



***Backstage Capital Founder Arlan Hamilton to Keynote VISION  
Small Business Event for Women & Minorities  
Featured in Fast Company and Fortune Magazine's 40 Under 40***

**WHAT:** [VISION 2018](#) is St. Louis' annual conference for women, minorities, immigrants and anyone interested in starting or growing a business in science, IT or manufacturing. Attendees can satisfy their entrepreneurial curiosities at this one-day symposium that will include interactive sessions in a multi-track format. The insights available at VISION are applicable to companies that cross many industries that support STEM, from tech-focused companies, to food and beauty formulation businesses to consumer manufacturing companies. Whether you have a business idea you want to test out, or an already-established company you are looking to grow, VISION can help you achieve your business goals.

**Arlan Hamilton**, founder of [Backstage Capital](#) and recently featured in [Fast Company](#) and [Forbes](#), as well as [Fortune's 40 Under 40](#), will deliver the Keynote conversation with **Dr. Cheryl Watkins-Moore**, Director of BioSTL's Inclusion Initiative.

Arlan built a venture capital fund from the ground up to minimize funding disparities in tech by investing in high-potential founders who are of color, women, and/or LGBT. Since 2015, Backstage has invested ~\$5MM into more than 80 startup companies led by underestimated founders.

**WHO:** Organized by Asian American Chamber of Commerce, BioSTL, CET, Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, ITEN, St. Louis Community College, St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, St. Louis Makes, St. Louis Minority Business Council, St. Louis Mosaic Project, and WePower.

**WHEN:** **Friday, October 19, 2018**  
**8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Hamilton's Keynote at 12:30 p.m.)**

**WHERE:** University of Missouri–St. Louis, J.C. Penney Conference Center  
1 University Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63121

**ABOUT:** VISION aims to build a wholly-inclusive, diverse innovation community that can take advantage of small business and entrepreneurial opportunities in STEM. You do not have to be a rocket scientist, coding expert or master craftsman to attend this symposium; merely have a curiosity in learning more about what business opportunities are available. For more information and to register, visit [www.visionstlouis.com](http://www.visionstlouis.com).

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