

Inventors Roundtable assists Colorado’s creators



Chris Bjork

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For over a decade, inventors in Colorado have organized weekly for one of the oldest inventor forums in the state to present ideas and gather resources. Hosted at Brooklyn’s bar in downtown Denver, the Inventors Roundtable was created to provide a platform for local inventors to acquire assistance and strategize about the inventing process. Along with having a space for entrepreneurs to present their ideas to like-minded professionals in the field, the Inventors Roundtable offers several other resources for inventors in the Denver Metro area. Leading organizer and event host, Rita Crompton, elaborated how this type of safe environment for inventors is the first of its kind in the state.

“We’re in our 11th year. It started when we realized there was not a safe, free environment where inventors can go to learn about the inventing process. So that’s what we’re all about. We want to be able to provide a place where inventors can come and talk and ask questions and get resources,” Crompton said.



Paul Burek, vice president and co-creator of the Crativ Engineered Packaging boxes, attended the Inventors Roundtable on Thursday to present his child-resistant, cannabls storage boxes.

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The meeting held on Thursday, Sept. 15, began with a crowdfunding campaign which included a presentation by two inventors revealing their newly designed product. Inventors Paul Burek and Bill Ludlow discussed their “Crativ engineered packaging,” child-resistant, cannabis storage boxes with an overview on the product’s design and its purpose. The presentation included a look at the company’s website and an open discussion regarding the benefits of the invention and opportunities

for improvement. It was the first time for Paul Burek, vice president and co-founder of Crativ Engineered Packaging to attend the roundtable and crowdfunding meeting at Brooklyn’s. Burek revealed how getting insight from other inventors proved to be one of the most valuable aspects of the meeting.

“I think just from what I heard today, it’s learning about everyone else’s opinion. Things that I didn’t know about,” Burek said. “I think hearing all those suggestions are great and I’m learning more about how this all works.”

Following the crowdfunding, new faces made their appearance for the second part of the event. Inventors gathered around to discuss the inventing process and voice some of their personal challenges and achievements revolving around the journey to become a successful inventor. It wasn’t a competitive critique between the attendees but rather a collaborative and supportive type of environment that served as a breeding ground for new ideas and observations. Inventor Ryan Platt, founder of the MagnaMorph gadget, – an innovative phone accessory allowing the user to attach their phone to practically any surface at any angle– recognized the supportive atmosphere of the forum.

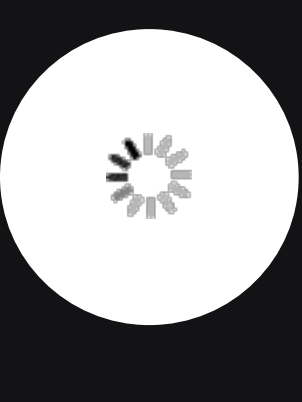
“That’s one thing I like about the feeling of this, I don’t feel like I have to protect. I feel like we’re sharing with each other. I’m here to give what I know and receive what you know as opposed to ‘don’t look at my invention you’re going to copy it,’” Platt said. “It’s real thriving and I guess that’s the kind of renaissance atmosphere that we need.”

Relevant topics like manufacturing, licensing and achieving a patent were just a few of the points of conversation that were discussed. The turnout of inventors Thursday evening has potential to expand in the future, and Colorado proves to be a place where inventors can prosper. Currently, Colorado is one of the top 10 states for inventors to achieve a patent and is continually providing other resources for inventors such as inventor fairs and makers’ labs. However, perhaps the biggest perk for inventors who are working to make their presence known would be the comradery displayed at the Inventors Roundtable gatherings.

“There’s a lot of places where you can go and hear a speaker talk,” Crompton said. “There aren’t very many places where you can actually come to a workshop environment and get questions answered and get back on track and find your next resource.”

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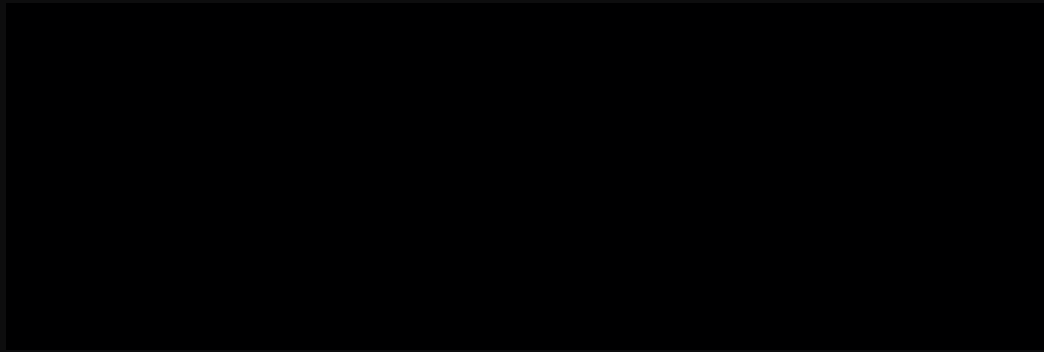
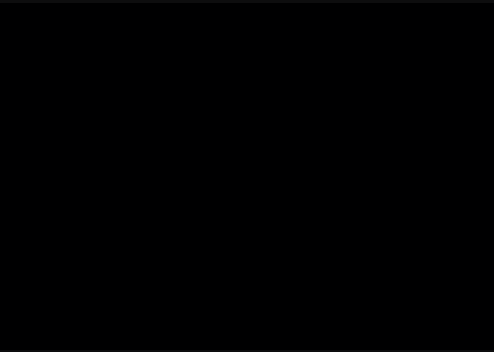
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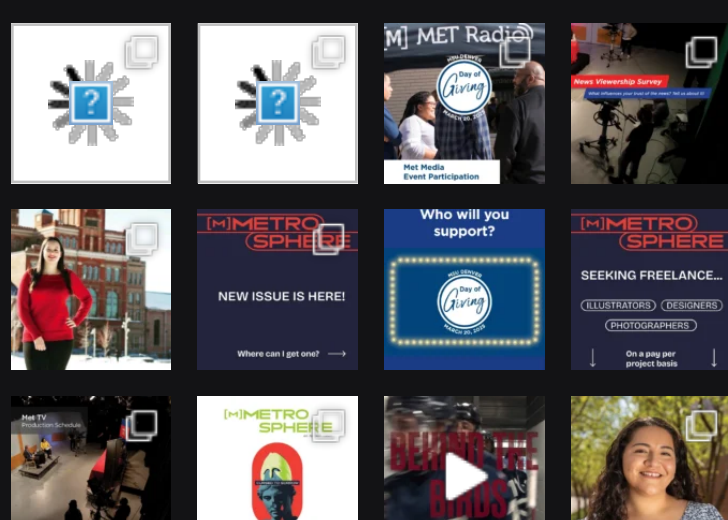


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