



# 2026

# RAINBOW VENTURES SUMMIT GIVING GUIDE





# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

## ABOUT

The Rainbow Ventures Summit is free and open to all, but focused on connecting and supporting LGBTQ+ founders of startups and small businesses across Alabama.



**February 20 & 21, 2026**



**Birmingham, Alabama**



**Free to Attend**

For attendees and vendors



**We need your support as a sponsor!**



# HIGHLIGHTS

The Central Alabama LGBTQ+ Entrepreneurship Conference started in 2023 with a dream of bringing Alabama’s LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs together. The first conference was funded through a Community Foundation grant to Innovation Depot, while the second conference in 2024 was spearheaded by Tech Equals and relied 100% on fundraising within the community. In 2025 and 2026, we have expanded the organizing committee to bring on a more diverse group, and are honored to once again receive Community Foundation grant funding.

**100%**  
community funded in  
2023



**66%**  
Increase in conference  
attendance  
(2024 to 2025)



# TESTIMONIALS



\* “I love what this conference does to my heart and soul every year and I hope for everyone in these spaces gets to experience the joy that is this event.”



\* “We can’t wait for next year! It is great to be reminded we’re not alone in the Birmingham LGBTQ+ entrepreneurial space. We all know how isolating life can be, especially behind a screen, especially when you’re a marginalized / oppressed peoples, especially when you work for yourself - but **there is just something so important and beautiful and meaningful when we can meet in person, give a hug to a struggling business owner and in the same breathe provide insight and ideas to help pivot or grow.**”



\* “Right after I fill this out, we are meeting with a potential client we met at the conference!! Even if no business opportunities came out of the conference, the education and friendly networking would have made it entirely worth it.

# WHY IT MATTERS



According to the [National LGBT Chamber of Commerce](#), the total number for all jobs created by NGLCC-certified employers is more than 33,000 - and growing. Additionally, the total annual earnings of America's LGBT certified business owners is conservatively estimated at more than \$1.15 billion. **LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs actively contribute to growing America's overall economy, but they aren't always given a fair shot at success.** According to the [StartOut Index](#), their impact could be

amplified even further with inclusive public policies and greater access to capital. Only 0.5% of the \$2.1T in startup funding was raised by LGBTQ+ founders while nationwide 7.1% of the population identifies as LGBTQ+. However, **LGBTQ+ founders created 36% more jobs, 114% more patents, and 44% more exits, despite raising 16% less funding compared to the average founder.**

**Birmingham is one of the largest cities indexed by StartOut without any startup founders represented in their data.** Alabama does not have comprehensive nondiscrimination policies for LGBTQ+ people, which contributes to this disadvantage. Although these founders are not represented in the reporting, that doesn't mean they don't exist - rather, they lack community support. The Rainbow Ventures Summit seeks to fill this gap by providing resources and support to allow our LGBTQ+ entrepreneur community to grow and thrive.

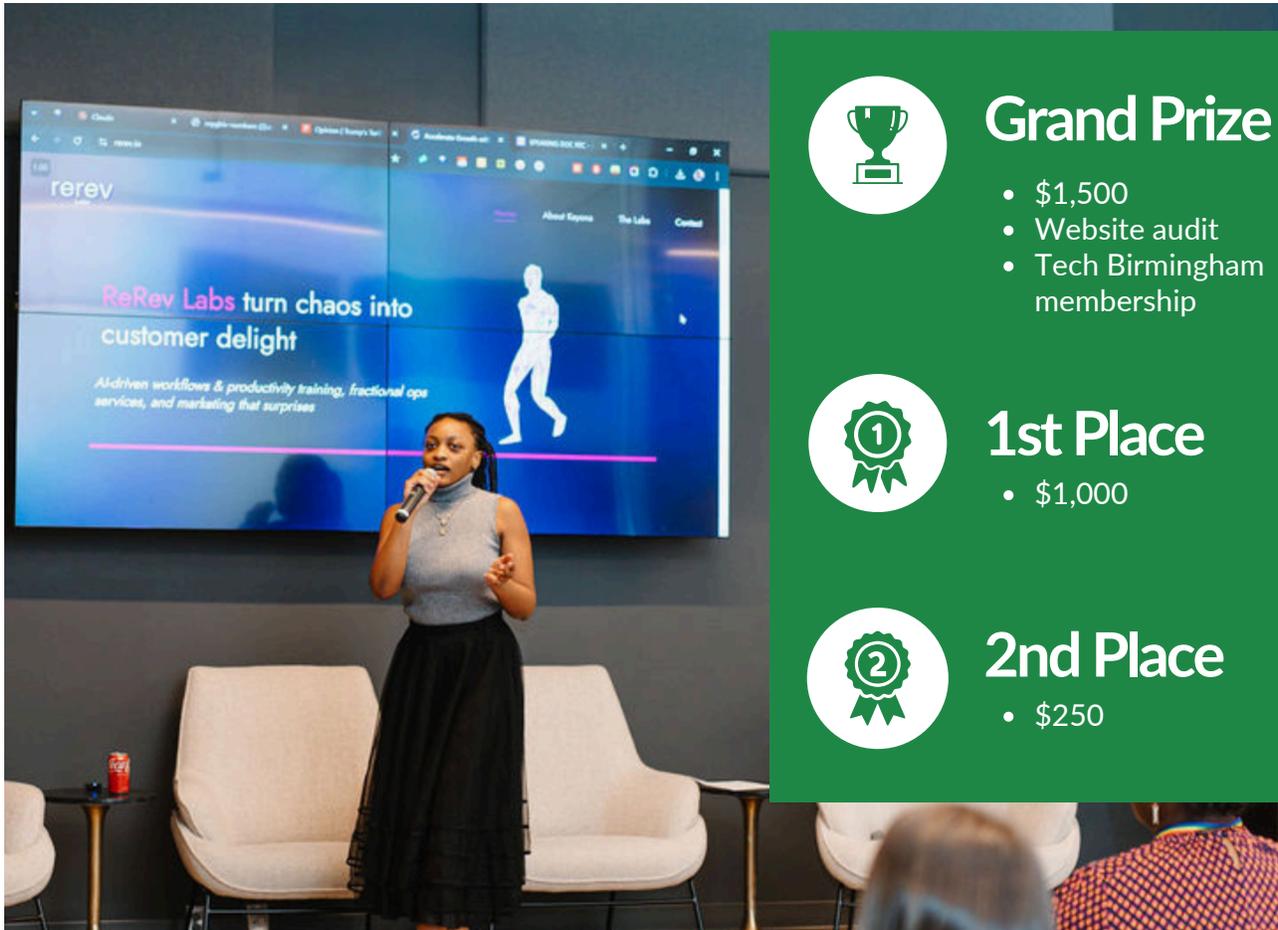
# SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships are the backbone of the Rainbow Ventures Summit. Your support provides the financial groundwork that allows us to keep attendance free, increase the event's offerings, amplify our impact, contribute valuable services and expertise, and support diversity and inclusion efforts. Your partnership will ensure that the event continues to grow in the future, solidifying Birmingham as a haven for LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs.

