



Accelerating entrepreneurial success.

TwitterChat 5/20/15 Expats Come Home

Q1

Launch_NY: Q1. What did you feel was missing in Upstate when you decided to leave?
Or what were you looking for? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:06:55 PM

A1

StartUpGrindBuf: A1: Unified #entrepreneur ecosystem #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:07:55 PM

kjkerl17: A1. It wasn't about what was missing in Buffalo, but the opportunity that
existed in Boston in 2011. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:08:06 PM

SamInsalaco: A1: I actually don't feel like there was something missing. I felt like there were great things
happening #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:08:16 PM

SamInsalaco: A1: con't: and I wanted to be a part of it, and help to promote the great businesses and
people here. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:08:46 PM

SWBuffalo: I left due to a lack of a tech entrepreneurial scene here; granted it was the late 90s & a new
industry. -@popo #LaunchHour
5/20/2015 4:11:02 PM

chuck_stormon: Abundant venture capital elsewhere necessitated my moves.
#launchhour
5/20/2015 4:11:56 PM

mybrandevolved: A1: 2 left for undergrad degrees in physics & marketing. Back bc of
the affordability of new opportunities #personalbranding #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:12:31 PM

Q2

Launch_NY: Q2. What did organizations in your new city do to encourage
entrepreneurship? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:11:31 PM

A2

kjkerl17: A2. Boston/Cambridge had an established ecosystem when I arrived with

VCs/Mentors/Advisors aall helping new startups. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:12:43 PM

kjkerl17: A2. con't Most people were concerned with the growth of the system and not just individual companies. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:13:29 PM

SamInsalaco: A1: I came from Pittsburgh, where small businesses were thriving because of collaboration and partnerships. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:13:36 PM

Q3

Launch_NY: Q3. How was the angel and investor community different? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:16:19 PM

A3

MitigateInjury: Investors in California are usually only interested in BIG deals – It's hard for a start-up to get traction #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:16:42 PM

kjkerl17: A3. It was much deeper and industry specific. Boston VCs also had large connections throughout the US #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:17:53 PM

kjkerl17: A3. con't - to be able to pull additional funding when needed. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:18:20 PM

kjkerl17: A3. Basically the investment community had VCs and Angels that reached different levels of investment if needed. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:21:13 PM

SWBuffalo: Angels/VCs in BOS/AUS/DEN existed in early 2000s. BUF had some but not for early software startups. -@popo. Now: @Z80Labs #LaunchHour Q3
5/20/2015 4:21:21 PM

spfriedberg: 3. Great entrepreneurs offering their valuable time to mentor, plenty of access to FREE \$, and affordable living #LaunchHour @Launch_NY
5/20/2015 4:21:36 PM

Q4

Launch_NY: Q4. If your business was successful, why was that? And if it wasn't, why? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:20:23 PM

A4

SamInsalaco: A4: I find that the more that I collaborate with other entrepreneurs, the more success I see for @theBREWROOM. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:21:22 PM

SamInsalaco: A4 cont: strong local partnerships and mentors have been a BIG help. People here always looking to help each other. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:22:02 PM

easylife1938: @Launch_NY Miami did not have an active entrepreneur community. #LaunchHour
5/20/2015 4:22:50 PM

kjkerl17: A4. We had a great team @intpd that was successful and continues to grow. It was all about the team and vision. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:22:53 PM

easylife1938: @Launch_NY A4- we were successful due to our internal entrepreneurial support. However, we could have used external mentors. #LaunchHour
5/20/2015 4:25:58 PM

Q5

Launch_NY: Q5. What made you come home to Upstate NY? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:26:25 PM

A5

MitigateInjury: A\$ We started our business after moving to NY. We saw the Start-Up NY commercials and decided it was the right time to move. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:26:25 PM

SamInsalaco: A5: I came home to family, and to be a part of the new growth happening in #Buffalo. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:26:56 PM

MitigateInjury: A5 Bon fires on Lake Erie, 4th of July picnics, friends and family – and of course, StartUp NY. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:27:03 PM

SamInsalaco: A5: seemed like a great time to come home, and a time for growing opportunities. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:27:26 PM

kjkerl17: A5. Family, but once here I was pleasantly surprised about the growth of the startup community and the strides Buffalo made #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:27:28 PM

MartinDavisonPR: A5 ... Family ... Stay because as @popo said before, you can contribute, move the needle, and be part of the change. #LaunchHour
5/20/2015 4:28:42 PM

SWBuffalo: I moved to BUF because it's home. Family, friends, opportunity. World allows work from anywhere. 4 seasons, inexpensive #LaunchHour -@popo
5/20/2015 4:30:42 PM

SamInsalaco: A5: I also met with @Scassety of @Launch_NY prior to moving home. He was a great resource. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:31:54 PM

Q6

Launch_NY: Q6. What, if anything, did you find different when you returned?
#launchhour
5/20/2015 4:32:44 PM

A6

MitigateInjury: A6: 5 Construction cranes! I've been coming back for 20 years and it was always the same economic situation. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:33:00 PM

MitigateInjury: A6 cont. - A few years ago everything changed. It was one of the main factors for moving back to Buffalo. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:33:47 PM

SamInsalaco: A6: Growth everywhere. When I left, it seemed like things were still declining. That definitely is not the case. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:34:06 PM

StartUpGrindBuf: Also, I think @bflobiz_miner does a great job covering the #startup #scene in a positive way! Thanks Dan! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:34:11 PM

kjker117: A6. The grass roots effort of the startup community. People put a lot of sweat and tears to get the community started #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:34:17 PM

