

Hello Ion Community,

As we kick off 2022, The Ion team is excited to share a few 2021 highlights. The Ion exists to foster a community where entrepreneurs, investors, corporate innovators, academics, and community organizations, come together to build Houston's future.

We look forward to seeing you in 2022!

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### **Entrepreneurs**

- The Ion successfully promoted 15 startups to pitch at three global pitching competitions in 2021.
- The Ion hosted/co-hosted 50 startups pitching in 15 different pitch events at The Ion in 2021.
- The Ion Accelerator Hub launched the [Aerospace Innovation Accelerator for Minority Business Enterprises](#).

### **Investors**

- We welcomed [HX Venture Fund](#), [Urban Capital Network](#), and [Houston Angel Network \(HAN\)](#) to The Ion.
- We completed the buildout of The Ion Investor Studio in 2021. It will be open to investors in early 2022.

### **Corporate innovators**

- Chevron officially opened their space here at The Ion and became our first tenant, utilizing their space for meetings, events, and hosting Chevron C-suite events.
- Baker Botts joined as a Founding Partner of The Ion and hosted free office hours for our community members. In addition, their first innovation summit at The Ion drew in over 300 people.
- Microsoft completed their buildout and opened the doors for limited access to their state-of-the-art, [25,000 square-foot office in The Ion](#).

### **Community partners/programs**

- [Common Desk at The Ion](#) opened its doors on August 16, 2021, and welcomed the Houston startup community.

- We signed on programming partners that will call The Ion their home in Houston, including [DivInc](#), [TXRX](#), [LatinX Startup Alliance](#), [Urban Capital Network](#), [SUPERGirls SHINE Foundation](#), to name a few, and more to come!
- A joint [partnership](#) with Capital Factory was born, which will, in turn, provide more programming to The Ion community.

### **Academic partners**

- The Ion hosted the inaugural BIG IDEAS Summit with three teams addressing [Houston Vision Zero](#).
- We launched How Things Work, a monthly meetup for entrepreneurs, professionals, city officials, faculty and students, and members of The Ion Academic Network to collaborate.

### **Ecosystem**

- Despite the ups and downs from COVID during 2021, we hosted 100 events and engaged over 4,000 in our ecosystem.
- The announcement of highly anticipated restaurants and a taproom opening at The Ion, including [Common Bond](#), [Late August](#), [Stuff'd](#), [The Lymbar](#), and [Second Draught](#).

With even brighter days on the horizon, we are excited for what 2022 has in store for Houston. We will be welcoming new startups into our accelerator programs (you can [apply](#) until February 7, 2022), launch a workforce development program, formally open The Ion Prototyping Lab and The Ion Investor Studio, to name a few things we have brewing. Make sure you sign up to get our newsletter and follow us on social media to stay informed of these and many more events to be added in the coming year. On behalf of The Ion team, best wishes for your continued health, growth, and success, and a very happy new year.

[Subscribe to our newsletter!](#)

### **Thank You Ion Founding Partners**

- Chevron
- Microsoft
- Baker Botts

### **Thank You Ion Affiliate Partners**

- BP
- Maersk Drilling
- Intel