



- Launch of Creative Tech Works Studio @ Beech** 1
- Beech Welcomes New Colleague** 1
- Tech Training Women of Color** 2
- “Jazz on the Ave”** 2
- Legacy of Black Women Award** 2
- Entrepreneurial Training for Women** 3
- Creative Tech Works Google Education Summit** 3
- Alston-Beech Foundation Grant Deadline** 3
- Deadline for Beech Scholarship Fund Approaching** 4
- Holiday Food Drive for North Philly Residents** 4
- Renovate & Repair Loan Program for Homeowners** 4

Launch of Creative Tech Works Design Studio @ Beech

Through a generous donation by the Philadelphia Foundation, Beech Community Services launched the Creative Tech Works (CTW) Design Studio at 15th & Cecil B. Moore Avenue in early January 2014. This partnership between Beech and Worcreation, LLC, is a collaboration of experts in urban STEM education, technology, design, community development, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Creative Tech Works is an exclusive design studio that also serves as a "maker space" for youth, ages 16-21 who live or attend school in North Philadelphia, and who have an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

This six-month program teaches community leadership to "Breaking the Code", design for web, mobile and interactive platforms, how to write code (Java, JavaScript), an intro to engineering and business technology start up. CTW Design Studio incorporates evidence in identity formation, motivation and skill development in a "maker space" designed to produce students who are increasingly competent using technology to meet market needs.

"We are very excited to support this project and these young people in technology and STEM," said Christine Brown, Director of Beech Community Services. "They are planning an entire event similar to the Amazing Race, but focusing on creating apps, advertising, and even wearable technology they can sell for the event to re-brand North Philadelphia. They (the CTW students) are leaders already, and Beech is happy to be at the forefront of building people with the skills and training to support their own communities."

The Race is scheduled for June 2014 and an open house to showcase the Creative Tech Works Design Studio is scheduled for March 26. More information and details about the Race and the open house are forthcoming.

Dr. Jamie Bracey, a leading expert in STEM Education, heads the Creative Tech Works Design Studio with the assistance of tech and advertising expert Anthony Howard, The Fountain Insight Studio, and Educator, Dr. Ryan Baxter, SET Education.

Beech Welcomes New Colleague

The Beech Companies welcomes Bernard Savage as the Director of Projects and Real Estate for Beech Interplex, Inc. Mr. Savage has over twenty-five years of residential and commercial real estate development experience in the Philadelphia market with a diversified knowledge of the key components required to structure the design and financing for real estate development projects. He also has sixteen-years of extensive background in the areas of architectural design, building, zoning and construction/rehabilitation cost estimating. In past years, Bernard has worked with Beech as a consultant; was formerly a member of the Board of Directors of Beech Economic Development Corporation, and was

extremely instrumental in the design of the now, Beech Interplex building. Due to Mr. Savage's expertise and knowledge of everything real estate, he has worked with a number of non profit agencies throughout Philadelphia, such as, Resources for Human Development, Philadelphia Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., Philadelphia Council for Community Advancement and the Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation, just to name a few. We are certain that Mr. Savage will bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to Beech while continuing to help in the revitalization efforts of the Cecil B. Moore community.





Beech Community Services

Featured Information

Technology Training for Women of Color

The Beech Companies hosted Step It Up America, a technology seminar sponsored by State Representative W. Curtis Thomas.

The seminar held at the Beech Interplex facility on March 7, 2014, with nearly sixty women of color attending the two-hour informational seminar that included a presentation on details of the program and remarks from Ken Scott, Beech Companies President and State Representative W. Curtis Thomas.

Step It UP America, a national program funded by UST Global, is committed to recruit, train, and employ women of color in technology careers. The program, which recently launched in Philadelphia, seeks to train and hire minority women in 10 cities throughout the nation and provide them with the technological skills to launch successful IT careers.

The long-term goal is to create 5,000 new technology careers for women of color nationwide.

"Since my background is in Engineering, said Ken Scott President of the Beech Companies, I understand why it is so valuable and necessary for women of color to be a part of this evolution in technology. It is imperative that, not only women of color but also our youth are equipped with the tools needed to compete globally in this market."

If you have a passion for technology, Step It UP America, a division of UST Global, has opportunities for talented and dedicated women interested in Information Technology, please email Andrea Thornton, andrea.thornton@ust-global.com.

