

Principal Investigator: Ted Baker

Title: The Urban Solutions Lab

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Provided by: A foundations connected to a major financial services firm that prefers to keep its philanthropic giving anonymous.

Awarded to: The Rutgers Advanced Institute for the Study of Entrepreneurship and Development (RAISED). Ted Baker, PI.

Abstract:

The Urban Solutions Lab will become the locus – the physical and emblematic core – of entrepreneurship across Rutgers-Newark. It will serve as an engine generating the cross-disciplinary and cross-sector efforts that we believe are essential to prosocial entrepreneurship and as the nerve center for student and community-involved entrepreneurship initiatives. The notion of “maker spaces” has become popular for describing shared facilities for creating physical devices and artifacts. The Urban Solutions Lab will be a *maker space for creating and enhancing prosocial ventures*.

Physically, the Urban Solutions Lab consists of two spaces in the soon-to-open Honors Living and Learning Community (HLLC) building. This grant will pay to outfit these spaces. The “*Collaboration Garage*,” will be outfitted with easily reconfigurable modular furniture and white boards, along with computer and projection equipment. The “*Creativity Studio*,” will provide state-of-the-art distance education and collaboration tools along with web-streaming, video- and pod-casting capabilities. We will also provide a lending library of equipment for students involved in projects connected to the Urban Solutions Lab.