The Finalists in The 2023 Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., who pledged during his 2022 State of the Borough address to make Queens a leading hub of innovation and technology, and the Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC) today announced the 15 finalists of the 2023 Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge (QTIC), a multi-month competition for borough-based entrepreneurs in search of funding to either launch or grow their startups.

Over the course of QTIC, several dozen participants took entrepreneurial classes, participated in one-on-one mentorship opportunities, and attended networking events to develop their pitches. They received technical assistance and training on such business topics as operations, marketing, and financial statements, while also enjoying access to advice from experts.

A total of 44 teams submitted business plans to the judges in five categories. From this pool, the judges chose the 15 finalists listed below.



QTIC 2023 finalists stand with Deputy Borough President Ebony Young (extreme left) and QEDC Executive Director Seth Bornstein (extreme right) at the Museum of the Moving Image on Wednesday, March 29.

The Consumer Tech finalists are Gean Martinez and Alexander Miles of Breakthru, a learn-2-earn platform for youth to engage with companies; Charles Medenilla of ChipedIn, a Crowdgifting platform that purchases gifts via wish lists; and Marfry Hernandez of Zion Quest, a multimedia app for digital creators and digital explorers to coexist.

In the Enterprise Tech division, Jiahui Lu and Feargal O'Sullivan of Sales Slice, a software-as-a-service business that provides

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Queens Artist Clare Stokolosa Featured at Islip Arts Council Exhibit For Women's History Month



Gardens to Seasides watercolor works of landscapes and coastlines are on display through April 11 at Islip Arts Council Gallery at the South Shore Mall in Bay Shore, Long Island

Clare Stokolosa is the featured artist for women's history month at the Islip Arts Council Gallery at the South Shore Mall with watercolor paintings of Gardens to Seasides.

"Clare takes viewers on an adventure from scenes of Italy to Queens, New York," says Katrina Kuan, curator of the exhibit and Gallery Administrator at IAC. Clare's original landscape and seascape paintings are for sale with part of proceeds supporting IAC.

In her travels to local gardens, hillsides of Tuscany, and coastlines of Sicily and the Caribbean, the paintings invoke a feeling of openness. "I intend to bring the natural world indoors to inspire viewers and create calming spaces for all to enjoy," says Clare.

The Garden to Seasides exhibit at IAC, a mostly female-led organization, celebrates women's history month with achievements and talents of local artists, authors and performers. Clare presently spends her time painting in her studio in Long Island City, New York and in the Tuscan town of Cortona, Italy. In June, she conducted a watercolor workshop and tour in Castellmare del Golfo overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea in Sicily.

Gardens to Seasides is on display through April 11.

IAC Gallery is next to Dick's Sporting Goods, is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 11am - 4pm, and closed Sunday and Monday. A reception for the exhibit will be on March 31 at the Gallery from 6 to 8pm.

For more information on Clare's Gardens to Seasides Exhibit contact artist Clare Stokolosa or Clare at cstokolosa@gmail.com or on InstaGram @clarestokolosa or MaryAnn Busso, publicist, Content in Context, matsjvb93@gmail.com

Warmest wishes to all who celebrate Passover, Easter and Ramadan. Stay healthy and safe.



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