New hires will participate in a paid 12-week hands-on-training program.

Legacy of Black Women Award

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. – PA Chapter (NCBW-PA) hosted its 28th Annual Madam CJ Walker Awards Luncheon on Saturday, March 1, at the Loews Philadelphia hotel. This annual event is the largest fundraiser for the NCBW-PA, which highlights women business owners for their contribution to economic and community development. In addition, each year, the organization provides three scholarships to African American female students. The two-part event began with a complimentary Economic Development Seminar. Panelists shared their expertise on ways to advance in business. After the Seminar, over 600 amazing women attended the Awards Luncheon where they honored a woman community leader with the PECO Power to the Community Award and provided three scholarships to African American female students who are continuing their education.

Ken Scott, Beech President, was on-hand to award each scholarship

"Jazz on the Ave"

Save the date! "Jazz on the Ave" is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th at Broad & Cecil B. Moore Avenue from 12-7:30 PM. The rain date is Sunday, August 17.

This year's event will be hosted by Patty Jackson of WDAS, and will include live entertainment, health and wellness screenings, children's activities, document shredding, merchandise and food vendors, information tables, and more. Vending space is available.

For more information please call (215) 763-8868.



recipient with a \$1,500 scholarship along with a lap top computer. The scholarship recipients are Teonnoa McCurry, Brittany Paris and Leslie Adeoyey.

"For centuries, African American women have served as advocates and worked hard to uplift and empower one another," states Shalimar Thomas, Chair of this year's award luncheon. "This year, we have the opportunity to pay tribute to the women of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., and so many others who continue to lead for the sake of the impact and sustainability."

This year's Madam C.J. Walker Award winner was Zina Johnson of Hair 4 U Salon; second runner up was Teresa Watkins, Principal, Time Sweet Time, LLC; and the first runner up was Sharon Hackney Robinson, CEO, ME & The Girls Alternative Skin Care, LLC.

March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture, and society. The Beech Companies would like to salute and show appreciation to all the amazing women who have or are making a contribution to women's history by being trailblazers for equality, justice, and women's rights.



Community

Beech Community Services

Entrepreneurial Training for Women

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) fosters the development and retention of successful businesses by delivering resources that enable individuals to start new businesses and grow existing ones. While the center is dedicated to the economic empowerment of women, the services are open to all individuals.

WBDC offers a comprehensive menu of entrepreneurial education, training, counseling, networking programs and services, access to capital, and women's business enterprise certification.

Entrepreneurial Training: Offers a 10-week start-up business plan course, a 5-week start-up program, 2-hour workshops, a 10-week

business growth series, and a 1-day strategic planning session for established businesses.

WBDC offers online classes for you and your employees in the areas of starting your own business, accounting & finance, business communication, web technology, management & leadership, marketing & sales, non-profit & grant writing, and computer training. Please visit www.ed2go.com/wbdonline or call 877-790-9232 for more information. Information on current programs and services, please call 215-790-9232; send an email to info@womensbdc.org; visit the website at www.wpmensbdc.org.

Creative Tech Works Students Host Google in Education Summit

The students of CTW Design Studio hosted and presented at the first annual Google in Education Summit in Philadelphia at Alter Hall on Temple University's campus on March 1 and March 2. The event attracted nearly 150 teachers and specialists eager to gain free and low cost information to help students in urban districts improve in school. The all-day workshops were led by Google certified experts, who provided training on everything from going "paperless" with learning management systems, to new apps to grade papers using voice messages, to teaching site word vocabulary using augmented reality. A unique highlight of the Google Summit was the "Breaking the Code" Institute, a series of workshops on strategies to help educators blend culture, technology, and cognition. Produced by Aisha Winfield, founder of Jr. Music Executive, presenters included Anthony Howard of The Fountain Insight Studio, Vashti Dubois from Advocate Center for Culture and Education, youth advocate and educator, Bunmi Samuels, Charlyn Samuels of Sanctuary Wholistic Arts, and Christopher Rogers, who is leading the Connected Learning Initiative in Philadelphia.

"From neuro-headsets to the technology of yoga, we can begin creating learning environments that respect diversity in how the brain receives and processes information, especially for minority children," said Dr. Jamie Brace, who led a workshop on culture and the brain.

