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CONNECTpreneur Acquires New York Private Equity Forums, Expanding National Capital Formation Platform into NYC

McLean, VA and New York, NY – December 31, 2025 — **CONNECTpreneur**, a national platform connecting founders with private capital, announced today that it has acquired the **New York Private Equity Forums (NYPEF)**, a long-running private market forum series that has hosted 104 highly attended events in New York since 2001.

Founded by Bryan Emerson, Founder of Starlight Capital and CEO of CIM Securities, NYPEF built a strong reputation over more than two decades by convening serious investors and high-quality companies in an environment defined by credibility, discretion, and substance.

CONNECTpreneur will assume full ownership and management of NYPEF, integrating it into its national ecosystem of private investors, founders, and operating partners.

“The New York Private Equity Forums have always been about signal over noise,” said Tien Wong, Founder of CONNECTpreneur. “This is not about reinventing something that already works. It’s about stewarding a respected platform forward with tighter curation, clearer signal, and a more intentional operating model. New York is too important a capital market to do this any other way.”

Under CONNECTpreneur’s leadership, the New York Private Equity Forums will remain investor-driven and highly curated, with an increased focus on alignment between companies and capital. The forums will emphasize fewer, higher-quality interactions and long-term relationship building over transactional pitch activity.

“CONNECTpreneur understands what made the New York Private Equity Forums successful in the first place,” said Emerson. “They share the same respect for investor time, founder quality, and thoughtful capital engagement. I’m confident they’re the right stewards for the next chapter of the Forums.”

New York remains a critical hub for private capital, home to family offices, UHNW investors, private equity and growth equity firms, and operator-investors. By bringing NYPEF into the CONNECTpreneur ecosystem, the platform will more directly connect New York-based capital with CONNECTpreneur’s national investor base and its



strongest presenting companies across technology, healthcare, and emerging growth sectors.

The acquisition reflects a broader strategic shift at CONNECTpreneur toward treating capital formation as infrastructure rather than isolated events.

“Events are gateways, not endpoints,” Wong added. “The real value is trust, continuity, and relationships that compound across cycles. That’s what we’re building.”

NYPEF will relaunch in 2026 with its core DNA intact, paired with CONNECTpreneur’s national reach, operational discipline, and expanded investor network.

About CONNECTpreneur

CONNECTpreneur is a national community and platform connecting founders, operators, and private investors through curated events, investor forums, and structured capital formation programs. The CONNECTpreneur ecosystem includes over 250,000 founders, executives, and investors nationwide, with a private investor community exceeding 7,000 UHNW, family office, and institutional participants.

About the New York Private Equity Forums

Founded in 2001, the New York Private Equity Forums is a long-standing private market event series that has hosted 104 forums bringing together private equity, growth capital, and early-stage investors with high-quality companies in New York. The platform, through its 3,000+ private investors and 6000+ founders and business leaders, has facilitated over \$1 billion in early stage capital over the past two decades for its presenting companies and clients.

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