



youflourish™

Even an economic downturn and the global pullback in venture capital at the end of 2022 couldn't slow Colorado's startup scene last year.

Denver, along with Nashville and Philadelphia, bucked nationwide trends. Founders in those cities raised amounts of venture capital near the record-breaking levels of 2021 and worked to cement those areas as bonafide startup hubs, according to the most recent PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor report released last week.

In 2022, Denver startups raised \$5.7 billion — a drop from the nearly \$7 billion raised in 2021 but much higher than Colorado's previous record of \$2.7 billion in 2020. Last year saw huge raises by late-stage startups, including DispatchHealth, Pie Insurance, Guild Education and Everside Health, as well as funding for hundreds of early-stage companies.

Here, we've selected 23 pre-

Founded: 2022
Founders: Steven Haden
Headquarters: Denver



Steven Haden, CEO of You:Flourish
Provided by You:Flourish

seed and seed-stage startups worth watching in 2023, including makers of consumer products, health care innovators and companies developing solutions to combat social justice issues and climate change.

Organizers of the Colorado nonprofit Envision:You, which

helps LGBTQ individuals who are struggling with mental health or substance use disorders, established the public benefit corporation You:Flourish last year with the goal of creating a platform that connects LGBTQ patients with affirming mental health providers and introduces them to a community of peers. That platform — which will be offered via a mobile application designed and developed by Denver-based Applt Ventures — is expected to launch in the spring of 2023. The venture was founded by **Steven Haden**, CEO of the nonprofit Envision:You. Through You:Flourish, Haden intends to help the queer community find adequate mental health providers by vetting health care professionals before listing them on the platform. The startup is running a crowdfunding campaign through WeFunder, and it received support from the ESG holding company CoPeace. 