Alston-Beech Foundation Grant Deadline Quickly Approaching

The deadline to apply for the 2014 Alston-Beech Foundation (ABF) grant is April 1, 2014.



Each year, the Alston-Beech Foundation awards up to \$2000 grants to local non-profit organizations. Businesses like the African-American Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Fleisher Art Memorial, Mother's In Charge, Inc. and Teenshop, Inc. benefit from this award in efforts to compliment and foster revitalization efforts in the North Central Philadelphia community. This includes programming that ranges from entrepreneurship development, financial literacy, educational excellence and sporting programs.

To be eligible for the ABF grant, organizations must be incorporated and classified as tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code and as public charities, under section 509 (a) of that code. For-profit organizations and individuals are not eligible for funding. For the complete list of requirements, proposal instructions and application, organizations should visit www.beechinterplex.com/alston-beechfoundation.asp.

Since 2006, the Alston-Beech Foundation has provided grants to support its mission. Past ABF award recipients include: **Affordable Housing Centers of Pennsylvania**, **African American Chamber of Commerce**, **Art Sanctuary**, **Blackhawks Athletic Club, Inc.**, **Fleisher Art Memorial**, **North Central Victim Services**, **North City Congress**, **Philadelphia Club of Frontiers International, Inc.**, **Strawberry Mansion Neighborhood Action Center**, **Teenshop, Inc.**, and **Youth-Starz Ministries**.

Cecil B. Moore Community Times



Beech Community Services

Featured Information

Deadline for Beech Scholarship Funds Approaching

\$1,000 Grants Available for Temple-Bound Students.

The deadline for students to apply for the Beech Scholarship Fund is May 2, 2014.

Established by Beech Companies in honor of Dr. Bernard C. Watson, John C. Haas, F. Otto Haas, Floyd W. Alston and Robert W. Smith, the Beech Scholarship Fund provides \$1,000 to five deserving students attending Temple University for the fall 2014 academic semester.

Students applying for the scholarship must intend to major in business, arts, engineering, education or liberal arts, and have a grade point average of 2.75 or higher. For a complete list of requirements, students should visit www.beechinterplex.com/bcs_scholarship.asp. Past Beech Scholarship recipients include:

- Denisha Robinson
- Imani Glenn
- Anh To
- Gabriel Nieto
- Camille Griggs
- Amrita Joseph-Morris
- Janelle Moody
- Tre Thomas

In addition to academic scholarships, Beech also provides housing scholarships for Oxford Village and the Beech International Complex.

For additional housing information, please visit www.oxfordvillageapts.com or call 877-396-6165.

Renovate & Repair Loan Program for Homeowners

The Renovate & Repair Loan Program offers guidance and financing to help improve and maintain your home. The program is provided through a collaboration between PHFA and local housing organizations across Pennsylvania.

R&R Borrower Benefits:

- Help with assessing home repairs and how much those repairs should cost
- Help with finding and selecting qualified and reputable contractors
- 10, 15, 20 year fixed rate loan options
- Borrow up to \$35,000 or 120% of the home's value
- PHFA pays most fees for eligible borrowers

- PHFA fully services the loan
- No prepayment penalty

R&R Borrower Requirements:

- Currently own the home or be in process of purchasing it
- Household income within program limitations - \$90,000 or more depending on location
- Satisfactory credit (typically 620+)
- Adequate income to support monthly loan payments
- Interest in repairing and improving their primary residence

For additional information visit PHFA's website at www.phfa.org or call 1-800-822-1174.



Cecil B. Moore Community Times is published by
Beech Community Services.
Publisher: Christine Brown, Director of Beech Community Services
President/CEO of The Beech Companies: Kenneth Scott

www.beechinterplex.com

Holiday Food Drive for North Philly Residents

Beech sponsored its annual holiday food drive for residents of the North Philadelphia area for the 2013 holiday season. Nearly one-hundred families were given food which was distributed by the West Girard Community Council and the Temple of Praise Baptist Church.

The West Girard Community Council is an area food bank that distributes food to residents in the North Philadelphia community. The organization survives primarily through donations from foundations, donors, and community residents. If you are interested in donating to the organization, you may contact Robert Seabury, westgirardcc@gmail.com.

A special thank you to the North City Congress Seniors and Arthur Fennell for their generous donation to the food drive.