Little Bang! Poster Competition Guidelines – Session 1

Thursday, November 21, 2019 • 6-8 p.m. • Gallagher Hall, Grand Foyer

Poster Submission Deadline for free printing: Wednesday, November 13, 5 p.m.
Registration and Poster Submission Deadline: Friday, November 15, 5 p.m.

Up to Twenty (20) $250 Microgrants Available

The Little Bang! Poster Competition is open to all students and is designed to help them define their business idea and communicate it concisely using a poster. This is an entry-level competition; no prior business experience is necessary.

This poster competition is the first in a series of three poster competitions meant to support students on their entrepreneurial journey and is intended to promote business ideas. The other two poster competitions will take place January 23 (Session 2) and May 14 (Session 3). Prize money will increase as the series progresses.

Entrants are encouraged to attend the following:

Wednesday, October 30 | Gallagher Hall
5-6 p.m. Little Bang! Office Hours
6-8 p.m. Starting Something that Matters Workshop & Team Formation Mixer

Tuesday, November 5 | Student Community Center, Room E
6:30-8:30 p.m. Big Bang!/Little Bang!/Big Ideas @Berkeley Work Session

Thursday, November 7 | Gallagher Hall
5-6 p.m. Little Bang! Office Hours
6-8 p.m. Making the Leap Workshop

Weekly Office Hours:
Tuesdays 1:30-3 p.m. Gallagher Hall Room 2417
Thursdays 1:30-3 p.m. Gallagher Hall, Room 2416
Participation Guidelines

This competition is open to any currently enrolled student at the high school, undergraduate or graduate level. In Session 1, no verbal pitch is required. Participants will stand next to their poster to answer questions from judges and attendees. These interactions provide valuable feedback for future development of their poster and idea. Interested participants must register and submit their posters no later than Friday, November 15 at 5 p.m.

1) Register your team here: https://forms.gle/1mNUT2dyfoQk9b6d9

2) Email a high-resolution PDF of poster: Little_.4sna8nuzf787qvzr@u.box.com

Use this file format: TeamName_First name_Last name_Phone number_Email address/item

e.g., Changemakers_Jane_Smith_5305551212_jzsmith@ucdavis.edu_POSTER

Posters submitted by Wednesday, November 13 at 5 p.m. will be printed free of charge. Posters submitted in the wrong format or with the incorrect filename will not be printed. If you submit your poster more than once, only the most recently submitted version will be printed. You may pick up your poster when you check in for the event. If you choose to print your own poster, you must still register and submit your poster to the link above by the November 15, 5 p.m. deadline.

Market Research for Your Poster

1) The first step in developing the poster is to define the problem you’re solving (along with your solution).

2) Test whether you are working on the right problem by talking to at least five (5) different people about it (not your roommate and not your mom). For each assumption you make, you should be able to answer, “How do you know that?” by talking to other people.

3) Craft a problem and solution based on what you learn from your interviews. List interviewees names/titles on your poster and quote them, if it helps.

Preparing Your Poster

Posters should be presented on a 36” by 48” (portrait or landscape) format including but not limited to information as follows:

• Business Idea / Overview: Describe the business in 1-2 sentences. Use a logo, pictures and graphics wherever possible. Describe what you’re doing, who it’s for, and how you’re special.

• What (problem and solution): What is the problem you are solving? How will your business idea help solve this problem? What did you learn from the five people you interviewed? Include the names/titles of the five people on your poster.

• Who /Where (target market): Who are the primary users of the product? Who is the customer (i.e., the decision maker)? What is your target market? Describe the buyer of your product/service.

• How (differentiation): Is there someone already doing the same thing? If so, how is your solution better or different?
Rules & Regulations

- Entrants must adhere to all submission deadlines and guidelines.
- Ideas submitted as part of a teams’ new business venture must represent the original work of the team members.
- Only one submission of a new business venture per team is permitted.
- Individuals may be a member of only one team. Teams may be as small as one person; there is no maximum number of team members. Typical team size is between one and four members.
- The university reserves the right to disqualify, in its sole and absolute discretion, any team from the competition at any time for any reason. Reasons for disqualification may include but are not limited to: plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty, misappropriation or infringement of the intellectual property of others, and/or any failure to comply with these rules and regulations. Disqualified teams shall forfeit any and all prizes awarded to them.
- Prize money will be awarded to a designated team member and not the business entity. Team is responsible for dividing prize money among team members. It is not mandatory for the award money to seed the start-up.
- Teams may not compete if the new venture has already received funding from any outside sources (i.e. angel investors, venture capital, prize money from other competitions, etc.) totaling more $5,000 by the start of the Fall Quarter 2019.
- Session 1 awardees agree to:
  1) Write a one-page (minimum 500-word) plan establishing milestones for developing their business idea and reflecting on lessons learned participating in Little Bang!

Judging Criteria

Judges will be a mix of successful entrepreneurs, alumni, venture capitalists, angel investors or professional service providers working within the university or business community. Judges will score your poster on the following factors using a seven-point scale:

1. Content: Does the poster contain all the required elements and address the “Preparing your Poster” prompt above.

2. Poster Quality: Clarity of message, attractiveness, professionally prepared. Does the poster generate interest in the concept without verbal explanation?

3. Professional Presence: Did the contestant conduct themselves in a professional manner?

4. Judges’ Impressions: Why should a judge (potential business investor) care about this proposal? Did the poster convey enough important insights into the business proposition that the contestant would be asked to come back to present at the next poster competition?

5. Intangible or WOW factor/Overall: Did the contestant and poster leave a lasting impression?

Questions

Contact Big Bang! program coordinator, Karen Harding-Davis at kaharding@ucdavis.edu.