

HI Hub incubator

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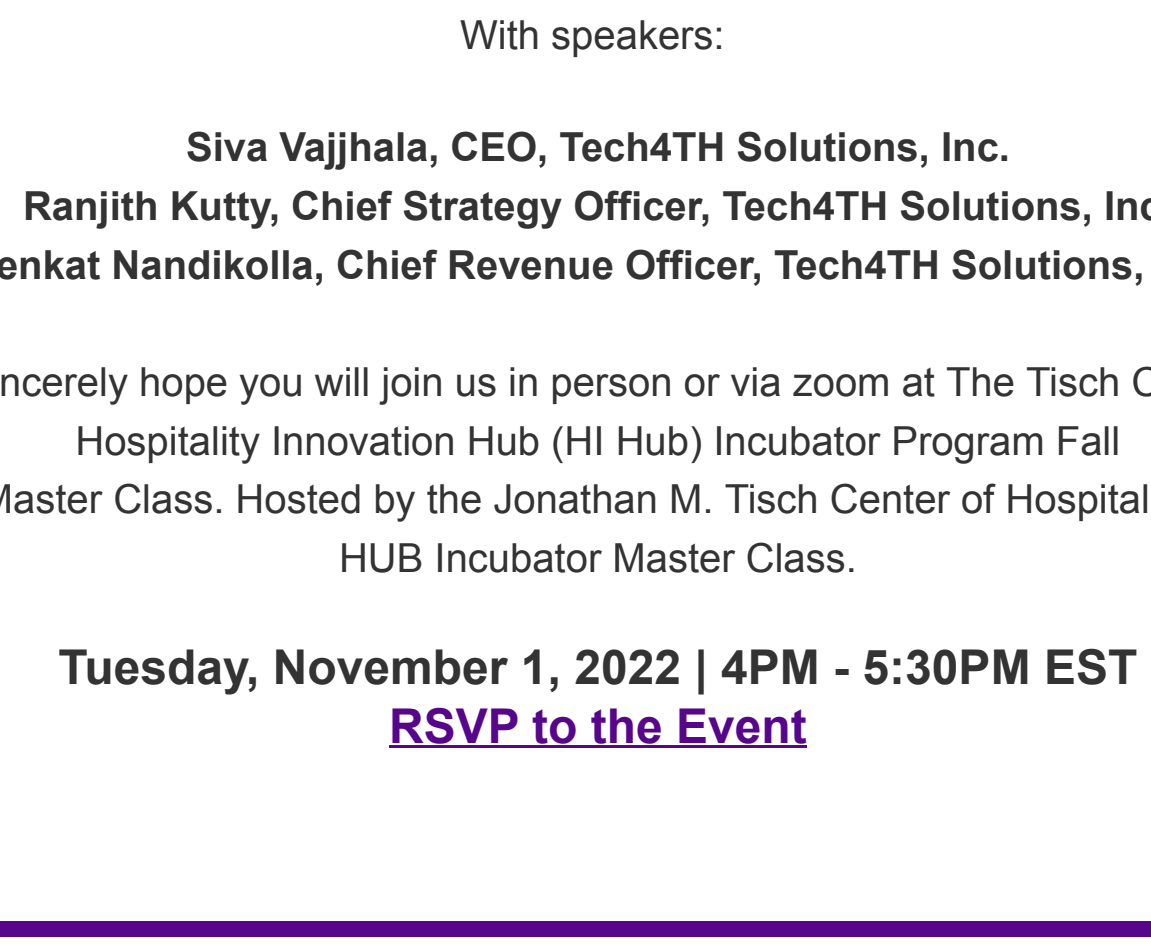
October 2022

Dear Mentors, Investors, and Entrepreneurship Students,

Welcome to the October edition of the HI Hub Incubator Monthly Newsletter! With the Fall semester underway, we are excited to introduce six new cohorts taking part in the Hospitality Innovation Hub Program: Anonymous Agent, Cultura, Eunimy Event, Gulch, Powdrinks, and Shred NY. Join us on Pitch Day, December 20th, to hear each team pitch their ideas and find out who will be awarded the prizes this semester!

