



2009 SOCIAL INNOVATION FAST PITCH

November 11, 2009
taking place at the
University of Southern California

*Presented by: [Los Angeles Social Venture Partners](#), [Social Enterprise Institute](#)
and the [USC Stevens Institute for Innovation](#)*

****CALL FOR NOMINATIONS****

The **Social Innovation Fast Pitch** is a two-month training and mentoring program for innovative nonprofits that are effecting social change in Greater Los Angeles, culminating in the **Social Innovation Fast Pitch competition and showcase** on November 11, 2009.

The goal of the Social Innovation Fast Pitch program is to build the capacity of and create visibility for innovative local nonprofits and the social entrepreneurs who lead them. Nonprofits are nominated and selected to participate based on their innovative approaches to creating social change and their potential for significant positive community impact. Leaders from 20 organizations will participate in the program, where they will receive training, feedback and mentoring on how to succinctly and powerfully "tell their story". Past participants have stated that the program was invaluable, resulting in greater confidence and effectiveness when making presentations, increased exposure for their organization and additional support from new donors and volunteers.

At the event, up to 10 finalists will make three-minute "pitches" to a panel of judges and an audience of more than 300 investors, business and nonprofit leaders, and other members of Southern California's entrepreneurial community. Participating nonprofits will compete to win grants of up to \$10,000. Last year's prize winners include Everyone Deserves a Roof, Environmental Charter High School and Saint Barnabus Senior Services. (To watch a highlight reel of last year's event, see www.socialinnovationpitch.org.)

The event also includes a keynote speaker and an interactive discussion of social innovation. Following the formal program, there will be a reception where attendees can interact and network with the presenting organizations to learn more about their mission, needs, and opportunities for support and engagement.

We are seeking nominations of local nonprofits to participate in the 2009 Social Innovation Fast Pitch program. The nomination criteria are listed below. **The deadline for nominations is July 7th.**

Criteria for Consideration

Innovation (n) - the process of translating new ideas into tangible societal impact.

Innovative social organizations are delivering significant social impact in creative and effective ways. They may be pioneering new products or services or delivering them in new ways or to new populations. They may be employing advanced technologies or leveraging collaborations with other nonprofits, businesses or public organizations. They may be employing new organizational structures or new business models, such as social enterprises to create earned income or employment.

Leaders of innovative social organizations have a vision for social impact and are committed to building strong, sustainable organizations to achieve it. They are entrepreneurial and resourceful. They recruit and empower strong teams and focus on results.

We are seeking such organizations to participate in the second annual Social Innovation Fast Pitch. Organizations will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Potential for tangible societal impact** - Does this idea address an important social issue? Is it already having or likely to have a significant impact?
- **Innovation** - Is this approach or idea novel and unique?
- **Sustainability** - Has the organization determined how to create longevity and scalability for the mission?
- **Understanding of market** - Does the leadership of the organization understand the barriers to entry, opportunities, and next steps?
- **High risk-reward for innovative ideas** - Has the organization taken appropriate risks to create high impact?
- **Entrepreneurial leadership** - Is the team resourceful and results oriented? Are they bold, inspired and committed to making a difference?

Program Participation Requirements:

- Attend a series of coaching sessions.
- Fully participate in the process to produce a crisp, inspiring three-minute presentation of the organization's mission, approach, impact and challenges.
- Be open to advice and coaching by business and community leaders.
- Articulate the opportunities for resources or engagement by business professionals beyond financial support.

Additional Considerations:

