The Ion Teams Up With Austin’s Constellation Dinners to Launch New Networking Dinner Program

Houston’s startups and investors now have access to matchmaking style dinner program

HOUSTON, September 1, 2022 - The Ion, Houston’s innovation hub, and Astronomic, an Austin-based tech-enabled networking platform, are launching Astronomic’s first Houston-based programming in the form of its Constellation Dinner series. Together, the organizations will tap their networks and resources to kick off programming and boost sign-ups for Constellation’s networking focused dinner program, whose main audience is founders, CEOs, and investors looking for knowledge-sharing, connection-making, and camaraderie.

Ion Constellation Dinners match local founders and business owners by industry, business type, revenue stage, and growth goals for spirited topical discussions over a delicious meal. Its mission is for participants to leave as new friends and with a broadened perspective on strategies that other founders have used to scale their businesses. It launched in Austin late last year and Dallas earlier this year. Thus far, over 1,200 startups and founders have participated in over 300 dinners. Its Houston-focused programming kicks off September 6, with an out-of-the-box dinner, an Astros Game at Minute Maid Park, sponsored by Perkins Coie.

“The entrepreneurial journey is often lonesome,” according to Astronomic CEO & Founder Chris Beaman, a former startup CEO himself. “It’s difficult to meet relevant founders and investors. Constellation Dinners solves that while also creating a mechanism to meet new people relevantly and intimately. Our collective hope is that this program helps founders and investors feel more communal and connected.”

The Ion became involved with Astronomic after looking for a new partner who could further support the founders and CEOs in its ecosystem. Astronomic’s programming not only complements the Ion’s offering but the company was also looking to expand into Houston with an established entity and platform such as the Ion’s. Together, the Ion and Astronomic will further build its programming portfolios and create meaningful connections for Houston-Galveston area founders and innovators to grow their organizations.

“How much of the Ion’s programming, the Constellation dinner program lends itself to spirited discussion with innovators and business leaders on business topics that are meant to broaden horizons and disrupt the technology industry,” said Jan E. Odegard, Executive Director of the Ion. “This partnership is a natural fit and is a win-win impact partnership that lands in Houston-Galveston at a time when both the Ion and Houston’s technology and innovation industries are ready to scale and achieve new growth.”

How It Works:

- Guest lists are curated by industry, business type, revenue stage, demographics, and growth goals.
- Recent dinners have included focuses on:
  - Women founders
  - BIPOC entrepreneurs
  - LGBTQIA+ leaders
  - Small businesses
Most dinners are limited to 6 participants
- Minimal financial commitment - participants join the program for a nominal fee which the Ion is sponsoring the first six months; restaurant selections are always affordable and guests split checks
- Groups and dinner locations are curated by software that Astronomic built; restaurants located in the Ion will also be part of the rotation as they open
- For more information and to sign-up for access to dinner invites, please visit: https://bit.ly/constellationdinners.

Testimonial: As entrepreneur Chris Rumpf said, “As an introvert, most networking opportunities are just lost on me, I found so much joy in meeting you all!”

About the Ion: The Ion anchors a 16-acre innovation district, the epicenter for Houston’s innovation ecosystem, as an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant, and dense hub focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations, academics, and the Houston community. The 266,000-square-foot building accommodates multiple uses, including class-A office space, shared workspace, prototyping and maker resources, event space, classrooms, food and beverage offerings, as well as indoor/outdoor communal areas with shared amenities. For more information, please visit ionhouston.com.

About Constellation Dinners and the Astronomic Network: Astronomic Network was created by a group of business owners in Austin, Texas, with the goal of bridging the gaps in broader founder communities to find fellow entrepreneurs in our orbit. Its mission is to craft a collaborative model centered on small-group masterminds that empowers team-building, empathy, and accountability, while helping fellow business owners achieve goals, make a community impact, and fulfill their mission. Its hallmark programs include Fast Track, Moonshots and Constellations Dinners. For more information visit: https://www.astronomic.network/#about_us.