here](#).

2. Use our Audience Guides

GEW has something in it for everyone - entrepreneurs, investors, support organizations, policymakers and more. These guides help you tailor your GEW activity to your audiences and their interests.

Access the Audience Guides [here](#).

3. Add Your Event at gewusa.co

Create a user profile (or login to your current profile) on the site to add your activities to gewusa.co to help entrepreneurs thrive in your community and amplify awareness of your event.

Access the Event Calendar [here](#).

4. Display the GEW Official Activity Badge

Emphasize your affiliation with GEW by incorporating the brand into your marketing materials, websites, newsletters and event signage. Check out our GEW brand guide, logo files, social cards and other brand resources.

Access GEW Branding Materials [here](#).

5. Spread the Word

Leverage our promo toolkits and templates to raise awareness in your networks and communities – and be sure to use the tags below so we can help amplify it!

Access the Digital Promotional Toolkit and Templates [here](#).





IDEAS BANK

Looking for some other ideas on how you can rally support for your local startups and small businesses during GEW?

A CONVERSATIONS WITH LGBTQ+ BUSINESS OWN

Host a roundtable or panel to hear from LGBTQ+ business owners about their experiences starting and growing a business. Learn about the successes and challenges they faced and what resources helped them along the way or resources they wish they had access to.

STATE OF LGBTQ+ ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Host a panel discussion for members of the local LGBTQ+ business community. Discuss local business, challenges, and opportunities for entrepreneurs in your community. Address representation for the local LGBTQ+ business community within your ecosystem. Leverage the [StartOut Index](#), which provides data and insights.

HOW DIVERSITY CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS

Learn how diversity can help your company innovate and meet your goals and how respecting differences can help your business achieve success. This session will explore how we can better appreciate and understand diversity in the workplace and in your business.

Example:

[Respect Gets the Job Done: How Diversity Can Help Your Business](#)

Speaking Truth (GEW 2020)





SPEED NETWORK THE GLOBE

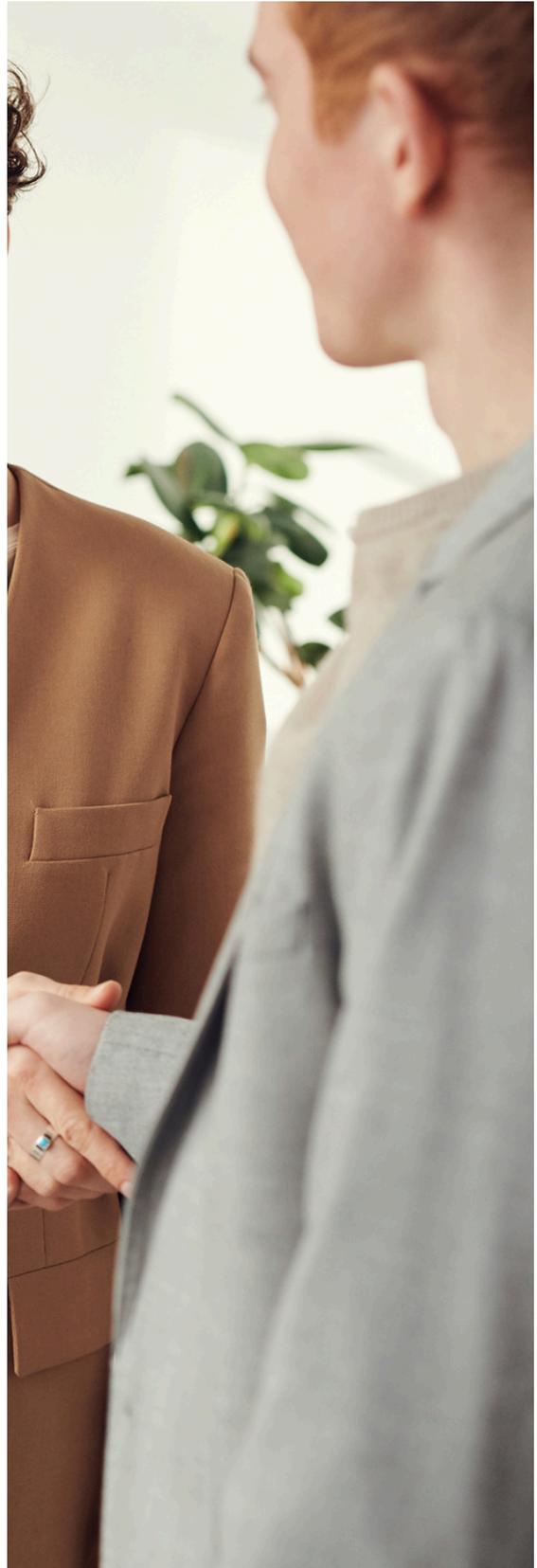
Networking is a great way to connect with the various actors in your ecosystem. Host a gathering of entrepreneurs, investors, and resource providers to facilitate meaningful connections - face-to-face or virtually - that will extend long past GEW.

I AM AN ENTREPRENEUR

I Am an Entrepreneur is a social media campaign seeking to highlight the diverse stories and faces of entrepreneurship. We are asking entrepreneurs to share their "aha" moment, the moment that they realized that they were an entrepreneur.

STARTUP NATIONS POLICY DIALOGUE

The Startup Nations Policy Dialogue provides an opportunity to gather policymakers and ecosystem leaders for a discussion - at the local, state or national level - about innovative policy approaches to empower entrepreneurs in your community. The model has been used to share best practices and stimulate action at a growing number of sessions around the world.



DIGITAL AWARENESS

Register your activities as 'GEW Official Activities' on GEW.CO to participate in the worldwide campaign and connect with the GEW Host in countries where your activities are being hosted. engage in the global dialogue around GEW on your favorite social media channels to spread the word and show others what your community is all about.

Be sure to post photos and video clips from your GEW activities and events on social media using the official hashtag!

For more information, access our [digital promotional toolkit](#).

BRANDING SUPPORT + ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

GEN provides all partners with tools, templates and resources to help plan, promote and produce an activity or otherwise get involved during Global Entrepreneurship Week. Go to gew.co to find:

- GEW 'Official Activity' badge
- GEW activity branding guide
- Promotional toolkit + social media card templates
- Leaderboards for the most active partner organizations and cities and more.

For any questions, reach out to Garry Lyon at garry@genglobal.org.



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[@genhq](#)



ABOUT STARTOUT

Founded in 2009, StartOut, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the largest national organization to support LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs with over 25K community members nationwide. Its mission is to accelerate the growth of the LGBTQ+ community to drive its economic empowerment, building a world where every LGBTQ+ entrepreneur has equal access to lead, succeed, and shape the workforce of the future. StartOut helps aspiring LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs start new companies; supports current entrepreneurs as they grow and expand their existing businesses; and engages successful entrepreneurs as role models and mentors, on its online portal and through targeted events nationwide. For more information, please visit www.startout.org.

STARTOUT



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ABOUT GEN

The Global Entrepreneurship Network operates programs in 200 countries aimed at making it easier for anyone, anywhere to start and scale a business.

By fostering deeper cross-border collaboration and initiatives between entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and entrepreneurial support organizations, GEN fuels healthier start and scale ecosystems that create more jobs, provide education, accelerate innovation, and strengthen economic growth.

GEN's comprehensive global footprint of national operations and global verticals in policy, research and programs ensures members have uncommon access to the most relevant knowledge, networks, communities, and programs relative to size of economy, maturity of ecosystem, language, culture, geography and more.



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