



## Record Attendance For First Sip+Hatch of 2015 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center

*Over 170 creatives, innovators and entrepreneurs gathered for first Sip+Hatch of 2015*

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – On Thursday May 7th, 2015 over 170 creatives, innovators and entrepreneurs of North Alabama and beyond gathered on the Davidson Center at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville to celebrate startup culture. Attendees, which included visitors from Nashville, Chattanooga and Birmingham enjoyed food and drinks at the Biergarten and listened to seven distinguished entrepreneurs and innovators working on advancing web-centric ventures.

“We could not be happier for our first Sip+Hatch of the year” said Antonio Montoya, Rocket Hatch co-founder and Executive Director. “This was a special event for us and showcased the big progress our community has made only one year after we started.”

This Sip+Hatch had as main theme startups and innovators at the forefront of the web, and featured lightning talks by Lindsey Frost and Geoff Millener from [Mozilla Foundation](#), Bryan Powell from [Metabahn](#), Michael Comperda and Chris Beaman from [Curse](#), Michael Spiceland from [Respoke](#), and Harrison Diamond from the [City of Huntsville](#).

At the event, Rocket Hatch also announced more avenues to support entrepreneurs including a new CO.STARTERS cohort starting June 1<sup>st</sup> (applications and more information can be found at <http://costarters.rockethatch.org>) as well as the brand new [Brain Trust](#) program that provides entrepreneurs with a sounding board of peers and mentors and works in concert with the CO.STARTERS program started last year.

Jennifer Skjellum, CEO of Tech Birmingham drove from Jefferson County to participate in Sip+Hatch and remarked, “It’s great to see events like this happening here. We look forward to a continued growth and dialogue between the Birmingham and Huntsville tech communities.”

“In my four months living in Huntsville, I’ve met hundreds of people who are brimming with excitement about our emerging startup community. Meetups like Sip+Hatch help get the word out that startups are encouraged and entrepreneurs have a support network, if and when,

they're ready to launch their businesses." Said Chris Beaman, an entrepreneur and UX designer who moved from Boston to Huntsville and was one of the speakers. "It's an exciting time to be living in North Alabama," he added.

Sip+Hatch will continue through September, the next event will be on June 25th, also at the Davidson Center.

### *About Sip+Hatch*

Sip+Hatch is a (mostly) monthly meetup for the starters and creators of North Alabama: Artists, engineers, designers, lawyers, independent business owners, makers, poets, geeks, film-makers, beer-crafters, connectors, inventors, investors, all are welcome. This is a venue to get out of our silos, mix and match, share and learn together to realize the innovative startup ecosystem we all know must emerge in our area. Show up early, stay late, and network with other entrepreneurs. More information at [sipandhatch.rockethatch.org](http://sipandhatch.rockethatch.org)

### *About Rocket Hatch*

Rocket Hatch is an open community of creators and entrepreneurs with the mission of supporting the startup movement in the Huntsville Metro and surrounding areas. Rocket Hatch is leveraging the best available entrepreneurial resources connecting the local startups, innovators and entrepreneurs with the global startup ecosystem. For more about Rocket Hatch visit [rockethatch.org](http://rockethatch.org)

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### **Media Contact**

Ana Aristizabal  
press@rockethatch.com  
256-527-1509