



MANATEE TANK
YOUTH PITCH
COMPETITION

THINKBOLD INNOVATION WORKBOOK

Welcome to the Think Bold All Access
Building Bold Ideas Youth Pitch
Development Workshop!

THINKBOLDALLACCESS.ORG

THINK BOLD INNOVATION WORKBOOK

This event is an immersive, high-energy experience designed to inspire, educate, and prepare you to become the next generation of environmental innovators and community problem-solvers.

Serving as the official Think Bold Mini experience leading into Manatee Tank: A Youth Pitch Competition for Sustainability, this workshop will introduce participants to design thinking, entrepreneurship, innovation, leadership, storytelling, and public speaking while empowering you to create bold solutions that address sustainability and resilience challenges throughout Jacksonville.

Rather than simply teaching you how to give a presentation, Think Bold will transform the room into a collaborative innovation lab where ideas are discovered, developed, tested, and elevated. Open your mind, release your innovative thoughts, meet a potential project partner and get ready to enter the launchpad for the future!



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A background image showing a diverse group of young people, mostly Black and Hispanic, at what appears to be a festival or conference. They are standing on a carpeted floor with a yellow geometric pattern. Some are wearing lanyards and badges. One young man in a white shirt and blue plaid pants is smiling and waving. Another young man in a red hoodie is looking up. A young woman in a grey cardigan is holding a yellow book. The overall atmosphere is positive and energetic.

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THINK BOLD FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE

Think Bold Festival & Conference is Jacksonville's Largest Entrepreneurship & Culture Festival, uniting the Bold City through innovation, career opportunities, and cultural celebration. Designed for entrepreneurs, students, and community members alike, the festival showcases powerful voices, hands-on workshops, and cultural experiences that inspire growth, connection, and progress for Jacksonville's future.

Join us **April 7 – 10, 2027** for the 5th Anniversary of Think Bold Festival & Conference, located at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville, in the heart of Downtown Jacksonville.

Visit Us at <https://www.thinkboldfest.com> to get more information!

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THINK BOLD ALL ACCESS ABOUT US:

At Think Bold All Access, we're dedicated to unlocking the potential of young individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 by giving them transformative real-world experiences in the music and entertainment industry.

Our mission is to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional industry settings, offering hands-on experiences that inspire and educate. We put students in real studios, real venues, and real conversations with the people who make the industry run.



MANATEE TANK – A YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION FOR SUSTAINABILITY!

The City of Jacksonville, in partnership with Jacksonville University, Jacksonville Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and Think Bold All Access, has launched "Manatee Tank: Youth Pitch Competition for Sustainability". This new initiative, which is funded by the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Fund, will empower individuals ages 15–24, as well as organizations that serve this cohort, to develop and lead projects to help strengthen Jacksonville's sustainability and resilience efforts. Jacksonville is one of 300 cities worldwide selected to participate in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund Program, receiving \$50,000-\$100,000 in funding and technical assistance.



The initiative combines education, mentorship, and civic engagement through a series of workshops, public information sessions, and project development opportunities that prepare participants to develop and implement projects. The program culminates with the Manatee Tank: Youth Pitch Competition for Sustainability on October 24 at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, where finalists will present their ideas to a panel of judges a.k.a. "Manatees" for the opportunity to receive funding and implementation support.

MANATEE TANK IMPORTANT DATES



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MANATEE TANK
A Youth Pitch Competition for Sustainability



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MANATEE TANK - YOUTH PITCH COMPETITION

Application Categories

- Trash, Litter Prevention & Community Cleanups Trees,
- Gardens, Local Food & Urban Agriculture Materials,
- Waste Reduction & Resource Recovery Wildlife, Habitat & Biodiversity
- Water Quality, Conservation & Healthy Waterways
- Buildings, Energy Conservation & Efficiency
- Environmental Art, Film & Creative Projects
- Bikes, Buses, Transportation & Mobility
- Extreme Weather, Flooding, Community Resilience &
- Preparedness

A microgrant project must:

- Be proposed, designed, and led by at least two young people aged 15–24
- Align with the priorities outlined in the Resilient Jacksonville &/or Clean Air NE Florida Regional Plan
- Be completed by Thursday, April 15, 2027
- Operate within a budget of \$1,000 – \$5,000 using eligible expenses
- Focus on youth leadership and action; equipment and infrastructure costs should not exceed 50% of the project budget

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PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

ALL projects MUST meet the minimum eligibility requirements for the Youth Climate Action Fund. You must be able to answer yes to all nine questions.