We hope you enjoy the exciting news and events we have to share with you this month!

- Dr. K



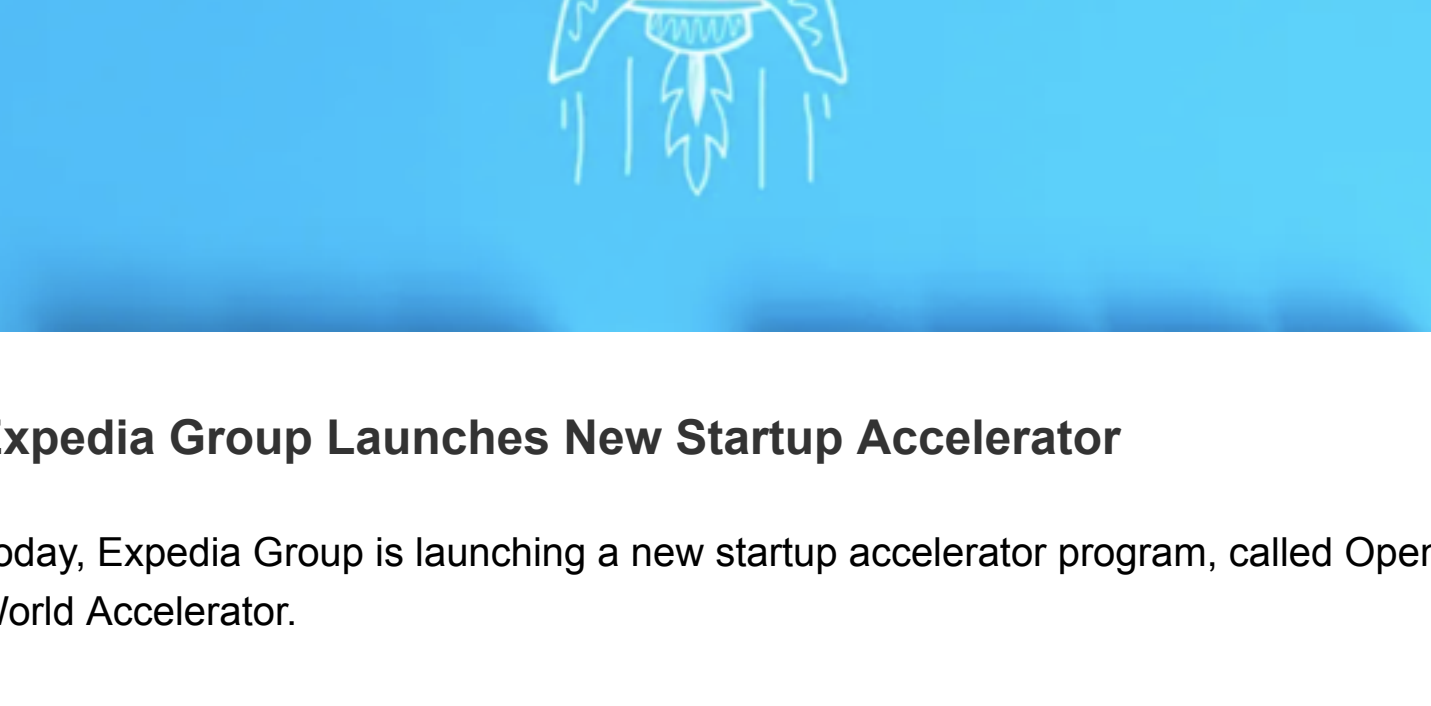
Engage, Surprise, & Delight—Reimagine Guest eXperience (GX) using AI

With speakers:

Siva Vajjhala, CEO, Tech4TH Solutions, Inc.
Ranjith Kutty, Chief Strategy Officer, Tech4TH Solutions, Inc.
Venkat Nandikolla, Chief Revenue Officer, Tech4TH Solutions, Inc.

