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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR FELLOWSHIP

February XX, 2017 NEW ORLEANS, LA – After careful consideration of applications, the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) has chosen five finalists for its **Woman Entrepreneur (WE) Fellowship**. These women-owned businesses will pitch their ventures for an audience vote on March 20 during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week. JLNO's WE Fellowship will support the winning endeavor with mentoring and in-kind services sourced through its membership.

“We received very well conceived application from entrepreneurs that represent a variety of industries. From designers to professional service providers, the businesses demonstrated innovation, thoughtfulness, and passion,” said JLNO President Maria Pardo Huete. “The committee selected the finalists that could receive maximum benefit from the WE Fellowship, and we are excited for the opportunity to support a woman entrepreneur through mentoring, in-kind services, and financial resources.”

Collaboration with the WE Fellow will set focused goals addressing her business's specific needs and then source needed resources through JLNO member expertise. The WE Fellowship also provides a \$2500 grant, a technology grant up to \$2500, access to work/meeting space, nonprofit board training, and marketing opportunities with JLNO's membership.

The five WE Fellowship finalists are:

- **Kismet Cosmetics** is a beauty brand that manufactures affordable cosmetics in on-trend colors.
- **Passion Lilie** brings fair trade and eco-friendly materials to fashion through the company's apparel and accessories lines.
- **The Puddin' Shop** specializes in single serving bread puddings in creative and innovative flavors.
- **Saint Hugh** is a hunting and outdoor leisure apparel company that seeks to change how people picture hunters by making field apparel for women.
- **Two Girls One Shuck** delivers a travelling oyster bar to a party near you.

The five finalists will give a 10-minute presentation at the WE Fellowship Pitch event during **New Orleans Entrepreneur Week**. Votes from the public will secure an audience prize of accounting services from LaPorte CPAs and Business Advisors and a judging panel will award the fellowship.

March 20, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans
Lookfar Stage

The public is welcome to attend the event and can RSVP on the NOEW website at <http://noew.org/events/read/jlno-s-we-fellowship-application-info-session>

The Junior League of New Orleans is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

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