- Nominees *must* have their designation from the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization or proof of fiscal sponsorship by mid-September, when coaching sessions begin. Individuals are not eligible for nomination.
- Organizations must have significant operations in Los Angeles County, and preference will be given to those organizations that are headquartered here.
- Nonprofit social enterprises that employ revenue-generating strategies for some or all of their income are allowed.
- There are no restrictions based on organizational size or budget.
- Nominators should be closely familiar with the organization and its mission. Potential nominators may include foundation or corporate funders, board members, individual donors and/or long-term volunteers. Nonprofit staff and paid consultants cannot self-nominate.
- There is no cost to enter the competition or for finalists who present at the event.
- The 2008 Social Innovation Fast Pitch finalists and showcase participants are not eligible to participate in 2009. The following is the list of ineligible organizations:
 - Academy of Business Leadership
 - Centro Latino for Literacy
 - Chrysalis
 - Environmental Charter High School
 - Everyone Deserves a Roof
 - Faith2Green
 - Intelligent Mobility International
 - Iridescent
 - Kitchen Food Ventures
 - Project Possibility
 - Saint Barnabus Senior Services
 - Spirit Series
- There is no limit on the number of organizations any individual may nominate or the number of nominations that will be accepted, as long as they are submitted by the deadline.
- Additional questions should be directed to Melissa Wickman at 310.281.7509 or info@lasvp.org.

How it Works:

- Nominations for participants will be accepted until July 7th. To submit a nomination, go to www.socialinnovationpitch.org.
- All nominations must be submitted online through the website.
- The Selection Committee will invite the most qualified organizations to apply for the program.
- The selected organizations will have three (3) weeks to submit a brief application.
- The Selection Committee will review all submissions, and, based on the submissions and possible phone calls or other reference checking, will invite up to 20 semi-finalists to participate.
- The semi-finalists will attend a presentation workshop and have approximately one week to prepare for the first coaching session.
- The semi-finalists will participate in a series of group coaching and on-on-one mentoring sessions leading up to the event. This will help them to distill the key elements of their mission, approach, impact, and needs into a three-minute presentation. They will have access to valuable strategic advice, resources, and the opportunity to cultivate ongoing relationships. Participants *must* attend one of the first two group coaching sessions.
- The Selection Committee and coaches will select up to 10 finalists to present at the event, showcase their nonprofit, and compete for cash prizes.
- The finalists will have one additional coaching session before the event.
- Visit www.socialinnovationpitch.org for additional program information and FAQs.

Important Dates:

July 7 - Deadline for nominations

July 29 - Selected nominees invited to apply

August 19 - Nominees submit applications

September 10 - Semi-finalists selected for coaching / mentoring

Between September 21 and November 6 - Presentation Workshop and four coaching sessions

October 30 - Finalists selected for presenting

November 11 - **Social Innovation Fast Pitch**

About the Hosts

Los Angeles Social Venture Partners

LASVP (www.lasvp.org) is a diverse network of professionals who are pioneering a new model of giving - Venture Philanthropy. LASVP brings the collective expertise and resources of our members and their networks to innovative nonprofits in Los Angeles, collaborating with them to strengthen their organizations and expand their capacity to address major needs in our local communities. LASVP fosters a community of socially-conscious and well-informed donors through engagement with Investees, collaboration with other SVP Partners, and participation in educational events. As a result, LASVP partners and other community members become more informed and strategic in their philanthropic endeavors, and more actively committed to addressing the needs of Los Angeles. LASVP is a 501(c)3 public charity and an affiliate of Social Venture Partners International (www.svpi.org).

Social Enterprise Institute

The Social Enterprise Institute (www.se-institute.org) is a California-based not-for-profit which supports social-purpose organizations that are committed to becoming more sustainable and self-sufficient through the development of earned income revenue strategies. The Institute fosters convergence across not-for-profit and for profit organizations by finding ways to link the best of business and philanthropy. SEI organizes Social Enterprise Leadership Forums, peer-to-peer learning groups based on the successful private sector model popularized by Vistage and the Young Presidents Organization (YPO). The Institute also runs "Social Enterprise Academies," business plan competitions where social entrepreneurs develop and present their business ideas to potential investors and private sector partners. These programs have proven highly useful for improving the practice of social entrepreneurship and for creating sustainable social enterprises.

University of Southern California

University of Southern California is collaborating with LASVP and SEI on the Social Innovation Fast Pitch. Many of USC's 17 professional schools and research Institutes are working together to support the program, including the USC Stevens Institute for Innovation (stevens.usc.edu) and the Society and Business LAB at the USC Marshall School of Business (www.marshall.usc.edu/sbl).