We sincerely hope you will join us in person or via zoom at The Tisch Center of Hospitality Innovation Hub (HI Hub) Incubator Program Fall 2022 Master Class. Hosted by the Jonathan M. Tisch Center of Hospitality, the HI HUB Incubator Master Class.

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 | 4PM - 5:30PM EST
[RSVP to the Event](#)

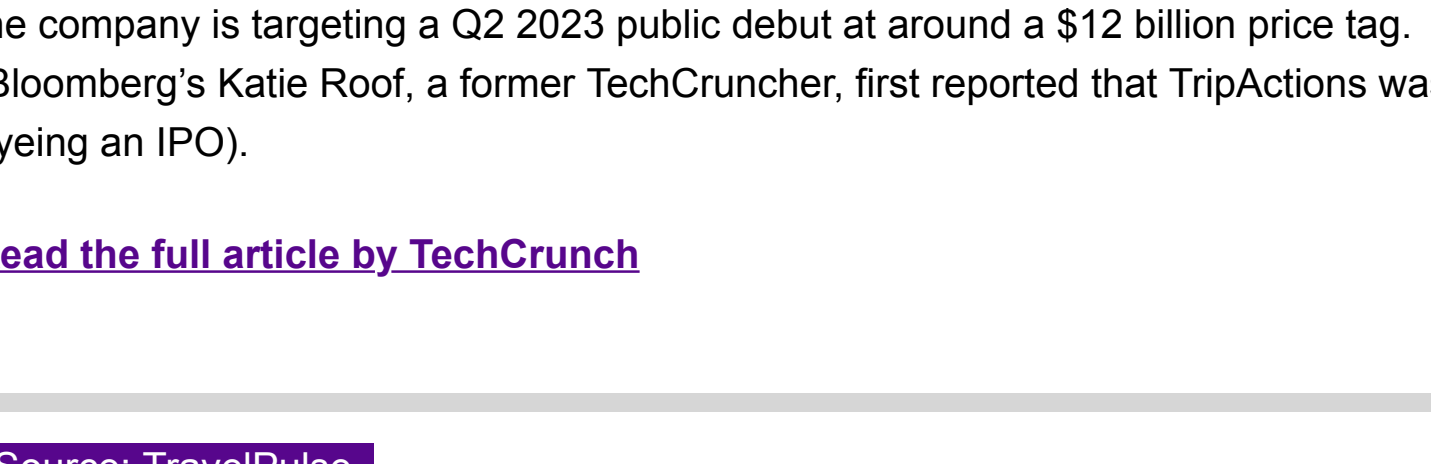


PITCH YOUR PASSION DAY! SEAL THE DEAL!

NYU SPS Tisch Center of Hospitality HI HUB Incubator Pitch Contest is based on the Elevator Pitch concept, popular in the venture capital community. It is an extremely concise presentation of an entrepreneur's idea, business model, marketing strategy, competitive analysis, and financial plan, which is delivered to potential investors. The premise is that it could be made in a few minutes, should the entrepreneur spot a potential investor on an elevator and have the opportunity to pitch their idea during the brief ride.

Each of the six finalists will have exactly 8 minutes to pitch their venture ideas in person or via zoom to a distinguished panel of judges in alphabetical order for companies' names.

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 | 11AM - 1PM EST
[RSVP to the Event](#)



Expedia Group Launches New Startup Accelerator

Today, Expedia Group is launching a new startup accelerator program, called Open World Accelerator.

The initiative builds on the online travel giant's Open World vision - first introduced at the company's 2022 Explore partner event - which is anchored by the Open World technology platform designed for partners of all sizes to leverage and configure products and services.

[Read the full article by PhocusWire](#)



The Upcoming TripActions IPO has us Hype

The IPO market is still frozen like a Nordic lake dotted with fishing huts, but there are signs that a thaw is now in sight.

