1776
WHERE REVOLUTIONS BEGIN

Habitat 3

October 2016
1776 is a **global startup hub** and **seed fund** supporting startups tackling critical world challenges in highly regulated sectors. Our program is headquartered in DC, but we’re a *global* hub with locations in San Francisco, Dubai, New York City, and Arlington, VA.
Launched in April 2013, we have grown to include 450+ member startups.
1776 focuses on supporting startups in huge sectors that directly affect people’s lives worldwide. We believe these sectors are ripe for innovation.
Today there are unique opportunities to disrupt these industries, and entrepreneurs are now equipped to transform entire fields.
However, these challenges are often harder to solve than those of consumer-facing sectors...

**Few early adopters**

**Risk-averse industries**

**Regulatory complexity**

**Scaling challenges**
To overcome these challenges, 1776 makes a variety of resources available to startups, including a curriculum of classes, a $12.5 million seed fund, coworking spaces, a media platform, events areas, and a network of hundreds of mentors worldwide.
We host over 2,000 visitors each week, including President Obama, Prime Minister David Cameron, and dozens of Fortune 500 CEOs. The visibility that these visitors provide member startups is invaluable.
All prospective members must submit an application to work at 1776, and only those building potentially scalable businesses are accepted. Member entrepreneurs have access to daily one-on-one office hours with mentors, as well as curriculum classes on topics like Customer Segmentation and Pitching Hospitals.
Our smart cities and transportation startups benefit from a unique network of mentors—mayors like Tom Bates (Berkley) and Dave Bieter (Boise), business leaders like Trish Plonski (Xerox) and Rachel Holt (Uber), and industry experts like Nigel Jacob (New Urban Mechanics) and Scott Kubly (Seattle DOT).
1776 offers classes, workshops, and mentor office hours to startups anywhere in the world through Union, our online platform.
As the lead for 1776’s work in smart cities and transportation, I work especially closely with our member startups who are focused on challenges including urban mobility, homelessness, and electric vehicles.
Over 100 of 1776’s member startups fit into these sectors.
Even devoted public servants struggle to find innovative startups that can improve people’s lives. 1776 helps them by being a trusted curator—especially for senior officials who can empower their teams to take risks. At the same time, entrepreneurs want to avoid boiling the ocean in their search for a mayor or transit director who could be excited about their innovation. 1776 can help focus their outreach.
City leaders are eager to engage with 1776 startups to help them achieve goals like sustainability, inclusive economic development, and a more efficient urban mobility network. Working with the US Department of Transportation through their Smart City Challenge, 1776 gathered transportation leaders from 40 cities to meet a dozen mobility startups and consider ways that startups and cities can best collaborate.
Meet Matt from TransitScreen. Matt and his team built a wayfinding tool that helps city residents find the most convenient mode of transportation in real time from any fixed location. TransitScreen can help urban residents feel more comfortable leaving their car at home— and help cities become multimodal.
Meet Jason from EverCharge. His company allows residents of multifamily housing to utilize electric car chargers. EverCharge’s technology can help urban residents transition to a zero-emissions vehicle, thereby allowing cities to reduce pollution.
Meet Joseph from Ridescout. Joseph and his team built a mobile app that aggregates all modes of ground transportation within a city and allows users to quickly plan their trips. Ridescout is a handy tool to make it easy to bike or use rideshare.
1776 connected Joseph with Emeka Moneme, the former Director of Transportation for DC. His response? “Why isn’t the city distributing your app and paying for the data?” So Moneme built that relationship for the company. RideScout was acquired in 2014 by German car giant Daimler.
Parting Thoughts

Cities that establish a “front door” for entrepreneurs will have an easier time attracting startups.

Startups may not require any city funding to help achieve urban goals around sustainability or mobility.

Startup curation is key, but so is risk tolerance.
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