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## **DESIGNxRI accepting applications for statewide Design Catalyst Program - deadline May 12**

May 10, 2024 - Rhode Island

Providence, RI DESIGNxRI, the leading organization for design advocacy and support in Rhode Island, is accepting applications for the Design Catalyst Program. The deadline for applications is May 12, 2024. Originally launched in Providence with funding from the city, the program has grown to encompass the entire state, reflecting DESIGNxRI's commitment to fostering creativity and innovation across Rhode Island. This ninth cohort will have the in-person sessions operating out of Innovate Newport for the first time.

The Design Catalyst Program, which began in 2015, aims to empower small creative businesses in Rhode Island, particularly those owned by individuals residing in low to moderate income households. Through a comprehensive six-month curriculum, participants receive invaluable resources and support to strengthen their small creative and design driven businesses.

Key components of the program include:

**Business Mentorship:** Expert guidance to navigate the intricacies of business development.

**Professional Development Intensives:** Tailored workshops and sessions to enhance entrepreneurial skills.

**Peer-to-Peer Networking:** Opportunities to connect and collaborate with fellow creatives.

**Seed Capital:** Financial support to kickstart business initiatives.

The deadline for applications is May 12, 2024.

In the current cohort, DESIGNxRI proudly supports 10 businesses, collectively providing \$172,000 in seed funding. While the exact grant amounts for the upcoming cohort are yet to be confirmed, DESIGNxRI remains dedicated to ensuring that eligible creative and design businesses across Rhode Island are aware of this invaluable opportunity.

"We are thrilled to bring back the Design Catalyst Program for a second round this year," said Rue Sakayama, co-director at DESIGNxRI. "Being able to extend this level of support to small creative businesses across Rhode Island is truly a milestone for us."

DESIGNxRI invites all eligible creative and design businesses in Rhode Island to apply for the Design Catalyst Program and take advantage of this opportunity for growth and development.

To learn more about the program, including full eligibility requirements and how to apply, visit the DESIGNxRI website.([www.designxri.com/learn/design-catalyst/](http://www.designxri.com/learn/design-catalyst/)) Application review occurs through the Catalyst steering committee, led by DESIGNxRI. Applications will be accepted through May 12, 2024.

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