	Presenting (\$5000)	Gold Sponsor (\$2500)	Pitch Competition (\$2000)	Lunch or Breakfast (\$1500)	Happy Hour (\$500)	Coffee (\$250)
	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	4/4 available	2/2 available	1/2 available	<b>SOLD OUT</b>	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
Promoted as sponsor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo on conference materials	Yes (Largest)	Yes (Large)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Booth at conference	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	--
"X" presented by sponsor	Conference	--	PC	Lunch	Happy Hour	Coffee
Individual social media shoutout	Yes	Combined	--	--	--	--
Promoted as presenting sponsor	Yes	--	--	--	--	--

Don't see an option that fits your budget? Let us know - we'd love to collaborate on something that fits your needs. Email [TechEqualsAdmin@techbirmingham.com](mailto:TechEqualsAdmin@techbirmingham.com) to connect today.

# PITCH COMPETITION



**Step into the spotlight in our pitch competition. It's a unique chance to present your business idea, receive constructive feedback, and compete for prizes.**

Companies selected to compete in the pitch competition may choose to receive a free one-hour pitch coaching session.

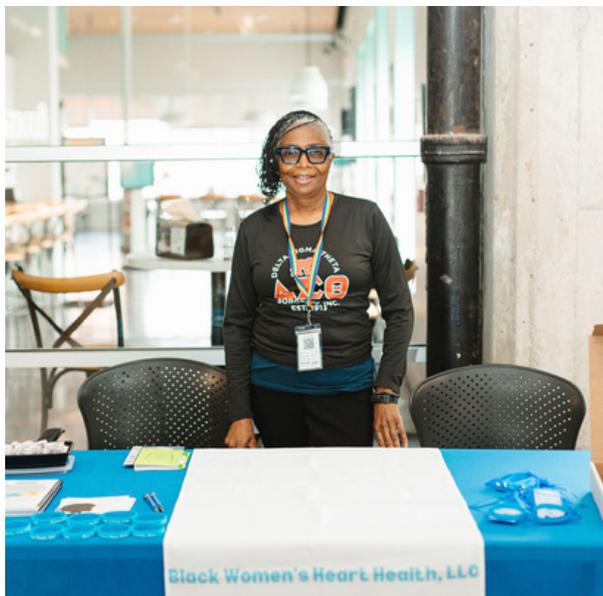
Competition Eligibility Requirements:

- Headquarters and operations based in Alabama
- At least 1 owner identifies as LGBTQ+
- This competition is for early-stage entrepreneurs: Maximum annual revenue \$250k, Maximum number of employees 10, Maximum equity or grant financing: \$500k, Businesses must be younger than 7 years old.

# VENDOR TABLES

## FREE VENDOR TABLES

Showcase your business for free! We provide the space, you bring your passion. Set up your vendor table, present your products or services, and connect with potential customers and partners.



### Past vendors include:

- Presently Goods
- Datavizzy
- Trunk Tea Spirit-Free Cocktails
- Black Women's Heart Health
- Splashed by DKG LLC
- The Rainbow Balloon Company

# CONTACT US



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