News from Insider indicates that TripActions, a unicorn in the corporate travel and expense category, has filed confidential paperwork to go public. Per the publication, the company is targeting a Q2 2023 public debut at around a \$12 billion price tag. (Bloomberg's Katie Roof, a former TechCruncher, first reported that TripActions was eyeing an IPO).

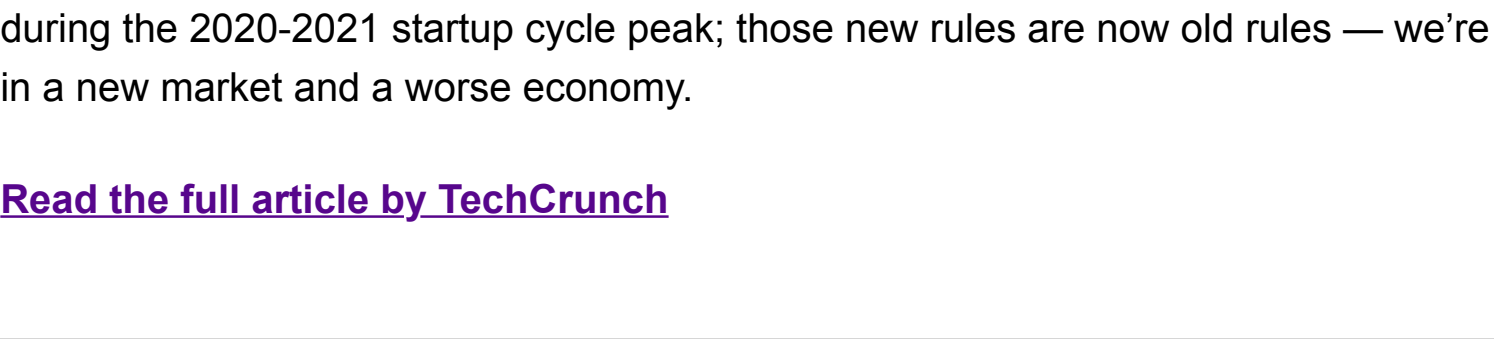
[Read the full article by TechCrunch](#)



CLEAR Enters Hotel Industry Through Partnership With Virdee

After helping make traveling through airports easier than ever, secure identity company CLEAR has entered the hotel and resorts industry through a partnership with hospitality startup Virdee.

[Read the full article by TravelPulse](#)



Steve Case's Road Trips Across America Reveal the Promise of Startups for Cities

AOL co-founder Steve Case never lost his passion for startups. His new book reminds us that innovation can thrive anywhere in America outside of New York and Silicon Valley and help reimagine U.S. cities big and small. Take note, travel industry.

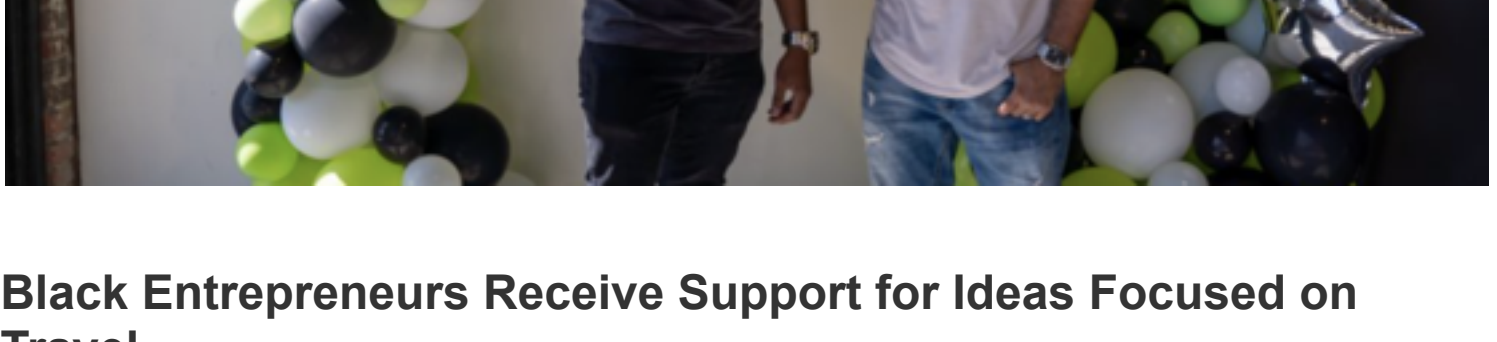
[Read the full article by Skiff](#)



