



*Wild*

**WILD ACCELERATOR:  
2025 IMPACT  
REPORT.**

Building bold futures with founders who refuse to be overlooked.



# WHAT A YEAR!

## THE YEAR OF WILD ACADEMY...AND THEN SOME.

2025 was the year so much of what Wild Accelerator had been dreaming up, scheming, and building for years prior came to be.

2024 was spent developing our curriculum for Wild Academy, a 6 week virtual course designed to guide participants through the early stages of business development in a structured yet flexible format and in January of 2025 we launched our pilot cohort! One more cohort in Spring 2025 followed and by the time those 6 weeks wrapped, we knew we had something big. Wild Academy alumni ended the program with clear next steps for their startups—equipped with tools and a strategic decision framework helping them navigate whether to grow and scale their business, pivot, or kill it and move on.

Our small, but mighty team celebrated this massive win, paused, and then took our own teaching to heart and made a strategic decision to pivot Wild Academy into a truly scalable format. Fueled by an invigorating brand overhaul engineered by our friends at Kale&Flax, we spent the second half of 2025 reformatting Wild Academy into a proprietary online learning platform complete with an overhauled course library for focused learning, customized learning paths, and our personal favorite—Willi, the AI companion/mentor/cheerleader you didn't know you needed, and so much more.

Wild is heading into 2026 ready for Wild Academy to be the launchpad for bold founders, anytime, anywhere. No gatekeeping. There's even more planned for 2026, but first thank you for being a Wild supporter.

Here's to an incredible year!

# THE *Wild* BOARD & TEAM.



**NATALIA BISHOP**  
BOARD CHAIR



**TARIK NALLY**  
BOARD MEMBER



**KELA IVONYE**  
BOARD MEMBER



**ELISE WELSH**  
PROGRAM MANAGER



**LOURDES ROSILLO**  
VOLUNTEER



**FRANKLIN DE LA ROSA**  
AI PRODUCT ENGINEER



**EIRENE ROSILLO**  
SOCIAL MEDIA & DESIGN  
VOLUNTEER

# 2025 IN REVIEW.



## JANUARY – FEBRUARY

Launched the pilot cohort of Wild Academy with partners from Simmons College of Kentucky & the University of Memphis.

## MAY – JUNE

Spring Cohort of Wild Academy launched with founders from the Louisville Urban League, The Well Incubator, Story, Simmons College of KY, and University of Memphis!

## AUGUST

Natalia Bishop, Board Chair, awarded as one of Louisville's Non-Profit Visionary Leaders by Louisville Business First.

## DECEMBER

Soft launched the Wild Academy platform and our team dreamed up some big goals for 2026 and beyond!

## MARCH

Wild Accelerator awarded as recipient of the Brevia Thrive Grant & established a new partnership with Brevia.

## JULY – AUGUST

Wild Accelerator rebranded for the first time since our start in 2018 with the expertise and vision of our friends at Kale&Flax.

## SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

Reformatted Wild Academy into a scalable platform, built an AI powered coach for founders, all designed with our new brand assets.





# WILD ACADEMY RECAP.

In January 2025 Wild Academy launched with a **pilot cohort** of Wild Academy followed by a **Spring cohort** that began in May. Over the course of the 2 six week cohorts, more than **70 participants** from a range of **partner organizations, universities, and nonprofits** took part in this learning experience designed to **equip emerging entrepreneurs with the tools, mindset, and community** they need to grow and take the next step in business. Just take a look at the numbers and testimonials, they speak for themselves.

72

Total  
Participants

53%

100 % Course  
Completion Rate

100%

Course  
Satisfaction

49%

Increase in Pitch  
Confidence

9

Masterclass  
Speakers

247

Meaningful  
Connections

75%

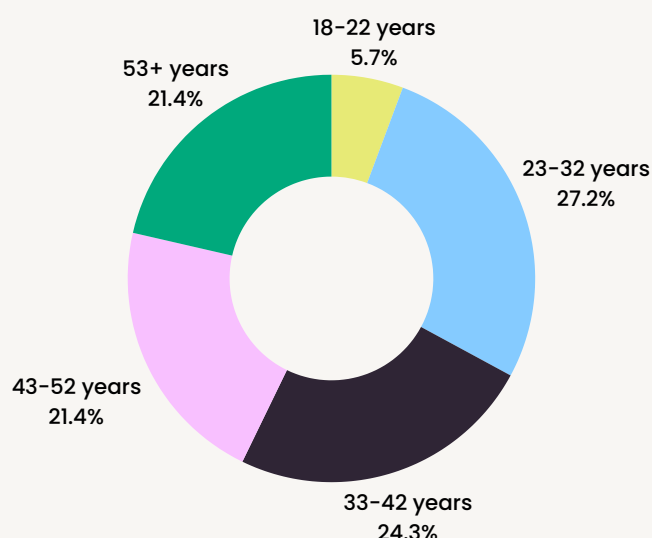
Plan to Scale

25%

Plan to Pivot

0%

Plan to Kill it



34.3%

LIVING ON  
LOW INCOME

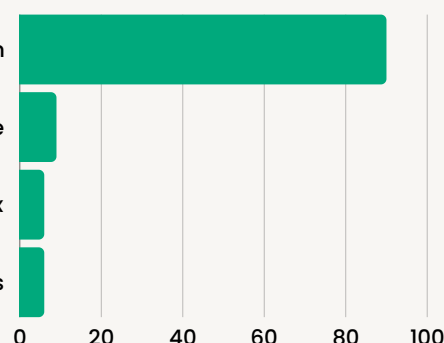
(30% or below  
local median  
income).

