



Greenville Named in *Inc.*'s 2020 Surge Cities List

Greenville joins the second annual list of the 50 best places in America for starting a business

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(Greenville, SC) *Inc.* today announced its second annual **Surge Cities** list, a guide to the best 50 cities in America for starting a business. Coming in 33rd on the list is Greenville, SC, which is featured for the first time.

Inc.'s Surge Cities partner, innovation policy firm Startup Genome, used public data as well as insights from the *Inc.* 5000 list of the fastest-growing private companies in America to compile the city rankings. Startup Genome developed its scoring system based on three traits that determine a surge city: growth, opportunity, and innovation.

"*Inc.* has long believed in the alchemy of entrepreneurial innovation and community," *Inc.* acting editor-in-chief Jon Fine said in a statement. "We're excited to see, for the second year in a row, how well some smaller cities are competing with—indeed, even besting—the likes of San Francisco, New York, and Boston."

"NEXT is proud to support the growth of our entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Upstate region of South Carolina and particularly in Greenville," said Scott Millwood, Founder of Yesflow and Board Chair for NEXT. "To be recognized by *Inc.* on their second annual Surge Cities list is great acknowledgement of the work that our community and entrepreneurs have invested in supporting high scale ventures. Our partners at Clemson University and Furman's Office for Innovation and Entrepreneurship have played an integral role in supporting the entrepreneurs of NEXT and we appreciate their help."

According to Carlos Phillips, Greenville Chamber President/CEO, "Today what we celebrate is the vision Greenville's leaders had many years ago when laying the foundation for the thriving entrepreneurial community that we see today." He adds, "Much like other triumphs throughout Greenville's history, this is a testament to the power of strategic public-private partnerships. We would especially like to thank the City and County of Greenville, our business community for their belief and investment in helping other businesses succeed, and the many entrepreneurs for the transformative impact their work has on our community."

South Carolina made a strong showing, with Charleston (No. 7) and Columbia (No. 42) also making the list and earning the state a feature article: www.inc.com/magazine/202002/tom-foster/south-carolina-charleston-columbia-greenville-2019-surge-cities.html?icid=hmhero.

To see the complete list go to: inc.com/surge-cities

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Introduced in 2018, the Surge Cities list quickly established itself as one of *Inc.*'s most anticipated franchises for early-stage business owners. This year's package includes examples of thriving young companies in cities of all sizes across the U.S. in addition to the backstories of several founders' journeys to success.

Inc.'s Surge Cities issue (Winter 2019) is available online at inc.com/surge-cities and on newsstands beginning December 12. Join the Surge Cities conversation using #IncSurgeCities.

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ABOUT NEXT

NEXT attracts and grows high-impact, knowledge-based companies by developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem and connecting entrepreneurs to it. NEXT is a Greenville Chamber venture and currently supports over 120 knowledge-based companies in Upstate South Carolina.

For more information, visit www.nextsc.org.

ABOUT THE GREENVILLE CHAMBER

The Greenville Chamber, now in its 131st year of operation, is the largest business organization in Upstate South Carolina with over 1900 Investors supporting the vision of a globally competitive Upstate economy where businesses succeed and people prosper. For information, visit greenvillechamber.org.

ABOUT INC.

[Inc.](http://inc.com) is the world's leading multimedia brand dedicated to the most dynamic players in business: entrepreneurs. *Inc.*'s award-winning work reaches more than 50 million people across a variety of channels, including print, digital, video, podcasts, newsletters, and social media. Its proprietary Inc. 5000 list, which *Inc.* has produced every year since 1982, analyzes company data to recognize the fastest-growing privately held businesses in the United States. The global recognition that comes with inclusion on this prestigious list gives the founders of top businesses the opportunity to engage with an exclusive community of their peers, and credibility that helps them drive sales and recruit talent. The associated Inc. 5000 Conference is part of a highly acclaimed portfolio of bespoke events produced by *Inc.* For more information, visit www.inc.com.

ABOUT STARTUP GENOME

With more than 100 clients across five continents in 38 countries to date, Startup Genome is the top research and policy advisory organization for governments committed to accelerating the success of their startup ecosystem. Read more at startupgenome.com.