UAE's MetaFi Raises \$3 million in Capital

UAE-based startup MetaFi recently garnered \$3M in funding from DoublePeak Group, Maven Capital, OKX Blockdream Ventures, Megala Ventures, Magnus Capital, Legion Ventures, SL2 Capital, X21 Digital, Good Games Guild, MetaGaming Guild, Mintable Go! Fund, and Athena Ventures. Matt Danilaitis founded MetaFi earlier this year, and it delivers a full range of services for non-fungible tokens (NFT) and decentralized finance (DeFi) spanning the metaverse, Gamefi, SocialFi, and Web3.

[Read the full article by Startup MGZN](#)



Black Entrepreneurs Receive Support for Ideas Focused on Travel

Global accelerator program Techstars is no stranger to the travel industry, having backed a range of startups, from corporate tool TapTrip to outdoor travel search site Sekr.

Now it has partnered with Build in Tulsa, whose mission is to "build the infrastructure for Black multi-generational wealth creation," to launch a new program that focuses on minority entrepreneurs.

[Read the full article by Skiff](#)

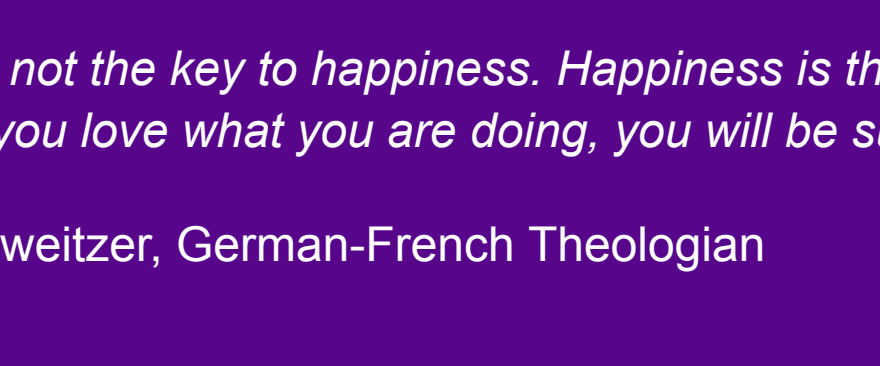


Marriott's Web3 Strategy Explained: 'It's about amplifying v replacing'

In late 2021, as the grip of the pandemic began to slacken, Marriott International was in need of a spark – something that would reignite a passion for travel among an audience that, for much of the previous two years, had been living under lockdown.

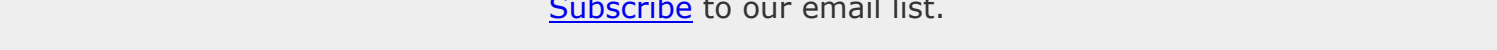
It found such a spark in web3. The metaverse – a three-dimensional, interactive virtual ecosystem containing a vast and growing number of specific experiences – is just one manifestation of web3, which, as the name suggests, is a term used to describe what's envisioned as the next evolutionary stage of the internet.

[Read the full article by The Drum](#)



Join team Gulch!

Gulch is a real-estate tech company that manufactures modular, high-tech, and customizable housing units. The product is like a huge version of Lego that lets customers build their own affordable, environment-friendly houses. If you are interested in joining the team or just simply interested in huge Lego, contact founder Zihan Yan at yzhans09@gmail.com.



"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

- Albert Schweitzer, German-French Theologian