Black/African American

White

Hispanic/Latinx

Native/First Nations





"Wild Academy was more than I could ask for. When signing up for this program, I had no idea what to expect. Before the program, I sold baked goods just for fun and spare change. By the end of the program I completely revised my business strategy to take my product to the next level."

- JUSTIN D.

"Wild Academy was AMAZING!!! I was able to learn so much that I'm able to apply to my business. I currently have a sell out together business plan as well as a portfolio and pitch to present to an investor. It was a great process and I truly loved it."

- ALICIA G.

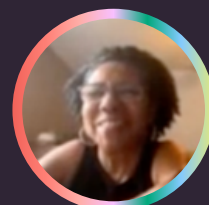


"Wild Academy is for any entrepreneur. The way this was structured, would help you for anything to come when developing your business the right way. I learned more about key metrics, KPIs, ways to get funding + more resources, how to set sales goals, how to make an elevator pitch, and my favorite--finding my Ikigai. I say take the chance and actually get the most out of it because it has really helped me and could do the same for you. I'm just a regular girl with big goals."

- CAMARIA Y.

"This was an amazing experience. Being able to meet with other entrepreneurs and have them share their stories to help me avoid the same mistakes and a heads up to what to expect. This will give me a jump start knowing a few tricks of the trade. Helping me to understand how to budget and set pricing for the goods to be sold. After this class I feel I am knowledgeable and equipped to have a successful business."

- AUDREY A.





# WILD. IN THE WILD.

In 2025, Wild sponsored three local events furthering the work of developing Louisville's startup ecosystem. Learn more below!

## KYX HACKATHON - FEB 2025

HackKentucky united hundreds of developers, designers, and entrepreneurs for an intensive statewide hackathon focused on building both products and community. ***Our sponsorship helped expand access to this high-impact event, creating space for emerging and first-time participants.*** HackKentucky strengthened the region's innovation pipeline and reinforced our belief that inclusive ecosystems grow when talent, opportunity, and support are shared broadly.

**31 teams and 200+ participants engaged in ~42 hours of coding and creation**

## HACK THE TRACK - SEPT 2025

Hack the Track 2025 introduced high school students to hands-on innovation through Kentucky's first youth-focused hackathon. Students worked in teams to design tech-based solutions addressing real community challenges, supported by mentors and industry volunteers. ***Our sponsorship helped remove barriers to participation and ensured young people from underrepresented backgrounds could see themselves as builders and problem solvers.*** The experience built confidence, collaboration skills, and early exposure to entrepreneurship — expanding the pipeline of future founders.

**75+ students registered and ~30 hours of coding and creation**

## 45FEST - SEPT 2025

H45Fest brought founders, creatives, investors, and community leaders together in a cross-industry environment built for connection and momentum. Unlike traditional conferences, the event emphasized collaboration, deal-making, and shared learning across sectors. ***Our sponsorship supported programming that widened access to networks and capital for underrepresented founders, helping ensure diverse voices were part of the conversation shaping Louisville's future.***

**100+ participants for inaugural event**

# BRAND REFRESH... OR SHOULD WE SAY, REBIRTH.

*Wild*

When Wild Accelerator launched in 2018, the mission was focused solely on femme-identifying founders and as the years have passed, you could say our heart and calling has expanded as we've witnessed the ever increasing need for historically underrepresented founders across the board to have mentorship, tailored resources, access to capital and more. Our new branding encompasses the Wild audience we serve, the energy we bring, and the fun we have while doing it all. You're seeing it here first! Rebrand powered by our friends at [Kale&Flax](#).

FROM 2018...

*Wild*

...TO 2025 & BEYOND.



DESIGNED BY  Kale & Flax



# 2026... YOU COMING?

Without giving too much away, here's ahead for 2026 and how **you** can invest in Wild returns! This is the year of **Education. Community. Mentorship. Capital. No gatekeeping here.** Join us!



## THANK YOU, WE MEAN IT.

Wild Accelerator continues on this wild, wild mission thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, volunteers, and believers.

To join Wild Academy, sponsor Founders in need of Wild's programs, volunteer expertise or sponsor Wild Beta Season 4, or to donate to our work, visit [www.wildaccelerator.org](http://www.wildaccelerator.org)



# A FINAL ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

To all who donated, participated, and believed in Wild this year. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

JPMC

Breva™



Kale&Flax

THANK YOU TO OUR WILD ACADEMY MASTERCLASS SPEAKERS:



**AMBER FIELDS (S3)**

Black UX Labs



**HANNAH SCHILLER**

Brackish Creative



**DR. KWANE WATSON**

Kare Mobile



**LOGAN BURCHETT**

Forecastr



**LINDA RUFFENACH**

Execuity LLC



**MARISSA WILSON (S3)**

Capsoul



**NATALIA BISHOP**

Story



**RACHEL EDENFIELD**

Swell



**TARIK NALLY**

Kale&Flax



*Wild*

Wild Accelerator is a 501(c)3 developed to holistically support imaginative, innovative founders from historically marginalized backgrounds globally, working on ideas that can transform our world for the better.



[www.wildaccelerator.org](http://www.wildaccelerator.org)