SamInsalaco: A6: But still that same sense of community. Which is what (I think) makes upstate special. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:34:38 PM

kjker117: A6. The overall business community seemed to want to push back on the perception that Buffalo had externally. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:34:48 PM

SWBuffalo: "Started from the bottom, now we here" -@drake. BUF renaissance happening. City is LOT different than 5yrs ago, on rise! -@popo #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:35:37 PM

SamInsalaco: But there are still regulations and hurdles in place that, if removed, could help things move faster. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:36:35 PM

Q7

Launch_NY: Q7. What advice would you give other entrepreneurs, young or otherwise, who are thinking of leaving? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:38:20 PM

A7

MitigateInjury: A7: Stay here! They will not receive the same support in other big

cities. Big fish in small pond is better than small fish.... #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:39:15 PM

kjkerl17: A7. Understand what your need is. Buffalo can offer a lot, but if you leave make sure its for the value you need for growth. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:39:36 PM

SamInsalaco: A7: It's tough to find another city that's experiencing the kind of growth that #Buffalo is, while still being very affordable. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:39:46 PM

SamInsalaco: A7: There's a lot to be said for being in a place that's on the upswing. Unlimited opportunities! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:40:12 PM

StartUpGrindBuf: Good article on Buffalo and the cost of living vs big city
<http://t.co/HZG8jPhdv1> @gothamist #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:40:25 PM

kjkerl17: A7. Just being in the big cities does not guarantee success. Buffalo can give just as much opportunity. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:40:26 PM

UpstateVC: A7. Raising money is not the only answer and a lot harder in bigger cities #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:40:51 PM

bobkot9: A7. Many more VCs in CA but the competition is intense. We have fewer here so easier to stand out #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:42:12 PM

bobkot9: A7. There is plenty of funding available in NY for great ideas!!! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:54:30 PM

Q8

Launch_NY: Q8. What would you tell other expats who are thinking of coming home? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:44:12 PM

A8

MitigateInjury: A8: Definitely come here! The people are warm and friendly – as is the weather (lol) #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:44:21 PM

StartUpGrindBuf: 6.76% #millennial growth #Buffalo from 2013 <http://t.co/ll1OEKcayZ> #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:44:44 PM

MitigateInjury: A8 Seriously - the economic growth along with the low cost of living and a great support network makes Buffalo unbeatable #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:45:05 PM

kjkerl17: A8. The network for entrepreneurs is growing and a lot of people will help if you get out and network. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:45:13 PM

SamInsalaco: A8: It's a great time to come home. Everything is looking good these days, even the @BuffaloBills! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:45:49 PM

ebizari: I would offer to introduce them to 100's of great #startup mentors and resources in the Upstate NY region!! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:45:52 PM

kjker117: A8. Buffalo is passionate to make the ecosystem grow and will help those that dive in and commit to it. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:46:00 PM

SamInsalaco: A8: Things are definitely on the upswing. Other cities have lots to offer too, but this is always home! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:46:57 PM

easylife1938: @Launch_NY #LaunchHour A7. Very expensive to live in NYC, Boston, SF. Traffic is horrible. More startups sucking up resources.
5/20/2015 4:47:50 PM

ebizari: A8: Incubators, acellerators, mentors, investors, founders, research universities... a large multi-city ecosystem #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:48:54 PM

SWBuffalo: You can make moving back to Buffalo happen. Reach out to people- we all want to help. Set yourself up to work remotely? -@popo #LaunchHour
5/20/2015 4:49:44 PM

StartUpGrindBuf: Great article on #expat + #investor + #entrepreneur @MartinBabinec via @timesunion <http://t.co/ZNbb7Pkw3E> @Launch_NY #LaunchHour
5/20/2015 4:53:29 PM

Q9

Launch_NY: Q9. Did you bring your team to Upstate? How did they find the experience?
#launchhour
5/20/2015 4:50:07 PM

A9

MitigateInjury: A9 My family was my team. They do miss California but they also love WNY. Having four seasons and green foliage is refreshing #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:50:25 PM

SamInsalaco: A9: my team is my family. I tried to leave them back in #Pittsburgh, but they followed me home. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:50:47 PM

Launch_NY: A9 And that can mean family, co-workers, customers or vendors, etc....
#launchhour
5/20/2015 4:50:56 PM

EbenPiazza: @ebizari places like @Z80Labs @thetechgarden @IDEAcuse @Cornell

#launchhour
5/20/2015 4:51:14 PM

easylife1938: @Launch_NY #LaunchHour A9. Only when they were making sales calls. They loved our restaurants & bars.
5/20/2015 4:58:58 PM

Q10

Launch_NY: Q10. What would you do to help make the Upstate NY entrepreneurial ecosystem stronger? #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:55:01 PM

A10

MitigateInjury: A10 There needs to be a more coordinated approach from all the support organizations for new Start-ups. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:55:29 PM

SamInsalaco: A10: I am working on giving back, as well as helping local brands and businesses grow. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:55:58 PM

SamInsalaco: A10 cont: @yeahbuffalo - which will be highlighting and promoting the great things happening here. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:57:37 PM

MitigateInjury: It is difficult to determine what organizations to approach and when to approach them during the different growth phases #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:56:07 PM

ebizari: A10: Become a multi-city unified region with a mission of promoting entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem! #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:56:23 PM

kjker117: A10. Continue to spread the word across the country. The more VCs and Entrepreneurs learn Buffalo is the place to be the better. #launchhour
5/20/2015 4:57:05 PM