01

IS THE APPLICANT AN ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION?

Eligible organizations are youth-led organizations (e.g. youth clubs or groups), youth-serving organizations (adult-led organizations that support young people), and sponsor organizations (e.g. city agencies, educational institutions, museums, or community organizations).

02

DOES THE ENTITY HAVE FORMAL INCORPORATION OR STATUS, A BANK ACCOUNT IN ITS NAME, AND THE ABILITY TO MANAGE THE FUNDS?

03

IS THE ORGANIZATION A RECOGNIZED NON-PROFIT OR CHARITABLE ENTITY UNDER LOCAL LAWS (UNLESS A PUBLIC ENTITY), AND DOES IT HAVE CLEAR CHARITABLE GOALS?

Private companies, individuals, and organizations affiliated with political parties are not eligible micrograntees.

04

IS THE PROJECT YOUTH-LED?

Even when projects are administered by youth-serving or other organizations, the projects must be proposed, designed, and led by at least two individuals aged 15 to 24 who actively participate in decision-making and oversight.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY (CONT.)

05

IS THE PROJECT ALIGNED WITH THE CITY'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN OR PRIORITIES?

06

WILL THE PROJECT BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2027?

07

DOES THE APPLICATION INCLUDE A SIMPLE BUDGET SHOWING HOW FUNDS WILL BE USED?

08

ARE ALL OF THE COSTS ELIGIBLE?

Ineligible costs include: Services covered by existing city initiatives; rent or utilities; lobbying or voter-registration efforts; commercial activities; payments to government officials; nonprofit/NGO incorporation fees; speaker honorariums and speaker fees; scholarships; direct support to individuals or families, partisan political organizations, political campaigns, fundraisers, or projects; capital campaigns, endowments, or endowed chairs; events or fundraisers not related to youth climate action.

09

DO EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS REPRESENT LESS THAN 50% OF THE PROJECT'S MICROGRANT BUDGET?

Scoring Rubric Youth Pitch Competition for Sustainability

(Note taken directly from COJ documents. We can reference it accordingly)

Criteria	Scoring Details	Maximum Points
Relevance to Local Climate Action Plan	0–5 Does not address the city's climate priorities. 6–10 Addresses climate priorities but lacks a clear focus. 11–20 Directly addresses climate priorities with clear focus.	20
Role of Young People	0–5 Does not explain young people's role. 6–10 Mentions youth but lacks a clear description of how youth will lead the project. 11–20 Describes clearly how youth will be leading the project, including their roles and responsibilities.	20
Innovation	0–3 Does not come across as new or experimental. 4–6 Has some elements that are new and experimental. 7–10 The project approach is new and experimental.	10
Feasibility and planning	0–5 Does not explain how the project can be realistically completed by April 15, 2027. 6–10 Presents a plan to complete the project by April 15, 2027, but lacks a clear focus or has significant risks. 11–20 Presents a clear realistic plan to complete the project by April 15, 2027.	20
Budget	0–3 The budget is not clear 4–6 The budget raises questions 7–10 Presents a clear budget	10
Impact	0–5 Lacks explanation about impact. 6–10 Addresses impact but lacks a clear focus. 11–20 Clear explanation of impact with a clear focus. Includes at least one measurable output and one measurable outcome.	20

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EXAMPLE PROJECT IDEAS

Note taken directly from COJ documents. We can reference it accordingly)

Example Project (what happens in the project)	Example Output (what are the project activities)	Example Outcome (what happens as a result of those activities)
Organize a series of city park clean-ups	Number of youth-led clean-up events	Number of bags of trash picked up
Start a newsletter on city meetings related to sustainability	Number of youth registered for the newsletter	Number of youth attending public city government meetings
Create and distribute home rain garden kits at school	Number of rain garden kits distributed	Number of rain gardens planted
Start a collaboration to turn food waste into fertilizer pellets	Number of fertilizer pellets created	Number of pounds of food waste repurposed

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Notes

Project Ideas / Details

Potential Project Partners (Name, Phone, Email)

Potential Non-Profit Groups

Outstanding questions/concerns

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