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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 2019**

**Microsoft Award Digital Cities 2019 Grant to Roxbury Innovation Center**

Roxbury Innovation Center, a Venture Café Foundation program and space, has been awarded a \$70,050 Digital Cities Grant from Microsoft for a two-part program of Youth Computer Science Camp and an innovative professional development opportunity, “Venture Café Summer Tech Externships” during July and August.

Managed by Venture Café Foundation, Summer Tech Externships create new professional development opportunities for Boston area teachers. During the three-week program thirty BPS teachers will connect with multiple technology-rich companies in the Greater Boston area. Through meetings and conversations with companies ranging from Microsoft to Cambridge Innovation Center, and including LogMeIn, WS Development, Grafito SP, and other innovators in social enterprise and sustainability, teachers will explore opportunities for their students generated by the innovation economy. Kevin Wiant, executive Director of Venture Café Foundation, a 501c3 organization supporting startups in Boston, said “Microsoft is a valued partner and a Founding Sponsor of Roxbury Innovation Center. We thank Microsoft for partnering with us to make the innovation ecosystem more inclusive and accessible through Summer Tech Externships, and for sponsoring four weeks of Youth Summer Computer Science Camp at Roxbury Innovation Center.”

Venture Cafe Foundation, one of Bostinno’s “50 On Fire” in 2018, is an inclusive 501c3 organization whose mission is to educate and connect anyone with an idea to the resources and relationships they need to launch and grow successful businesses. Roxbury Innovation Center is a landmark project for the City of Boston, developed jointly with Venture Cafe Foundation to support local economic development by encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship.

Microsoft is also an annual sponsor of Venture Café Foundation, and a founding sponsor of Venture Café’s District Hall and Roxbury Innovation Center.

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