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The Junior League of New Orleans Announces Partnership with The Idea Village

*Collaborative event series promoting the potential of women
to culminate during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week*

Nov. 24, 2014, New Orleans, LA – Today, The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) announces a new strategic partnership with The Idea Village aimed at promoting professional success and improving economic opportunities for women. Together, the pair will produce a three-part event series focused on highlighting the challenges women face in business and entrepreneurship, and offering creative suggestions for how women can best leverage networking and mentorship opportunities.

The series will begin Wednesday, Dec. 10, with *“How She Did It: Four Women Surviving and Thriving in Male-Dominated Industries”* and will culminate during the seventh annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, March 20-27, 2015.

“As part of JLNO's strategic focus on advancing the well-being of women, our work with Idea Village will foster development and support for female entrepreneurs and professionals,” said Katherine Kleinpeter Raymond, president of JLNO. “When the women of New Orleans have more opportunities for success and development, we will all have a stronger community.”

“The Idea Village is dedicated to building a vibrant entrepreneurial community in New Orleans,” said Tim Williamson, co-founder and CEO of The Idea Village. “By teaming up with the Junior League, we hope to increase female awareness of and participation in local entrepreneurship, mentorship and investment opportunities.”

The Dec. 10 kickoff event will take place from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at JLNO Headquarters, 4319 Carondelet St., and will feature a panel of the following local female leaders:

- **Kiki Baker Barnes:** Athletic Director, Dillard University
- **Dana Stumpf:** CAO, Durr Heavy Construction
- **Aimee Quirk:** Senior Advisor for Economic Development to New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu
- **Suzanne Haik Terrell:** Partner, Hangartner Rydberg and Terrell

Panelists will share success stories and advice on how to succeed in male-dominated industries, the importance of mentorship (as both a mentor and a mentee), and workplace issues specific to women.

This event is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending may RSVP at www.jlno.org/HowSheDidIt.

JLNO is celebrating 90 years of serving metropolitan New Orleans. In the past five years alone, JLNO has invested more than \$4 million and approximately 200,000 volunteer hours in the local community. By teaming up with The Idea Village to generate a public discussion about women's issues in business and entrepreneurship, JLNO will further solidify its reputation as the premier women's organization in New Orleans.

About The Junior League of New Orleans

The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. It has proudly served metropolitan New Orleans for over 90 years. A 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, JLNO is dedicated to advancing the wellbeing of women through improving economic opportunities, advocating for health and wellness and providing for family assistance. Currently, JLNO has over 2300 members, making it the 12th largest Junior League in the world. www.jlno.org

About The Idea Village

In 2000, The Idea Village was formed by a group of New Orleans citizens who believed entrepreneurship is a catalyst for positive change. The Idea Village formalized in 2002 as an independent 501c3 non-profit organization with a mission to identify, support, and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans by providing direct service to high impact entrepreneurs, educating the broader community, and supporting initiatives that strengthen our entrepreneurial infrastructure. From 2009-2014, The Idea Village has provided direct support to over 3,411 New Orleans entrepreneurs by engaging over 2,600 professionals to allocate 68,543 consulting hours and \$2.5 million in seed capital. In addition, The Idea Village hosts New Orleans Entrepreneur Week, a business festival that has become the platform for the New Orleans entrepreneurial ecosystem. www.ideavillage.org

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