

**In this issue:**

A2EF welcomes new members, realLINGUA and RIZZARR! ✨

Spring Hotlist + Funding: Connect with investors through Renaissance VC UnDemo Day

eLab's Doug Neal on trends in AI and autonomy

Get some support and win some prizes for your startup pitch

🔔 Venture for America Detroit 2021 Job Board Opens in April

Check out the remaining events happening in celebration of Women's History Month

BLØM MEADWORKS + A2EF team up for Tech Connections + Cellar Tour (register below!)



**FOUNDER 2 FOUNDER**

**Founder:** Ashley M. Williams, CEO

**Company:** [RIZZARR](#)

**Stage:** Seed

**Date Founded:** 2015

**Headcount:** 7

**Industry:** MediaTech



**How to bet on yourself!**

It's Women's History Month and although the focus is on women, this article is also geared towards men, who play an important role in supporting the women in their lives!

I have two questions to ask you:

1. If you could be anything, what would you be?
2. And if you could do anything, what would you do?

Connecting *who* it is you aspire to be with *what* it is you aspire to do is possible. Today, I want to encourage my fellow founders of the power you have within you. You can choose to tap into this ability at any time. You can make the switch and break free of the limiting beliefs that society or even you have placed upon yourself. So how can we break free of our own limiting beliefs? [Here are five pieces of advice from my personal learnings in building Rizzarr...](#)



**A2EF Member News**

- Doing well by doing good: [realLINGUA](#) and [RIZZARR](#) join fellow A2EF members in pledging their startup success back to the community!

- [Fifth Eye receives FDA approval](#)
- [Refraction.ai closes \\$4.2 million seed round](#)
- [eLab's Doug Neal talks trends in AI and autonomy](#)

## Other News

- [Ann Arbor's Asalyxa Bio raises \\$2 million](#)
- [Saganworks plans 3D museum, cafe and retail shop](#)
- [University of Michigan fall 2021 semester, in-person resumes](#)

# NOTEWORTHY NONPROFIT

## Girls Group

Girls Group empowers young women to achieve emotional and economic self-sufficiency by ensuring they graduate from high school and begin their college or career journeys. Serving 630 young women from middle school through college and careers, Girls Group works with approximately 67% of participants in the Ann Arbor Area and 33% in the Ypsilanti area.

Girls Group develop the academic and emotional skills necessary for future success, planning for college by attending college tours, working on applications and essays with Girls Group mentors, and improving their academic performance.

One of AAACF's Community Grantmaking grantees from 2018-2020, Girls Group received unrestricted, multi-year grant funding to support their work, in addition to program-specific funding in recent years. General operating support grantees like Girls Group demonstrate strong leadership & governance, high-quality & impactful programs, and financial strength.

**Want to get involved?** Learn more or volunteer at: <https://www.girlsgroup.org/>



### **A2EF + BLOM MEADWORKS: Tech Connections + Cellar "Sessions"**

April 22nd, 12pm - 12:25pm

Bløm Meadworks (pronounced "bloom"), specializes in session meads and ciders – they're light, dry, carbonated, and remarkably sessionable. They start with the same ingredients as a traditional mead - honey, water and yeast - which means all ingredients can be sourced from Michigan. Unlike most meads though, they ferment it like a dry craft cider, so the result isn't nearly as thick or sweet as traditional mead. So, if the word "mead" automatically conjures a drinking hall filled with Vikings for you, think of Bløm's as its friendly, approachable descendants, without the pillage and plunder.

Join us for a special A2EF virtual tasting to explore the raw honey used in meads, plus a selection of three of Bløm's session meads and ciders! This is also a great way to support local businesses right now!

## Events around town - thru end of March

- [UofM economists on Washtenaw County's economic outlook](#)
- [Shine & Rise + Emily Reid, Head of Programs at Duo Security](#), share how individuals can challenge their companies to do better with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Work
- [10 Events in Southeast MI to celebrate Women's History Month](#)
- [What do Rosa Parks, Serena Williams and Cynthia Yao have in common?](#)
- [Eastern Michigan University's WHM events](#)



# RESOURCE ROUNDUP

- **Applications open** for eligible startups to be featured on [Renaissance's hotlist](#) and meet investors during the **May 18th UnDemo day event**. *DEADLINE: 5:00 pm Tuesday, 3/30/21*
- **Hire talent with [Venture For America](#)** - The VFA job board, Match, is open from April - June and more than 200 college graduate Fellows will be looking to contribute to the success of high-growth companies. If your company is looking to attract young talent with skills in problem-solving, collaboration, and grit, reach out to VFA Detroit Director Sarah Craft at [sarah.craft@ventureforamerica.org](mailto:sarah.craft@ventureforamerica.org).
- Washtenaw Community College **Pitch@WCC event is open for registrations**. [Apply to receive funding and prizes for your business idea](#).
- Starting a tech company, but need some help refining your pitch deck? [Check-out the free resources offered by the New Enterprise Forum](#)

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The Ann Arbor Entrepreneurs Fund (A2EF) is a vibrant hub for peer learning and networking that enables local entrepreneurs to turn business success into positive community impact. *Interested in becoming a member?* Please contact us at [community@a2ef.org](mailto:community@a2ef.org).