



The Tea Spot receives a \$10k grant from UPS Ignite Small Business Program

(BOULDER, Colo.) July 5, 2022 — The Tea Spot, a leading producer of handcrafted whole leaf teas and innovative Steepware®, is excited to announce it has won a \$10k Small Business grant from [UPS Ignite](#) — a program to support and provide opportunities for women-owned and minority-owned businesses.

The Tea Spot was among the few selected to participate in the UPS Ignite executive education program in partnership with Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University — one of the top business schools in the U.S — in addition to receiving the \$10k.

“We're grateful to be UPS Ignite Small Business grant recipients. This recognition will help further our mission to empower healthy hydration through tea. The \$10k grant is like icing on the cake after participating in their world-class executive education program created in partnership with Kellogg School of Management to promote businesses with diverse leadership,” said Jessica Kochik, CMO of The Tea Spot. “I am proud and inspired to be among this cohort of business leaders and am rooting for everyone's success.”

“The UPS Ignite program is dedicated to providing underrepresented founders and the businesses they lead with the knowledge, capital and networks they need to grow and compete in the marketplace. The Tea Spot is one of ten grant recipients in the inaugural Ignite class. We're grateful to be able to support Jessica and her team, and cheer their success,” Debra Wilson, UPS Ignite program director said.

For Maria Uspenski, The Tea Spot's founder, tea is more than a beverage; it's a way of life. As a self-funded, women-owned business and a single-source tea provider of patented teaware, The Tea Spot has modernized and consistently outpaced the growth of the expanding premium tea market over the past 18 years—with plans to continue to grow and invest in private label partnerships.

UPS Ignite Small Business Program grants are administered by Accion Opportunity Fund — the nation's leading nonprofit providing diverse, determined small businesses owners with access to capital, networks, and coaching — and are part of a \$1.25 million investment by UPS in the Ignite program, which has a goal of reaching more than 250 small and medium-sized businesses over the next three years.

The Tea Spot

As the leading tea brand for active lifestyles, The Tea Spot's mission is to inspire, empower, and support daily wellness with tea at one's side. Since 2004, The Tea Spot has been committed to promoting healthy hydration with functional teas and modern Steepware®. Infusing age-old traditions with functional botanicals, the brand brings exquisite flavor and freshness together in every cup through its whole leaf,

organic, and high-quality teas and its innovative Steepware® products. The Tea Spot is a certified B-Corporation and woman-owned business that supports healthier lifestyles through community efforts and donates 10 percent of all profits in-kind to cancer survivors and community wellness programs.

To learn more about The Tea Spot's premium, award-winning loose tea blends and Steepware®, visit theteaspot.com or follow @theteaspot.

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